

# VIPERS\* Questions for Teachers



\*VIPERS (TM) used courtesy of The Literacy Shed

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# Fur Elise

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What do you think the title means?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. What does 'vicious' mean?
2. Define 'nocturnal'.
3. Explain what 'contradicts' means.
4. Give a synonym for 'fiend'.
5. What does 'prissy' mean?
6. Suggest a synonym for the word 'vague'.
7. What does 'savaged' mean?
8. Explain what 'to waste away' means.
9. Give a synonym for 'disappeared'.
10. What does it mean, if something is 'in vain'?

### Inference

1. Why does Daniel tell Tariq that the hamster is a 'cuddly little fluff-ball'? Pick out words or phrases that give the reader clues about Daniel.
2. Why might Elise not have bothered with Rookie's water bottle? If she left it behind on purpose, why did she bring Rookie's food?
3. What exactly does Mo think has happened to Jamal? Find evidence in what he says.
4. What might be the narrator's full first name? Give evidence from the story for your answer.

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'Elise knew exactly what she was doing.'* What do you think Elise is planning?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'Besides, the hamster was probably asleep and wouldn't come out.'* What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the line, 'I thought maybe it was over after that. I hoped so.'*  
What do you think is going to happen at the very end of the story?

## Explain

1. Does Elise really ask, "Would you like me to lick your face clean, Miss March?" Why does the narrator say this?
2. Give two reasons why Rookie is a particularly bad choice of class pet.
3. Why does Elise's mum offer Mo a lift home from school?
4. Why are Elise's jaws moving when Mo goes into her room?
5. What has happened to the Class Three goldfish?

## Retrieval

1. What is the teacher's name?
2. What is the narrator's name?
3. What animal is Elise going to take home for the holidays?
4. Which holidays are these?
5. What happened to Tariq?
6. What has Elise failed to bring home from school?
7. What does Mo think Elise is cutting up?
8. What school pets go missing next after Rookie?
9. Who is Jamal?
10. Why is Elise taken to hospital?

## Summarise

- Describe Elise in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# The Sting

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What are the meanings of the word 'sting'?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Define 'babbling'.
2. Find a word that means 'unable to cope' or 'finding everything too much'.
3. Explain what a 'refugee' is.
4. Define 'subtle'.
5. Suggest a synonym for the word 'campaign' in the paragraph that begins, *'He was quite subtle with the bullying...'*
6. Explain what 'smirked' means.
7. What is meant by 'preoccupied'?
8. Give two synonyms for the word 'hurled'.
9. Define 'gibbering'.

### Inference

1. Why does the narrator compare Hassan's first day to walking into a school in Syria? Find the phrase in the first two paragraphs that makes this clear.
2. What has happened to Sam's ball? Why do you think this?
3. Why does Jack get angrier as Hassan gets happier and more confident?
4. How does Mr McFarren feel about Hassan? Find evidence in the story to show this.

### Prediction

- *Stop at the line ending, 'I guess Hassan picked up on that way before I did.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?
- *Stop at the line ending, '...he didn't tap his shoes on the floor.'*  
Now, what do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'He did take care of it, too!'*  
What do you think Hassan is going to do?

## **Explain**

1. Is the narrator sympathetic towards Hassan before they become friends? Find three pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Is Jack sympathetic to refugees? How do you know?
3. In what way does Jack 'move the battle' to the playground?
4. Why does the narrator compare Noah and Ethan to Crabbe and Goyle?
5. Why does Hassan keep each rubber scorpion he finds?
6. Why do Hassan and the narrator decide to call the scorpion Malfoy?

## **Retrieval**

1. Where does Hassan come from?
2. Is the narrator male or female?
3. What is Hassan's native language?
4. Why did Hassan's family come to the UK?
5. What game is Hassan particularly good at?
6. What unusual thing does Hassan do as he gets changed?
7. Who sent Hassan the money he needed and why?
8. What type of scorpion did Hassan buy?
9. Who ended up keeping the scorpion?

## **Summarise**

- Describe Hassan in three words. Find evidence in the text to justify your choices.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Unlucky for Some

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- This is the title story of the collection. What do you think it might mean?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Explain what is meant by a 'bumper year'.
2. What is a 'calling'? Find another word in this paragraph that is close to this in meaning.
3. Define 'omen'.
4. Explain what a conspiracy is.
5. What does 'rogue' mean, in the context of 'rogue scientists'?
6. Give synonym for the word 'havoc'.
7. Define 'speculate'.
8. Find two verbs in the second paragraph of the newspaper report which mean the same thing as each other.
9. What does 'intercepted' mean?
10. Look at the differences in types of vocabulary between the main story and the newspaper article. How do they differ from each other and why?

