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NUSH AND THE STOLEN EMERALD

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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chickenhousebooks.com

Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the twins called? • Why are there no birthrights in the desert? • Why does Anushka need to use a hairpin to open the gates? • What does 'gallivanting' mean? • How do the twins know breakfast will be important? • What is a 'diplomatic trip'? • Why is Anushka surprised? 		<p>Have a tasting session of Indian food, as mentioned in the book. What different flavours can you taste? What spices have been used?</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an 'exile'? • Who first sent the British East India Company? • Why is Papa not trying to get the emerald back? • Why does Anushka think it is unfair that Queen Victoria is on the throne? • Do you think Anushka and Arian should swap places? 	<p>Think about the letter Zayn will write. What will he say? How formal will it be? Write your own version of the letter.</p>	<p>Who are the British East India Company? Research who they are, and their impact on India and other countries.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does 'multifaceted' mean? • Why does Anushka enjoy hearing the story of the emerald? • Do you think Arian supports Anushka's plan? • Does Anushka have courage? 	<p>Rewrite the story of Lakshmi's emerald. Focus on using descriptive language to create an image in the reader's mind.</p>	<p>Create some artwork of lotus flowers. What do they look like? What colours will you need to use? Create a fact file about Lakshmi.</p>



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

4

- Why are birds being taken to England?
- What will Anushka do with the fake emerald?
- What is a dynasty?
- Will Anushka go through with her plan to go to England?
- Do you think Anushka wants to go so she can be the centre of attention?
- What does it mean to 'twist' someone 'around your little finger'?
- How long will it take Papa to realize the twins have switched?
- What is a synonym for 'valiant'?

On a map, plot a route a boat might take from India to England. What oceans and seas will it have to cross?

5

- Has Arian decided to support Nush's plan?
- What does 'ruthless' mean?
- Why is the train described as a 'steaming metal monster'?
- Why does Papa need an 'entourage'?
- The ship is described as a 'hefty sea creature' – is this more or less intimidating than the train?
- Which mission is more important – Nush's or her father's?

Write a description of the train or ship – think about how you can build a picture of it for someone who has never seen one!



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6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Adah work out the twins' secret? • Do you think the East India Company use spices in food? • Is Mr Mead a good tutor? • Why did Nush tell her father she had swapped places with Arian? • What does 'exasperated' mean? • Do you think Nush will make her father proud? 	<p>Write your own diary entry of the first day of the sea voyage - you might like to include little sketches like Nush!</p>	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long did the voyage take? • How has Adah helped Nush? • Why are newspaper reporters at the dock to take photos? • Should the group trust Captain West? • What does 'auspicious' mean? • Why is Nush angry when she arrives at the palace? 		<p>Look at where in the world India and England are. Why are their climates so different?</p> <p>Create a fact file on Raziya Sultan (who ruled Delhi in 1231).</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will Nush's first impression of the Queen be? • Do you think Nush will make a good first impression on the Queen? • Will Nush and Princess Victoria find common ground? • What is a menagerie? Do we still have them today? • Do you agree with Captain West that meeting Queen Victoria was a success? 	<p>Create a poster to advertise the 'Great Exhibition'. What information do you need to include? What language will you use to describe it?</p>	<p>Have your own class 'Great Exhibition'. Bring in something you want to show people - something which is important or special to you that you think others might enjoy seeing, too!</p>



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9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are the royal children curious when they see Nush? Do you think Bertie is mean for tying Victoria's laces together? How can we tell John is nervous? Why does Bertie get to be king, despite being younger than Victoria? 		
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Nush not know what a Christmas tree is before she visits? Why does Nush feel guilty when she thinks about Arian? Has Captain West kept the necklace safe? 	Write the story of Diwali. Make sure to include the key details in your retelling of it.	<p>What Hindu festivals are there during the year, and how are they celebrated?</p> <p>What Christmas traditions began in the Victorian era?</p>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who do you think Captain West was meeting? Why does John speak to Nush like she hasn't ridden a horse before? Why does Nush not tell the groom about John? What is a 'truce'? What does it mean to eat 'humble pie'? 	Queen Elizabeth II changed the rule about succession. Write a newspaper report giving more details about this.	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Nush forget about the emerald? What is a 'softly-softly' approach? What makes the Maharaja think the visit is going well for 		Look at the British Empire under Queen Victoria's rule. Which countries sought independence? When did this happen?



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	<p>his cause?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a 'monsoon'? • What does Bertie want to show the girls? 		
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think what Bertie showed the other children was 'incredible'? • Why does Nush pretend to be impressed when Bertie offers it to her to hold? • Why do all of Queen Victoria's gifts go into a room? • What is a 'half-baked' plan? • What effect does the final sentence of the chapter have on the reader? 		
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What dangers will Nush face once she takes the emerald? • How does Nush feel knowing the emerald is a fake? How will it make her quest harder? • What is 'treachery'? 		What different royal houses did Queen Victoria have? Are any of them still used by the royal family today?
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do the children get to be in charge at Osborne House? • What is a 'curiosity'? • Do you think the children have put together a good museum? • What is Nush trying to work out? 	Write a description for the five-legged deer curiosity. How would you describe it? What information is needed?	What vegetables can grow in the UK? Can you grow your own in school? What would work best this season?



