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THE LAST BARD

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CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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chickenhousebooks.com

Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think the author means by 'none of us knows where we are in our story'? Will's mum uses humour to distract them on their journey. Can you pick out some examples from the text? Do you think Will feels hotter than his mum? Give a reason for your answer. What can you infer about Uncle Claude from how the author uses the word 'kindly'? As Will remembers his last swim, it brings up other memories. Discuss how these memories make him feel. 	<p>List 5 'HFM' suggestions for the number plate game Mum tries to get Will to play in the car.</p> <p>Start a list of the chapter titles, beginning with first chapter, and do some research about where they might come from.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY: Look up the M3 motorway. Where does it start and end? Where might you visit if you were travelling on the M3?</p> <p>MUSIC: Rex's nickname was 'the Duke' because he loved jazz. Look up Duke Ellington and make a playlist of some of his music.</p>
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is Will less than enthusiastic about helping to clear Rex's flat? How does Will enjoy stories? What does he have in common with his dad? Which of Shakespeare's plays did Will study in year 7? Why is Ben carrying posters? Angela comes out as Mum and Ben exchange words in the hallway. What do they learn from Angela? 	<p>Create a character profile for Mary.</p> <p>Write a diary entry as Will describing the book he finds in Rex's bedroom and what happens when he picks it up.</p>	<p>ART/DRAMA: Design a playbill for a play. Think about how you'd decorate it and what text you'd include.</p>
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary sends Will out to find the beach. Can you infer what she'd like to happen? Can you describe how Will feels when he gets to the beach? Use the text to support your answer. 	<p>Make a prediction about what might happen if Will opens the book like Olivia suggests.</p>	<p>PSHE: Research three important guidelines for beach safety.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Will run straight into the sea? Why is Ani cross with Will? What is the first thing Ani is interested in once she finds out she's practically neighbours with Will? Why does Olivia think Will is Rex? 		
IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe what happens when Will opens the book. Who are the characters that come to life? And what do they want from Will? Who is the Bard and how is Will connected to him? How can Will set the characters free from the book? Mum overhears Will talking to the characters. What explanation does he give? 	<p>The characters in the book speak in a form of Early Modern English. Translate the following words to their modern equivalent: <i>art, thou, whither, verily, tarry</i>.</p> <p>Write a vlog describing the events of this chapter.</p> <p>Compare the events of this chapter to your prediction.</p>	<p>ART: Create a set to represent the woodland or the town-scape the words from the book form.</p> <p>ENGLISH: Connect the Shakespearean characters who come to life – Lady Macbeth, Juliet, Puck and Yorick – to their plays.</p>
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Egeus proposal has the residents of Arden Heights divided into teams For and Against – how will this be resolved? Why does Will feel some empathy for Caleb? What does Mary mean with the old proverb 'you don't have a dog and bark yourself'? Can you think of other proverbs? Who is voted in as the new chair of the residents' 	<p>Write an article for the community newsletter describing residents' meeting and the outcome of the vote for a new chair.</p>	<p>ART: Create a drawing/painting based on Will's observations of a divided community.</p> <p>ENGLISH: Connect the following characters or places to their plays: Ms Minola, the Kings, Julian Gaius, Arden, Egeus.</p>



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	<p>committee and why do you think they won?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think Ani means by ‘don’t let that fence post chafe your bum’? What literary device(s) has the author used? How does Ani convince Will to join Team Against? 		
VI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can you infer from what everyone says about Angela’s lasagna? What’s in the folded piece of paper that’s fallen out of the book? How do you think reading it makes Will feel? Do you think Will doesn’t like summer clothing? Describe how Ani reacts to the book coming to life and meeting the characters. Use the text to support your answer. How do the characters react to Ani? What do they think at first? 	<p>Turn the events of this chapter into a playscript.</p> <p>Add to your character profile of Mary.</p>	
VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Ani persuade Ms Minola to listen to their argument for voting against the Egeus proposal? How does Will feel about her actions? Why does Will think Ms Minola has bigger problems than Arden Heights? Who is Bianca and why is Ms Minola looking for her? How does Ani help Ms Minola with her search for Bianca? 	<p>Write a character profile of Ani.</p> <p>Write for and against arguments to debate the motion: <i>Arden Heights should not be sold to Egeus.</i></p>	<p>HISTORY: Create an investigation board like Ms Minola’s. What clues would you put on it?</p>



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VIII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Angela persuade Julian to do? How does Ani help Julian with his phone? Why do you think Rosie and Hemie are fighting over whose cake is best? How is Monty different from Ms Minola? What are Monty's reasons for planning to vote yes to the Egeus proposal? 	Write a description of Monty's flat, contrasting it with Ms Minola and Rex's.	
IX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What plan does Juliet come up with to change the residents' minds about moving? Everyone speaks so well of Rex. Why does this confuse Will? What do you think Olivia means by saying '<i>It's time, Rex. Finish your story</i>'? What does Ani confide to Ben? How does Will feel about it? 	Add to your Early Middle English list and translate these words: <i>fares</i> , <i>thee</i> , <i>younglings</i> , <i>foundling</i> .	
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Mary realise and tell Will about Olivia? Will overhears Angela speaking to Sylvie. Do you think she's telling the truth about Monty? What does Will decide to do about what he's overheard? Why do you think he acts the way he does? Why does Ani think Ben is in a good mood? Why does this worry Will? 	Write a journal entry from Will's perspective about the day's events.	HISTORY: Research key features of Tudor London. What role did the Tower play in the city?



