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Sisters of the Lost Marsh

Lucy Strange

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross Curricular Opportunities

<p>1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do each of the six sisters need to do, according to the curse at the beginning of the book? • How does Lucy Strange set the scene in Chapter 1? Pick out words and phrases. • What do you learn about Willa's relationships with her family members in Chapter 1? • What is happening to Grace? How does she feel about it? • Who is Silas Kirby? What sort of character is he? 	<p>Using 'The Curse of Six Daughters' as inspiration, create a 'modernized' curse of your own.</p>	<p>LITERACY • Create a profile of each of the six sisters in the story. Write down what you know about each of them already – add more detail as you read.</p> <p>ART • Draw and label the setting of the farm based on descriptions in the first chapter.</p>
<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What motivates Dadder? How do you know? • What happened to the last woman 'caught reading' in the village? • What different stories are the sisters reading in Grammy's secret library? • What is the significance of Willa's name? What does it tell us about her? • What 'fate' does Darcy have 'hanging over her'? What about the other sisters? 	<p>In this chapter, we are told that the triplets are reading <i>Tales of the Marshes</i> in Grammy's secret library. Have a go at writing one of these tales!</p>	<p>HISTORY • Carry out some research into the history of witchcraft in England. Create a presentation to share with your classmates.</p> <p>LITERACY • What does Grammy mean when she says 'don't let yourself be druv'? Find other examples of the Lost Marsh dialect; create a glossary of words and phrases.</p>
<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you tell about Willa from the way she carries out her duties on the farm? (22) • Willa has a special bond with Flint – how can you tell? Pick out key words and phrases. • What is daily life like for the sisters on the farm? How is it similar or 	<p>Write a monologue from Flint's perspective. How does he feel about his new home on the farm and his special bond with Willa?</p>	<p>ART • Draw what you imagine Flint to look like.</p> <p>LITERACY/R.E. • Many rituals and superstitions are rooted in regional and religious beliefs. Lucy Strange</p>



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	<p>different to your daily life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Grammy believe that superstitions 'do us harm'? Do you agree with her? Pick out words that show Dadder's anger in this chapter. What do you think of his behaviour? 		<p>describes how she was inspired by 'traditional and pagan celebrations such as Lammass, Beltane, Yule and the midsummer solstice'. What are these celebrations? Research more about them and share your findings with the class.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the sisters find ways of sticking together even when Dadder is cruel to them? What is a will-o'-the-wisp lantern? Can you picture it in your imagination? Who is the Marsh King? How do the marsh folk feel about him? What makes the Marsh King stronger? How does the story of the Greenwood sisters mirror the stories of Willa and her sisters? 	<p>Write the last diary entry of Gytha Greenwood before she 'set out on to the mire, heading straight towards the light of a mysterious lantern that flickered there'. Consider her thoughts and feelings.</p>	<p>DRAMA • Recreate the Marsh King story by reading it aloud or re-enacting it in groups. Consider how you can use music and props to create atmosphere.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the author, Lucy Strange, create a sense of mystery and intrigue around the fayre? How do the sisters feel about the arrival of the fayre? How can you tell? Can you find a foreboding tone or warning in the descriptions of the fayre? Pick out key words and phrases. How does Darcy help Willa to sneak out and visit the fayre? Why do you think she helps her? 	<p>Create an advertisement or poster for the Full Moon Fayre. Include images of the fayre and descriptions to persuade people to visit.</p>	<p>ART/DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY • Recreate the fayre in a shoebox by crafting a 3D scene.</p> <p>LITERACY • Consider the significance of light or lanterns in the story. How is the theme of 'light' (and its opposite, 'darkness') explored in the book?</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you predict might happen to Willa as she tries to 'catch up with Grace and Freya on the lane'? 		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the phrase 'lit up inside like a baker's oven' effective? (44) How does Lucy Strange use sensory description to describe the fayre? Why do you think Grace has 'shining eyes'? Who does Willa not 'want to lose in the crowd'? Why? How does the mood change at the end of the chapter? 	Create five sentences describing a fairground you have visited in real life or in your imagination – one for each of the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell and taste).	<p>LITERACY • Pick out Lucy Strange's sensory description of the fayre.</p> <p>CREATIVE WRITING • If you could create a travelling fair, what would you call it? Write a paragraph to describe your fair, taking inspiration from Lucy Strange's writing style.</p>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the author create a hazy or unclear image at the start of the chapter? How do you get an impression of Willa running through the fayre on pages 48–49? What did the fortune teller tell Grace to do? Why do you think she told her this? What impression do you get of the man in the scarecrow hat? (52) How do the girls feel as they watch the puppet show? 	Create the scene in which the fortune teller tells Grace's fortune. Consider what sort of language and imagery would be effective in this kind of scene.	<p>ART • Draw or paint the image of Grace described at the beginning of the chapter: 'a figure in the gloom, willowy and swift, the curls of her hair shining like jewels in the coloured lights'. (48)</p> <p>DESIGN/DRAMA • Recreate the puppet show on pages 53–54.</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is Viktor? What does he propose to Grace? What can you tell about Freya's personality from the dialogue on pages 55–56? 	Using Lucy Strange's example on page 58, create a scene in which the weather is personified to	LITERACY • Write a summary of events so far from Freya's point of view. How does she feel about what