### Inference

1. Why has the storyteller marked her calendar with every Friday the thirteenth for every year?
2. Reread the two paragraphs that follow the line, '*Mine isn't, though.*' Are Mallory's beliefs about omens and her ability to recognise them sensible?
3. How do you think Mallory feels when she says, '*I just smiled to myself and let it go*'?
4. Why does Mallory think it's down to her to prevent all of the threats she's seen on the internet site?
5. At the end of the story, was Mallory right about her powers?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph that finishes, ' "Just as well all that stuff's rubbish!" '* What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph that finishes, '... all kinds of threats to the country!'*  
Now, what do you think is going to happen?
- Stop before the newspaper article.  
What do you think is going to happen to Mallory? Do you have any other predictions?

## Explain

1. Why do superheroes and MI6 have a problem proving when they've succeeded?
2. Why does Mallory's mother actually drop the mirror? Whose version of events is right: Mallory's or her mum's?
3. Why did Mallory's dad shout at her after he knocked down the neighbour's wall?
4. Overall, how much of what Mallory says turned out to be reasonable or right, and how much was wrong?

## Retrieval

1. What date was the storyteller born?
2. What is her name?
3. What year is MDCLXVI and what happened that year?
4. How many years of bad luck are you supposed to get for smashing a mirror?
5. What happened to Mallory's mum soon after she dropped the mirror?
6. Who lives next door to Mallory's family?
7. Where does Mallory first come across Chelsea?
8. Where are Mallory and Chelsea going to meet and why?
9. Which famous person survived a lightning strike?
10. What did Mallory and Chelsea use for their lightning conductor?
11. What was the man in the grounds of Buckingham Palace hoping to do?

## Summarise

- Describe Mallory in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Piggy in the Middle

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What is 'piggy in the middle'?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Find three words or phrases in the first paragraph that show the informal way the storyteller speaks.
2. Give three formal alternatives to the word 'scoffing'.
3. How would you express 'throwing it down with rain' in a formal register?
4. What does 'wouldn't be seen dead in them' mean?
5. What is the word for a female pig?
6. What is the collective noun for piglets born to one mother at the same time?
7. What is meant by 'minced'?
8. When the farmer is shouting at Lily, the author uses the verbs 'shouted' and 'yelled' twice each. What other words could the author have used, and why didn't she?

### Inference

1. What does Olly think of the country compared to the city? Pick out phrases that tell us.
2. Are the kids in Olly's class mostly wealthy or not? How do you know?
3. Do you think Lily enjoys school? Try to pinpoint parts of the text that give you this impression.
4. Do you think a teacher would enjoy teaching Lily? What about Olly - would a teacher enjoy teaching him?
5. Why did Olly think Lily might stop coming to school?
6. Who is Olly's mother talking about in the last line of the story? Who is the 'piggy in the middle'?

## Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph that finishes, 'the rest of us wouldn't be seen dead in them.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'probably the best school trip I will ever go on!'*  
Now, what do you think is going to happen?
- Stop before the newspaper article.  
What do you think is going to happen to Mallory? Do you have any other predictions?

## Explain

1. Why is Olly looking forward to the school trip?
2. Is Lily interested in the trip? Find three pieces of evidence for your answer.
3. Why doesn't Lily want to feed the piglets?
4. Why does the sow get cross?
5. Is the class sympathetic to Lily's misfortune? How do you know?

## Retrieval

1. Where is Olly's class going to on their school trip?
2. Where does Olly live?
3. What is Olly's teacher's name?
4. What kind of school does he go to?
5. Who is in Olly's group and who is in charge of them?
6. What two activities does Olly say they did?
7. What did the children do during lunch, other than eating?
8. Name the three varieties of pigs.
9. How many piglets are there?
10. What is in the piglet food?

## Summarise

- Describe Lily in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# A Load of Bull

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What does 'a load of bull' mean?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Give two synonyms for the word 'outrageous'.
2. Suggest a formal way of saying 'super cool' that would fit in the context it's used here.
3. Give an accurate definition of 'incredible'.
4. Find the synonym for 'liar' in the paragraph beginning, '*Anyway, it took me less than half a day*'.
5. Give a formal equivalent for 'clocked him.'
6. What does 'gullible' mean?
7. Suggest a formal expression for 'to diss someone'.
8. How would you express 'sussed him' in a more formal way?
9. Explain what 'shedding' means.

