

Reading Comprehension with a Twist

An Extract from the Twinkl Original Story, Our Teachers Are Superheroes

Chapter 2: Suspicion

Suspicion

Despite the things they had in common, the two friends had very different appearances. Benji, with his dark, frizzy hair and skin the colour of caramel, was the shorter of the pair. Freya stood a few inches taller, with fiery red hair and freckles scattered across her nose and cheeks. Their families had been friends for years before Freya and Benji were born, and they had grown up around each other.

“Don’t be so ridiculous!” Freya scoffed dismissively when Benji told her about his theory while walking home that afternoon.

“Just think about it for a moment,” he beseeched her. “Wouldn’t it be amazing? Our teachers could actually be superheroes! Like some secret crime-fighting duo or something! One of them is always dashing off here or there at lunchtimes or whenever they’re not teaching us.”

“Superheroes are just for comic books,” replied Freya.

“No, they’re not!” insisted Benji. “They just don’t like to be known by their secret identities. I even saw something on the news the other day. Some guy had run out of a shop after stealing a bunch of stuff from the shelves. The shop owner had phoned the police but thought the guy had already got away. Then the news reporter said police found the thief around the corner, tied up with all the stuff he had stolen right there next to him. There was a note stuck on his chest saying: ‘Stealing isn’t cool. Don’t be a dinkus.’ It wasn’t the police who had caught him, and the thief was so confused that he said he couldn’t even remember what happened.”

“‘Don’t be a dinkus’? That’s pretty funny. But it’s hardly likely to be Mr Jay or Miss Higgins, is it?” asked Freya.

“I’m telling you, I have a weird feeling about this,” said Benji.

The next day, Freya hardly gave another thought to their conversation. Benji, on the other hand, was constantly on the lookout for clues. He kept a close watch on his teachers all morning, and he was rewarded at lunchtime: Miss Higgins received a phone call and Mr Jay gave her a friendly nod as she left.

“Your turn today!” Mr Jay said with a smile.

Both classes were combined again for the start of the afternoon while Mr Jay read the beginning

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of a story. The classes sat patiently, perched on tables and packed onto the carpet, and listened while they digested their lunch. After about 20 minutes, Miss Higgins returned quietly and sat at the side until they reached a suitable place to pause.

“We’ll leave it there for now,” Mr Jay decided, closing his copy of the book as they reached a place where two sections of the chapter were separated from each other by three asterisks. “Here’s a quick trivia question: does anyone know what these three asterisks are called, where we just stopped reading?”

There was a short silence, and it became clear that this question was beyond the classes’ knowledge. Eventually, Miss Higgins raised her hand with a grin.

“Well, I know you already know!” Mr Jay laughed. “Go on then, Miss Higgins.”

“It’s a dinkus!” replied the other teacher.

“Indeed it is,” said Mr Jay. “A funny old name, rarely used nowadays, but I like it!”

Amidst the mass of children, two jaws dropped open in astonishment.



Chapter 2: Suspicion Questions

1. Who is described as having 'dark, frizzy hair'? Tick **one**.

Benji

Freya

Mr Jay

Miss Higgins

2. Find and copy **two** facts about Freya's appearance.

- _____
- _____

3. Why did Freya say that Benji was being ridiculous?

4. Read the following statements about Benji and Freya. Tick those which are **true**.

They were similar in appearance.

They had not known each other long.

Their families had been friends for years.

They walk home from school together.

5. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

Freya thinks that superheroes are just for...

dressing up.

comic books.

weekends.

saving the day.

6. List **three** facts about what Benji had seen on the news.

- _____
- _____
- _____

7. What did Benji have a weird feeling about?

8. Who gave Miss Higgins a friendly nod?

9. List **two** things that we know about how the afternoon started.

- _____
- _____

10. Tick **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

| Statement | True | False |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Miss Higgins read a book to the class. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Three asterisks are called apostrophes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr Jay knew the answer to Miss Higgin's question. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Two children's jaws dropped in astonishment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Chapter 2: Suspicion **Answers**

1. Who is described as having 'dark, frizzy hair'? Tick **one**.

Benji

Freya

Mr Jay

Miss Higgins

2. Find and copy **two** facts about Freya's appearance.

Accept any two of the following facts: she was a few inches taller than Benji; she has fiery red hair; she has freckles across her nose and cheeks.

3. Why did Freya say that Benji was being ridiculous?

Freya said that Benji was being ridiculous because she did not believe that their teachers could be superheroes.

4. Read the following statements about Benji and Freya. Tick those which are **true**.

They were similar in appearance.

They had not known each other long.

Their families had been friends for years.

They walk home from school together.

5. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

Freya thinks that superheroes are just for...

dressing up.

comic books.

weekends.

saving the day.

6. List **three** facts about what Benji had seen on the news.

Accept any three of the following: a man had stolen items from a shop; the man had run out of the shop; the shop owner had phoned the police; the police found the thief around the corner; the thief had been tied up; the stolen items were in a pile next to the tied-up thief; a note was left on the thief's chest; the police hadn't caught the thief; the thief was confused about what had happened.

7. What did Benji have a weird feeling about?
Benji had a weird feeling that his teachers were the superheroes who had stopped the thief.
8. Who gave Miss Higgins a friendly nod?
Mr Jay gave Miss Higgins a friendly nod.
9. List **two** things that we know about how the afternoon started.
Accept any two of the following: both classes were combined; Mr Jay read the beginning of a story; the classes sat patiently; Miss Higgins returned after 20 minutes; Mr Jay asked a trivia question.
10. Tick **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

| Statement | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| Miss Higgins read a book to the class. | | ✓ |
| Three asterisks are called apostrophes. | | ✓ |
| Mr Jay knew the answer to Miss Higgin's question. | | ✓ |
| Two children's jaws dropped in astonishment. | ✓ | |