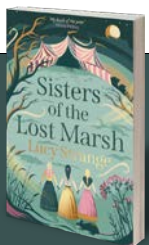
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you sense a change in Grace in this chapter? Why? How does Lucy Strange use the weather at the end of the chapter to reflect mood and tone? What is this technique called? Why do you think Grace's fingers reached for Willa's and 'squeezed them tight'? (58) What does Willa regret about this moment? 	<p>reflect the mood and feelings of the characters in the scene.</p>	<p>is going on? How does she feel about each of her sisters?</p> <p>LITERACY • At the end of Part One, create a bullet point list of the most important events so far. Then make a list of predictions for Part Two: Springtide.</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What imagery stands out to you in 'The Marsh Mermaids' by May Fernsby? Why do you think Lucy Strange has chosen this passage? How much time has passed since Grace left? What are the 'spring promises'? How are Fergus and Freya participating in 'the ceremony of Springtide Fires'? Why do the sisters 'look daggers' at Freya? 	<p>Pick out the different place names mentioned in the chapter, e.g. Glorious Hill, Boggy End and Frog's Bottom. Create some of your own place names for Hollow-in-the-Marsh.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY • Using the descriptions of Hollow-in-the-Marsh in this chapter, create a map of the area.</p> <p>GEOGRAPHY • Lucy Strange's real-life inspiration for her setting is Romney Marsh. Carry out some research into Romney Marsh. Where is it? What is it like there?</p>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Freya punch Willa on the arm? Why has Mister Moss kept his map a secret? Why do Freya, Dolly and Deedee say 'Goodness!?' (74) What is 'the mire'? In which village do Willa and Mister Moss agree the Full Moon Fayre might be? 	<p>Write a skylark's view of the Lost Marsh using descriptions from Chapters 9–10. Include the different villages, landscapes and the 'unmappable' mire.</p>	<p>LITERACY/GEOGRAPHY • Consider Willa's statement on page 74: 'Maps make you think about where you are, and where you aren't. They make you powerful. They put ideas in your head.' In pairs, discuss the statement. Do you agree? Why are maps so important in the world?</p>