### Inference

1. Why do army families move around quite often?
2. Does Nathan mind moving schools? Find evidence in the story to explain your answer.
3. What can you work out about the bull's temperament (personality), even before George throws the stone at it? Pick out the sentence that gives the reader a clue.
4. Why does George throw the stone at the bull?
5. What does the 'ominous' angle of George's arm suggest has happened to it?
6. Was George telling the truth about his uncle and aunt winning the lottery, or is this something that happened *after* he'd told Nathan about it?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '... got it shut up properly.'* What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '... hurled the stone at the bull.'* Now, what do you think is going to happen?

## **Explain**

1. Why does Nathan tell tall stories at one school he goes to?
2. What is it about Nathan that might have made George choose to tell him stories?
3. Why does Nathan tell George that he does lots of activities after school?
4. Why is George humming as they walk away from the bull?
5. Why doesn't Nathan go to the nearby houses to get help?
6. Why is the boy in the hoody threatening George?

## **Retrieval**

1. What does Nathan say his parents were once given to eat?
2. Which celebrity does Nathan say once came to tea?
3. What two tall tales does Nathan say were once told to him by the same person?
4. What did George claim he did to the bull that charged him?
5. Who was supposed to have won the national lottery, according to George?
6. Where did Nathan's and George's mothers meet?
7. How far away was the bull when George threw the first stone at it?
8. What skewered George to the bull's horns?
9. How much money did George's relations win?

## **Summarise**

- Describe George in three words. Give evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Not now, Brody

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What does the title of the story refer to?
- What might this story be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. What is meant by 'lord it over'?
2. Find an informal expression that means 'collapse'.
3. Define 'verminous'.
4. Explain what 'appeal to' means in the context, 'It was no use appealing to the other supervisors.'
5. What does 'disruption' mean?
6. Find a synonym for 'assessed' or 'weighed up'.
7. Define 'sinuous'.
8. What does 'strident' mean?
9. Find a formal word for 'panic'.
10. Find a synonym for 'deadly'.

### Inference

1. Do the other members of staff at the school think Mrs Wilson is reasonable? How do you know?
2. How does Mr Pewsey feel about Mrs Wilson? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
3. Why doesn't Mrs Wilson believe Brody when he tells her about the tiger? Pick out examples from the story to explain why this isn't surprising.
4. Are the children frightened by what is happening to Mrs Wilson after they have all come indoors? Find the part of the story that shows this.
5. Why does Brody think that everyone will say at Mrs Wilson's funeral that she is really very nice? Is he right?

## Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'The willows were in full leaf ... and the air was still and hot.'*  
What might be going to happen?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'zoo staff had gone.'*  
Who or what might be the 'very unusual visitor inside the school grounds'?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'by providing a more appealing meal prospect.'*  
What do you think is going to happen next?
- *Stop at the line, 'Mrs Wilson spun on her heel and stomped off up the field to the tunnel.'*  
Do you think the tiger will eat Mrs Wilson or not?

## Explain

1. Why does Mrs Wilson treat children who fall over so harshly?
2. Why do all the children get a half day off, a fortnight after this story takes place?
3. Why does Brody approach the willow tunnel when Rashida is running away?
4. Why does Brody try to summon Mrs Wilson in a whisper to begin with?
5. What is a sedative and what does it do?

## Retrieval

1. Why does Brody's mum think Mrs Wilson is nice?
2. Does Brody have any older or younger siblings?
3. What is the headteacher called?
4. What is the name of Brody's school?
5. Which children are first to discover the tiger?
6. Who is Mrs Wilson telling off when Brody tries to get her attention?
7. How old is Brody's village?
8. Why could the tiger not return to the zoo?

## Summarise

- Describe Mrs Wilson in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Brief Encounter

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What might 'brief' mean? What about 'briefs'?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. What is 'hypnosis'?
2. Suggest a more formal way of expressing 'blown away'.
3. What does 'stealing' mean in this context?
4. Define 'avidly'.
5. What does 'infuriating' mean?
6. Suggest a synonym for 'gnawing'.
7. Define 'erupted'.
8. Explain what 'hysteria' is.
9. Suggest a synonym for 'abruptly'.
10. Explain what 'dumbfounded' means.