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XI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What surprising fact do Will and Ani learn about Caleb? Why does Anthony say, <i>'stories don't always travel well and rarely arrive in one piece'</i>? What happens with the gardening committee and Monty and Sylvie? Why does Will suspect the Shakespeareans will have the full story? Why is Ms Minola so excited and what does she mean when she says she has a virus? 	Write the script for a TikTok video or series of videos about the events of this chapter.	
XII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was Will right to be concerned about searching for Bianca through social media? Use the text to support your answer. Why do you think Ms Minola is angry? Why is Will reluctant to tell Mary that Ani is not being truthful about Ben? How did the Shakespeareans 'help'? Why do Will and Ani rush of to the residents' committee meeting? 	Create an emotion map based on the all the different emotions the characters experience in this chapter.	PSHE: Discuss pros and cons of trying to find someone like Ms Minola has done using social media. Consider what you might do to stay safe.
XIII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Angela misrepresent the events of the day before to get Julian removed as the residents' committee chair? What does 'misappropriated' mean? How does Angela get Ani to back down? Why is Will horrified by the two new arrivals at Rex's flat? 	Rewrite this chapter from Angela's point of view. Try to express why she so desperately want to be chair of the residents' committee.	



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XIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Ani challenge Claude almost immediately after they meet? How does Ben stand up to Claude and Jon? What does Claude say to excuse Jon's behaviour? Why do you think Will is quiet and doesn't feel like eating at Ben and Ani's? 	Write a transcript of Will's conversation with Olivia.	
XV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think Claude is looking forward to the vote? Why does Claude hurry off when Ani calls out for Ben? How does Ani ensure Ben and Mary spend some time together? Will is mortified that his mum appears to like Ben. Why does he decide he is OK with it? What does Will find out about Bianca Minola in Rex's paperwork? 	Create your own rule book for Arden Heights. Think carefully about what you'll include and why.	ART: Create a poster advertising the vote. Include some text to persuade residents to vote for OR against the Egeus proposal.
XVI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the children arrive in time to warn Ms Minola that she's meeting an impostor? What happens with the residents of Arden Heights after Will and Ani leave Ms Minola? Why does Ani get upset and run to the beach? What does Ben reveal about Ani's mum and his relationship to Ani? 	Write a journal entry from Ani's perspective, exploring her feelings about the vote following the afternoon's events.	



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XVII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is Will hurt Anni did not confide in him? What helps him to understand her reasons? Why is Anni reluctant to let Ben adopt her? What does Will say to make her begin to reconsider? How does Will approach Caleb? Why is his approach effective? 	Add to the emotion map you created earlier.	HISTORY: List the landmarks of Ancient Rome and what they were used for/represented.
XVIII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will realizes Mary did not have a chance to say goodbye properly to Rex. Why is this the case? Someone else comes to visit Perdita's grave as Ms Minola is leaving. What happens next? Why is Will so disappointed when Claude starts ordering his mum about? Claude decides Mary and Will are to go back to London with him the next day. Why does he make this decision? 	Write a letter to Rex from Will introducing himself and his family, and asking Rex the questions he has for him.	
XIX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how Angela organized the voting. Can you list which residents changed their votes and why? How does Caleb intervene? What does Caleb suggest Claude did to make sure he got Rex's flat? What will prove Mary is the rightful owner of flat 29? 	Write an article for the local newspaper about the exciting turn of events at the Arden Heights vote.	



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XX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where does Will go for help to work out where Rex might have kept his last will? What does he find? Why does Claude try to stop them? How? How does Will finally tell his story and what happens next? How does Caleb intervene, again? 	Write a podcast episode with Ani interviewing Will about his story. Consider how much of it Will might want to share publicly.	PSHE: Discuss what options Will could have explored to tell his story earlier.
Epilogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think Will has to tell his story so many times? What happens at the end of the process? Do you think Will gets justice for what he has endured at the hands of Jon? Does Mary win the battle for flat 29? What happens to the Shakespeareans? And the book? How does the story of Arden Heights end? 	<p>Add to your Early Middle English list and translate these words and phrases: <i>forsooth, knave, fare thee well</i>.</p> <p>Look at your list of chapter titles. Can you identify some of the plays and quotations they are inspired by?</p> <p>Create a blurb for <i>The Last Bard</i> to go on the back cover.</p>	HISTORY: Discuss what you know about Shakespeare and how much influence he has on popular culture 400 years later. Do you have favourite play or have you been inspired to get to know some of his stories?