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11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Willa hope Dadder will behave at the Springtide Fires? What makes Willa's 'insides curdle'? Why is Missus Cooper angry with Willa and Grammy? What is the ritual performed by Fergus and Freya? How does Lucy Strange make this scene very powerful and atmospheric? What does Silas Kirby decide at the end of the chapter? Why is Silas's choice of words important: 'I'll have that one instead'? (84) 	Write a letter from Missus Cooper to Willa in which she lets out her anger towards Grammy and all of the Fernsby girls.	<p>RE • What are the Springtide Fires? Carry out some research into the role of the Green Man and the Earth Spirit. What do these figures symbolize?</p> <p>ART • Based on your research into the Green Man and the Earth Spirit, draw a version of each of these figures.</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is Dadder presented as a bully in this chapter? Can you find a description of Willa that shows her determination? Why is Darcy's behaviour surprising here? What does Daddy accuse Grammy of? What do you think happened? What does Dadder order Willa to do? What does she decide? 	Write a monologue in Darcy's voice. Consider how she feels about events so far, Dadder, her sisters and the curse. Can you recreate Darcy's unique style and voice?	<p>LITERACY • Define the word 'sorcery'. How is the idea of sorcery or witchcraft explored in this scene and the novel as a whole?</p> <p>PSHE • What are the behaviours of a bully? List the reasons why Dadder can be considered a bully in the story.</p>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the terrible thought that 'hooks' into Willa's heart? (93) Why has Willa always felt 'different' to the others? What do the triplets pack for Willa? Make a packing list. How do you think Willa feels about leaving home? What is the idea that stops all of Willa's tears at once? 	Write a note from the triplets to Willa wishing her luck on her journey. What advice would they give her? How would they try to make her feel better?	<p>LITERACY/PSHE • Consider how Willa is 'different'. Write down her unique qualities and behaviours. How do they make her strong and powerful?</p> <p>PSHE • Write down a list of your own unique qualities. What sort of hero or heroine would you be in your own story?</p>



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<p>14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the 'beautiful spring morning' make Willa feel? • How is the idea of 'freedom' explored in the chapter? • What has Willa stolen? How does she feel about it? • What does Mister Moss give Willa? • What does Missus Moss mean when she says: 'Don't lose your way, Willa'? (106) 	<p>Write an acrostic for the word 'FREEDOM'. What does this word mean to you?</p>	<p>LITERACY • Consider the important themes in the novel so far, e.g. freedom, hope, home, family, sorcery. Can you add any more? Create a 'Theme Sheet' to record any ideas as you read.</p> <p>DRAMA • Create a freeze-frame of Willa leaving the Mosses as she starts her journey.</p>
<p>15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the sea considered an 'enemy' in Hollow-in-the-Marsh? • What does Willa feel the further she travels from home? • What motivates Willa to carry on despite her fear? • How does the setting of the marsh and the ruined fortress create a sense of foreboding? • What is the significance of the blood moon in this chapter? 	<p>Create a ghost story to share with your classmates under the spooky blood moon!</p>	<p>SCIENCE • What is a 'blood moon'? What other types of moons are there? Create a guide to the moon and moon phases throughout the year.</p> <p>LITERACY/HISTORY • How is the moon important in folklore, storytelling and spiritual beliefs through history?</p>
<p>16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Willa happy to be at Hogback Hill? • Where is the fayre 'headed next'? • What is 'marsh fever'? • What is Willa's memory on page 122? 	<p>Write a diary entry from Willa's point of view. Describe her journey so far, her frightening night in the fortress and her hope of finding Grace.</p>	<p>LITERACY • 'Aye. You'll have heard the old fairy tale, I suppose? The Marsh King?' (124) Define a fairy tale and give examples; what are the features of a fairy tale?</p>