### Inference

1. Do you think Max actually expects to be hypnotised when he puts his hand up? Find evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Is Max trying to make everyone laugh with his squirrel impression? How do you know?
3. Why do you think Max wants to tell Laura more things than she asks? Pick out phrases from the story that give us clues.
4. Was Callum being honest when he told Max he should do some modelling?
5. Why does Laura look a little anxious about Max when he wakes up?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'He'd be so smug!'*  
Do you think Max is going to be hypnotised or not? What might happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, ' "There's something else I want to tell you." '*  
What do you think is going to happen next?

## **Explain**

1. Why would Isobel never usually volunteer to be hypnotised?
2. Why does Laura draw a black dot on the board? What will this do?
3. Why does Max do forward rolls and a cartwheel when he's pretending to be a bird?
4. Is Max's cheating strategy likely to be successful?
5. Why is Max embarrassed to find himself in just his pants given that he insisted on taking his clothes off?

## **Retrieval**

1. What is the name of the narrator?
2. What is the school called?
3. What does Max want to do when he grows up?
4. What kind of bird does Laura ask Max to be?
5. What is Max's imaginary weapon for swatting the mosquito?
6. What kind of animal does Max imagine being?
7. What did Max do at the zoo?
8. What does Max think the headteacher should add to the school uniform?
9. What day is it, in the story?
10. Why is Callum not at school?

## **Summarise**

- Describe Max in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Baker's Dozen

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What is a baker's dozen?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. What is meant by 'rolled over' in this context?
2. Define 'sanctions'.
3. What does 'exclusion' mean?
4. Find a verb equivalent to 'exclusion'.
5. What is meant by 'on the same page'?
6. Explain (politely!) what the slang expression 'to moon at someone' means.
7. Find a formal expression that means 'joining in'.
8. Define 'patronising'.
9. What does 'simpered' mean?
10. Find a synonym for 'examined closely'.

### Inference

1. Is Callum's family wealthy? How do you know?
2. What does the P.T.A. lady think about Callum? Pick out three sections of text that show this.
3. What is Callum's opinion on prison?
4. Why does Callum run all the way home from school? What is the effect of what he put in the cakes?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'He hadn't done the deed yet, but he'd done all the preparation.'*  
What might Callum be going to do?
- *Stop at the line, ' "You made these Callum?" she asked, entirely failing to hide her astonishment.'*  
What is going to happen next?

## Explain

1. Why is St. Mary's the fourth primary school Callum has attended in three years?
2. Does Callum mind being expelled from schools? How do we know?
3. In what way is Callum's gran's bathroom cupboard a 'gold mine'?
4. Does Callum want to eat one of his cakes? What strategies does he use to avoid it?
5. What is a laxative and what does it do?
6. Why isn't there a cake stall at the fête?

## Retrieval

1. What is the name of Callum's current school?
2. Where did Y6 go on their school trip, and to what kind of place?
3. What school is he supposed to be going to next?
4. What did Callum do to the bags in the cloakroom?
5. What has Callum used to disguise the ground up medicines?
6. Why did Callum decide to make cupcakes instead of one large cake?
7. Where did Callum get his icing equipment?
8. What is the name of the headteacher?
9. How many is a baker's dozen?
10. What kind of pet does Miss Trenton have?

## Summarise

- Describe Callum in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Firefly

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What is a firefly?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Give two synonyms for the word 'awe'.
2. Find the phrase that means 'tweed'.
3. Explain what it means 'to give somebody credit for something'.
4. Define 'plummeted'.
5. What does 'elaborate' mean in the context given here?
6. Suggest a synonym for 'to score', as it appears in this story.
7. Define 'devising'.
8. What is a pun?
9. What does 'surreptitiously' mean?
10. Explain what a 'tall order' is.
11. What is arson?
12. What does 'unanimous' mean?

### Inference

1. Was Oscar enjoying school before Mr Flight arrived? How do you know?
2. Does Oscar enjoy the more academic aspects of learning? Find evidence in the story to support your answer.
3. Why did Mr Flight start the fire in a Year Five classroom rather than Year Six?
4. Why did Mr Flight choose fire for his revenge?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '... stricter discipline and more formal learning.'* What do you think Oscar is going to do?

- *Stop at the line, 'He attempted to apply himself.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?