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16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Nush feel more herself at Osborne House? • Do you think her father will have found the thief? • Is Nush still as worried about her mission as she was when she first arrived in England? • Why do Vicky and Bertie get on better when they are away from London? 		
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you believe the Maharaja would have deliberately left Nush behind? • How do you think Nush feels when she is told the news? • Is the Captain sympathetic? How can we tell? • Why does Nush go on to the lake in the boat? • How will Nush get back to shore? 	Write a letter from the Maharaja to Nush. What might he say? What might the explanation be?	
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes Nush feel trapped? • Why is the Queen visiting Nush? • Why does the Queen assume Nush would be happy to stay? • Could England ever be home to Nush? 		
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Captain West go red? • Would Nush's father leave her a letter? • How will Nush dig deeper? • If you were Nush, what would you do first? 		What traditional prayers or customs are there within Hinduism?



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20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why has Nush chosen not to wear the dress picked out for her? What does 'loiter' mean? Why is Captain West being rude to Nush? What clues might Nush find in the jewellery room next? Do you think a button can be a clue? 	Write a non-chronological report about the traditional clothes of India. What information can you include?	Look at the traditional clothes of India. What colours and materials are traditionally used? Then, design your own traditional outfit for Nush.
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does the governess mean by 'raggle-taggle' group? Why did Alice fetch Prince Albert? Will Bertie's lessons make him a better king? 	Write a monologue that Nush might give about women's rights.	Do a still life drawing of a bunch of roses, just as Nush is asked to in the book!
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Nush and Vicky's first impression of their new governess? Did Miss Nicolson really speak Hindustani? Does Captain West know more than he is letting on? How did Miss Nicolson's button end up in the jewellery room? 	Write a recipe for Nush's favourite rock buns. Read 'Lamia' and discuss how it makes the reader feel. Can you write your own poem that creates the same emotions?	
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where is the service being held? Is it right for Queen Victoria to expect Nush to become Christian? Why would Miss Nicolson lie about where she is? Why has Nush not yet told Vicky about the emerald? 		Create a silhouette image of St Paul's Cathedral and the skyline of London around it.



Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Vicky suggest once she hears about Nush's mission? • Why does fear shadow Vicky's face? 		
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does John feel uncomfortable? • What is a 'guild'? • Is Nush surprised there are jewellery shops near St Paul's? • Would you describe Miss Nicolson as 'lovely'? • Why do you think the wig is important? • Why would Miss Nicolson hide who she really is? 	Rewrite the chapter from Miss Nicolson's point of view. What was she doing before she saw Nush? What did she think when she did see her? Can you show some of your predictions in your writing?	
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Nush escape Miss Nicolson? • What will Vicky's reaction to the event be? • Why do you think Nush asked Beauty a question? • Does Captain West know who Miss Nicolson really is? • Do you agree that Nush's father has been kidnapped? 		
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What emotion might someone feel when they are 'jittery'? • Why would Miss Nicolson swap her days? • Are the girls right to trust John with what they know? • When the East India Company led their attack, do you think Queen Victoria knew about it? 		Create a map of the British Empire. Then, look at India in particular. How did the empire impact India? When did they regain independence?



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27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you think they are most likely to find clues? • Why is it important that Captain West has a connection to the East India Company? • Why are records kept of the meetings? • Why does Captain West need a trapdoor? • What does 'annexation' mean? 	<p>Write a script of a meeting that Queen Victoria might have had with Nush's father.</p>	
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Nush feeling at the start of the chapter? • Has your opinion of Captain West changed since we first met him? • Why is Nush leading the way? • What do you think they should do: follow the river or go back? • How does the author create suspense through the chapter? 		<p>Research the River Tyburn. Where does it flow? Is it still there today?</p>
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would Nush's papa be in the boat? • How could you hide someone at the docklands, without them being found? • What is another word for 'insignia'? • What are three words you would use to describe Nush in this chapter? 		



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30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has Bertie been a useful addition to the group? • Why do they decide to look in the tower? • What do you expect them to find? • Are you surprised that Arian was under the blankets? 		
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Nush speak Hindustani as she hugs Arian? • How do you think Arian arrived in England? • Do you think Nush's papa is still in England? • What will the children do next? 	Write a letter from Arian to Nush, when he is on the ship. What would he want to tell her? How might he be feeling?	
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does 'shrouded' mean? • Does the gunman know he is shooting at royalty? • Should the children split up? • What is 'smog'? • Why is Nush reluctant to use the pistol? • Do you agree that Bessy will have hidden it on her person? 		
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does the ticking clock make the scene feel 'anxious'? • If Miss Nicols (Bessy!) doesn't have the emerald, where might it be? • Why would a workshop need to be secret? • Does Bessy really admire Nush? 	Write your own setting description of the workshop. What does it look like? How does it feel to walk inside?	



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34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the twins make it to Tilbury on time? • Why has there been a search party? • Why would Captain West disappear? • How do the twins on their horses mimic the start of the book? • Why do they think the African ship is the most likely? • What clue do you think Papa has left? 		
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did they know the string was from their papa? • Why are people excited to see the royal family? • How might Miss Nicols and Captain West be punished? • What does Bessy plan to do with Bertie? 		Create a family tree for Queen Victoria and her children.
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will Bessy do next? • Why did Captain West abandon Bessy? • Why could Bessy not tell the difference between the emeralds? • What does it mean to be in 'cahoots'? • Is it fair for them to rule the kingdom together? 	Write an explanation text: 'How to catch a jewel thief'. Include an introduction, top tips and all the steps someone might need to take.	



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross-Curricular Opportunities

37

- How do the royal family show they are grateful to Nush?
- Why did Nush decide to leave Beauty behind?
- Do you think Nush or Arian will return?
- Has their visit had the impact they intended it to?
- Why did Nush keep the emerald a secret?
- After reading the book, do you think the East India Company is a positive or negative force in India?

Write a book review!

Design a banquet menu for a Victorian feast.