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17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Willa wonder about her sisters and Dadder? (125–126) • What can Willa see from ‘the top of a rise’? (127) • Why are people wearing veils? • What is wrong with Willa? • How does the author create the impression that Willa feels worse as the chapter progresses? 	<p>Create a medical leaflet warning people about marsh fever – what are the symptoms? What should you do to avoid the bitey-flies, and how can the fever be treated?</p>	<p>HISTORY/SCIENCE • Can you think of any diseases through history that are similar to ‘marsh fever’? What other diseases can be transmitted by flies?</p> <p>ART • Create a storyboard of images or drawings to show how Willa deteriorates in this chapter.</p>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sort of people are Amos and Sarah Starley? How do you know? • Whose face does Willa see ‘when the fever was at its worst’? • Which mire does Sarah warn Willa not to ‘cut across’? Why? • What does Willa find in her bag? • What does Willa do to distract Dadder, Silas and their horses? 	<p>What advice would Grammy give to Willa if she could speak to her? In Grammy’s voice, write down some of her words of wisdom.</p>	<p>PSHE • Willa’s book, <i>Tales of the Marshes</i>, and her mammer’s brooch are both very important objects to her. Which objects are important to you in your life?</p> <p>ART • Design and label Mammer’s brooch based on the descriptions on page 136.</p>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the tone and mood of this chapter? • Why does Willa choose to cross Sorrow Mire? • How does Lucy Strange use ‘sound’ to create a feeling of confusion in Sorrow Mire? • Why is Willa’s blood ‘pounding’? • What does Willa think she sees in the fog? (148) 	<p>Pick out words and phrases Lucy Strange uses to describe Sorrow Mire in this chapter. Then, use them to write a poem based on Sorrow Mire. What imagery can you create to conjure this mysterious and ominous setting?</p>	<p>DRAMA • In groups of 3 or 4, recreate the scene on Sorrow Mire where Willa, Dadder and Silas Kirby circle around each other in the fog. Use music and sound effects to create fear and tension. You could even try adjusting the tone and volume of your voices for effect.</p>



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20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can Willa see beneath the water? Why is it shocking? • What 'nightmarish' imagery is used in this chapter? • Who are the 'poor souls who lost their way'? • What is Willa's dilemma? • What does Willa suspect has happened to Silas Kirby? 	<p>In this chapter, Willa can't believe what she is seeing: <i>'It's the fever – it must be. A nightmare. A trick of mist and marsh-light . . .'</i> Thinking of a dream (or nightmare) that you've had, write your own dreamlike scene.</p>	<p>DRAMA • Create a 'Conscience Corridor'; half of the class stand on one side of the room, persuading Willa to help Dadder. The other half stand on the other side, persuading Willa to leave him behind. Take turns walking through the corridor in-role as Willa. How does it feel?</p>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Willa think of as soon as she wakes up? • How did Willa overcome her 'fear and despair' on the mire? • What is Gallows End like? • How is the fayre presented here? • What does Willa find out about Grace? How does she feel? 	<p>Write a letter from Willa to Freya, in which she describes how she feels about what has happened.</p>	<p>LITERACY • Make a list of five questions that you have about the story at the end of this section. What are your predictions for where Grace might be?</p>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What thoughts race through Willa's mind about Grace? • What is 'batting softly at the edge of [Willa's] mind, like a moth'? • How does Willa feel in this chapter? How do you know? • Why does Dadder call Willa 'May'? • What has Dadder told the whole village about? 	<p>Write Dadder's private confession to May. What else do you think he might feel guilty about or sorry for?</p>	



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23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Willa understand about Freya's decision now? • How is Missus Cooper described? • Which route home does Willa decide to take? • What makes something 'buckle' in Willa's heart? • What questions does Willa ask herself in this chapter? 	Write a set of directions to help Willa find her way home, making sure to avoid Sorrow Mire.	<p>HISTORY • Why is Willa so frightened about what will happen to Grammy? In pairs, create a presentation about the history of punishment for women suspected of witchcraft.</p> <p>PSHE • Consider the theme of bravery in the book. What is bravery? Who is brave?</p>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Willa mean when she says that 'hatred' had made the crowd 'into a pack'? (177) • What is the 'evil eye'? What do the mob accuse Grammy of doing? • How is the weather used in this chapter to create tension? • What does Grammy explain to the girls about the power of 'fear'? • What does Grammy decide to do 'of her own free will'? 	Write a character profile for Grammy. What are her personality traits, her strengths and her weaknesses? How does she inspire Willa and her sisters? Include key quotes and descriptions from the text.	<p>DRAMA • Recreate the scene in which the mob outside shout and demand for Grammy's punishment. How does this scene contrast to what is going on <i>inside</i> the house?</p> <p>LITERACY • Create a list of reasons why the crowd want to hurt Grammy.</p>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Lucy Strange describes the sky as a 'cauldron'? • How do the sisters show their support for Grammy? • Why does Missus Cooper's expression 'change'? • What happens to Grammy? How do you feel reading this chapter? 	Draw a cauldron. Inside it, write down all of the 'witch-like' vocabulary that Lucy Strange uses in this chapter. Can you use this vocabulary to create a witch-inspired poem?	LITERACY/ART • Sketch the scene described in Chapter 25: the mob like a 'twisting, flaming serpent', the crackling sky and the image of Grammy on top of the mound. Label your sketch with words from the text.