## **Explain**

1. Which aspects of Mr Flight's appearance suggest that he is fairly old?
2. Is Mr Flight especially harsh to Oscar? Find evidence in the text for your answer.
3. Why does Oscar decide to stop making an effort with his schoolwork?
4. What is the pun which makes Oscar laugh out loud?
5. What is the fire investigation team looking for as they pick through the fire damage?

## **Retrieval**

1. What is the name of Oscar's previous teacher who has left?
2. What is the name of the school?
3. What two things does Oscar imagine former pupils doing to Mr Flight?
4. In which city did a cathedral burn down?
5. Which two South American civilizations does Oscar get muddled up?
6. Which system in the school had been tampered with?
7. How long did the jury take to decide on Mr Flight's guilt?
8. Which organisation did Mr Flight work for after he left school?
9. What object provided evidence of Mr Flight's involvement in the fire?

## **Summarise**

- Describe Mr Flight in three words. Find evidence in the text to justify your choices.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Snakes and Ladders

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What does the title of the story refer to?
- What might this story be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Give an accurate synonym for 'confounded'.
2. Define 'irrelevant'.
3. Explain what 'disillusioned' means.
4. What does it mean, 'to toe the line'?
5. Find a formal word that means 'to watch over', in the context of exams.
6. Find the phrase that means 'collapsed'.
7. What does 'hysterical' mean?
8. Give a word that means something similar to 'venomous'.
9. Suggest an alternative adjective to describe the artwork, in place of 'awesome'.
10. Define 'traumatic'.

### Inference

1. What is Alfie's dad not saying about the new headteacher?
2. What decision do you think Mrs Weller made at Easter time?
3. Why is Mrs Weller so cheerful on the first day of SATs week?
4. How do you think the snake came to be in the hall? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
5. What happened to the exam papers for the other SATs tests? How do you know?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'I guess what happened in SATs week made some sense, given that she was so crazy about wildlife.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '...which was another reason you'd never have guessed what was going to happen.'*  
Now what do you think will happen?

## Explain

1. Why does the poetry Mrs Weller writes mean that she particularly hates extraneous words?
2. Alfie says Miss Ingleside is middle-aged. Would most adults agree with him?
3. Why is Mrs Weller 'all stiff and polite' towards Mr Johnson, instead of telling him she doesn't like him?
4. Why does she 'beam' at him when he comes to take the class through to the hall for tests?
5. What effect might a get-well card with a picture of Rodrigo have had on Mr Johnson?
6. Why has Mrs Weller gone to Brazil?
7. Why can't Mr Johnson stand anything bright green?

## Retrieval

1. According to Mrs Weller, who is to blame for the children having to do SATs tests?
2. What is the word Mrs Weller uses that means unnecessary or irrelevant?
3. Whose voyages do the children learn about, as a way of studying history and nature together?
4. What is the name of the famous person who has made lots of TV series about animals?
5. What kind of school was Mr Johnson at previously?
6. What will the first SATs paper be testing?
7. What is in the box that Mr Johnson picks up?
8. What kind of snake is Rodrigo?

## Summarise

- Describe Mrs Weller in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Teacher's Pet

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What might this story be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Define 'shimmied'.
2. What does 'visualise' mean?
3. Find an informal word that means 'arrogant'.
4. Give a formal equivalent of 'acting up'.
5. Explain what 'bleary' means.
6. Define 'dishevelled'.
7. Suggest a synonym for 'baffled'.
8. Find the informal expression that means 'improbable'.
9. What does 'infusion' mean, in this context?
10. Define 'raucous'.

### Inference

1. What is the tiny hole in the hidden cupboard door for?
2. Why might playing the organ be a fitting pastime for Mr Rosenthal?
3. Where might Mr Rosenthal eat his lunch? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
4. Where was Mr Rosenthal when he failed to turn up for the Friday afternoon lesson? What was he doing and why?
5. How does Ria's evening walk with her brother connect to the rest of the story?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the line ending, '... his absence had reawakened her curiosity about him.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '...then this bizarre reaction to the lunch menu!'*  
Why did Mr Rosenthal react in this way? What do you think will happen next?

## **Explain**

1. What is Mr Rosenthal teaching Ria's class about, when he asks her a question?
2. Why is Mr Rosenthal's car always in the school car park?
3. Why does Mr Rosenthal back away from Ria at the door to the classroom?
4. What pieces of information are the 'pieces of the puzzle' that Ria can't put together?
5. Why is Darius now pale and thin?
6. What was the scraping sound that Ria heard at the beginning of the story?