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26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your predictions for this part of the story based on the extract from <i>Tales of the Marshes</i>? • Who is May Fernsby? • How do the villagers feel about what has happened to Grammy? • What does it mean that Grammy 'wrote her own ending'? • What does 'sundered' mean? 	<p>Write a letter of apology from one of the villagers to the sisters.</p> <p>Write a local newspaper article describing what happened to Grammy.</p>	<p>LITERACY • Make a list of your predictions for this part of the story based on the extract from <i>Tales of the Marshes</i>. Who is May Fernsby? Why are the passages at the beginning of each part of the story important based on what you know now?</p>
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What 'poisons' Willa's dreams? Why? • What does Willa mean when she says she 'aches' for Grammy? • How is Willa's grief explored in this chapter? • Where can Willa find 'Grammy's soul'? • Who has arranged the books in the library? Why? 	<p>Before reading the next chapter, continue Grammy's letter to Willa. Begin with the line: <i>There is something you should have been told many years ago . . .</i></p>	<p>PSHE • What is grief? How is it explored in this chapter? Make a note of the different emotions Willa feels, her memories and how she finds ways to feel closer to Grammy.</p> <p>LITERACY • What is a 'cuckoo daughter'? Why does Dadder refer to Willa this way?</p>
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is Colt Fernsby? • What does Dadder blame Willa for? • How has Dadder's grief changed him, according to Grammy? • Why does Dadder summon Darcy? • How do you feel about Dadder in this chapter? Do you forgive him? 	<p>'A daughter is not worth less than a son.' Are Willa's words relevant in a modern context? Write an argument about why gender equality is still an important issue today.</p>	<p>LITERACY/PSHE/CITIZENSHIP • Consider how the theme of sexism and gender inequality is explored in this chapter and in the story as a whole. How do some of the male characters treat women? Why? How is this linked to the theme of witchcraft?</p>



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29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has Dadder’s relationship with Darcy changed? • Do you think the curse ‘came true’ or do you agree with Darcy, that it was a matter of ‘choice’? • Why do the sisters ‘turn’ to Willa? • What does Willa realize about Glorious Hill? • What is an ‘illusion’? How are illusions important in the story? 	<p>Write Willa’s interior monologue here. Focus in particular on her thoughts and feelings about her twin brother, Colt Fernsby.</p>	<p>LITERACY • Based on all you know about the Fernsby family, draw their family tree.</p> <p>LITERACY • In pairs, take turns arguing whether you think the witchcraft and magic is ‘real’ in the story or not.</p>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What warnings does Willa receive as she goes back to the fayre? • How does Lucy Strange create a sense of foreboding? • What makes Willa’s heart ‘cramp with fright’? • What does the fortune teller reveal to Willa? • What do you predict might happen in Willa’s future? 	<p>Where do you think Grace might be? Where is the Marsh King hiding her? Write your own ending to the story predicting what you think will happen.</p>	<p>MUSIC • In groups, use different instruments and sound effects to create a dramatic and atmospheric soundtrack as you re-read this scene. You might also consider composing a song – with lyrics written by the fortune teller, warning Willa to turn back.</p>
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Willa ‘snapping’ at her sisters? • What does Freya warn Willa? • What is Willa preparing to do? • What does Willa mean when she says: ‘I am broken?’ (231) • Can you find examples of Willa’s resilience in this chapter? 	<p>In this chapter, Willa wishes that <i>Tales of the Marshes</i> were a book of spells to help her. Write a spell that Willa could use to defeat the Marsh King if she met him.</p>	<p>LITERACY/PSHE • How is the theme of resilience explored in the story? Give five examples of times when Willa has shown resilience. Think about why resilience is an important quality and how you can show it in your own life.</p>



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<p>32</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does being with Flint make Willa feel? (233) • Why does 'a weird icy feeling' unfurl in Willa's 'tum'? • What can Willa hear inside the 'lonely, shabby little tent'? • How does Lucy Strange use images of light and dark for effect in this chapter? • How does the Marsh King try to 'lure' Willa? 	<p>Write about a time when you had a strange feeling in your 'tum'.</p>	<p>LITERACY • Consider what makes the Marsh King an effective villain or evil force in the story. Come up with your own villain or evil force.</p>
<p>33</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does the Marsh King tell Willa she has seen him before? • How does Lucy Strange show that the Marsh King's voice is also inside Willa's head? • What weapons does Willa wish for? • How does the Marsh King tempt Willa to follow him? • What causes Willa to cry? 	<p>Using Lucy Strange's technique as inspiration, write a piece in which a character can hear another voice inside their own head.</p>	<p>LITERACY • In this chapter, Willa believes herself to be a 'sundered soul'. What does this mean? Gather evidence from the text that Willa is starting to doubt herself and lose hope.</p> <p>DESIGN • Design another object that Willa could use as a weapon against the Marsh King. (241)</p>
<p>34</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes Willa feel stronger than she has ever felt before? • What does Willa learn about fear? • How does Willa crush the Marsh King? • What is the 'true light'? What do you think it signifies? 	<p>Write a summary of how Willa has changed from the start of the story. What has she discovered about herself?</p>	<p>LITERACY/ART • Draw the Marsh King as he is revealed on page 244.</p> <p>PSHE • Explore the theme of fear in the story. What does Willa learn about fear?</p>



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<p>35</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect does 'The Story that Never Was' have on Willa? • Why did Grace keep the story? • What 'terrible fear' does Willa let go of at last? • What do each of the girls say that they want to do next, now that they are 'free'? 	<p>Write a summary of what Willa has learnt in this chapter. Has she changed from the character she was at the beginning of the book? If so, how?</p>	<p>LITERACY • In pairs, draw Willa's tinderbox. What is its significance in the story? Inside the box, write down what it symbolizes for Willa. (252)</p> <p>LITERACY • Identify and discuss the mother-daughter relationships in the book. Why are they important?</p>
<p>36</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are 'stories' and 'telling stories' important in the book? • Why do you think Willa wants to write a story about Grammy? • How does Willa view the marsh now? • What is the mood of this chapter? • What do you think 'thunder' represents for the girls? 	<p>Begin Willa's story about Grammy, entitled '<i>The Witch of Hollow-in-the-Marsh</i>'.</p>	<p>ART/HISTORY • Lucy Strange explains how she was inspired by famous paintings when she created her setting on the marsh. Re-read her description on page 257 and compare it to some of artist John Piper's paintings of Romney Marsh. Can you see similarities?</p>
<p>37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the 'weighty moment' in the chapter? Why is it powerful? • How do the crowd show their support for the sisters? • How does Willa triumph over Silas? • Why is the closing image of the sisters so powerful? 	<p>'We said, <i>WE WON'T BE DRUV!</i>' – Write a paragraph explaining why this is such an important phrase in the story of <i>Sisters of the Lost Marsh</i>.</p>	<p>LITERACY • For each character in the story, draw a diagram or a timeline of events to show how they've developed or changed.</p> <p>LITERACY/PSHE • Share five ways you've been inspired by the Fernsby sisters and their story.</p>