## **Retrieval**

1. Who is Mr Stamp?
2. What was the name of the pupil who left last year?
3. Which subjects does Mr Rosenthal teach?
4. What activity had Ria been doing when she saw Mr Rosenthal drive back into school?
5. What events take place in the school hall in the evenings?
6. What creature did Ria see fly out of the window at the back of the school?
7. Which country is Darius' family originally from?
8. Where were Ria's grandparents born?
9. What is the name of the headteacher?
10. What is Mr Rosenthal lying in?

## **Summarise**

- Describe Mr Rosenthal in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# USB

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What is a USB stick? What do you think this story might be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Explain what is meant by 'hit' as in 'caffeine hit'.
2. Find a phrase in the second paragraph that means 'did even better than usual'.
3. Define 'afflicted'.
4. Give a synonym for 'surveyed'.
5. What does 'perplexed' mean?
6. Define 'subdued'.
7. Suggest a word or phrase that would be a synonym for 'adamant'.
8. What is meant by 'full-throttle' in the context of 'full-throttle indignation'?
9. What is an 'escapade'?
10. Give a synonym for 'fervently'.

### Inference

1. How does Miss Torrington think Mrs Shenton will react when she speaks to her after school?
2. Is this Year Five class an easy class to deal with? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
3. What kind of activity is the class going to do after lunch? Be as specific as possible.
4. Is Josh's family wealthy? How do you know?
5. Do you think Miss Torrington will throw up after the story finishes? Why?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'What on earth was going on?'*  
What do you think is going on with Josh?
- *Stop at the line that finishes, ' ... went to the office to phone Josh's dad.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the line, ' "I cleaned it really well, honestly!" '*   
Can you guess where the USB stick has been?

## **Explain**

1. Why did Aiden Thomas decide to try and climb out of the window earlier than usual today?
2. Why is Josh feeling miserable?
3. What does Mrs Deacon think of Miss Torrington's response to the news that Josh has run away?
4. How did Josh get the USB stick back from Frodo?

## **Retrieval**

1. Why was Miss Torrington late for work?
2. Whose coat had its hood ripped off?
3. At what time does Ivy-Louise say she feels ill every day?
4. What is the name of the T.A. for Year Five?
5. Which school did Josh go to previously?
6. What is the name of Miss Torrington's school?
7. Which famous building did Josh choose to model for his homework?
8. How did Josh leave the school grounds?
9. Who is Mrs Deacon?
10. How long has Mrs Deacon worked at St. Stephen's?
11. What does Miss Torrington notice when she takes the USB stick out of the bag?
12. What kind of creature is Frodo?

## **Summarise**

- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.

# Leather

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. What does 'sinister' mean?
2. Give a synonym for 'lame' that fits this context.
3. Suggest a more formal way of expressing 'shushing'.
4. Define 'faltered'.
5. Suggest a synonym for 'resonated'.
6. What is an undertaker?
7. Define 'stalked'.
8. What does 'seethed' mean?
9. Suggest two synonyms for 'hurled'.
10. What is a noose?
11. What does 'inclined' mean, as in 'she inclined her head'?
12. Explain what 'perplexed' means.

### Inference

1. Why doesn't Charlie tell his parents the truth about Miss Burrows?
2. Why do the children giggle when the doors start slamming?
3. Why do you think the young librarian called Lizzie came to work in the children's library in December and why has she now left?
4. What is the 'leather' mentioned in the title? Give evidence from the story for your answer.

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'She could make a ghost story genuinely frightening!' What do you think is going to happen?*

- *Stop at the section ending, 'He bowed and ushered them out.'*  
What do you think is going to happen at the end of the story?

## **Explain**

1. What is the library event like, and why has it been arranged in this way? Pick out evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Why has Charlie given up coming to the library? Find the parts of the story that explain this.
3. Why does John want to hurt Eliza when he thinks he loves her?
4. Who else might have been responsible for Eliza's death?
5. What is the connection between the story told to the children and the end of this story?

## **Retrieval**

1. What competition did the library run?
2. What is the name of the librarian Charlie hates?
3. What four things does the librarian accuse Charlie of doing to the books?
4. What is the senior librarian wearing?
5. What is the winning story in the competition about?
6. Who are the two people in the true story told to the children?
7. What does the boy in the story do which injures the girl?
8. What happens to the boy after he is hanged?
9. What is the name of the book the mysterious storyteller is carrying?
10. Who is the young lady being sought by the police?

## **Summarise**

- Describe Miss Burrows in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.