



jamesnicolbooks.com

@jamesenicol

THE CLOUD THIEF

James Nicol

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

Created by Emily Weston



chickenhousebooks.com

Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does a cloud need to be protected? What happened during the Great Shift? Why was Old Bern excited when the roof of the cloud carriage opened? Why is the cloud not what the town expected? Why can't people collect rainwater from the cloud? 	Write an explanation text describing how the water cycle works.	Collect rainwater over a week. How much water did you collect each day? How much was there over the week?
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did Old Bern not want Mara to worry about him, even though he's ill? What will Mara do with the information she heard about the cloud curing Thwart? Why is the entry to the well kept locked? Why is Mr Scrump so strict with the rules? Should Mara have given Bitsy her ration of water? 		Discuss why it is important to have rules in society. Should they always be followed, and if so, why? Write a set of school 'eco' rules.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Mr Gwyl show kindness? How will the tools help Mara? Why did Mr Gwyl give Mara the tools for free? How could Mara get a piece of cloud? 		
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was Mara waiting by the noticeboard? How does Old Bern feel about the cloud deliveries? Is Fidget a good pet? 	Create a poster to announce the new cloud. What details do you need to include?	Create your own timetable of important events coming up in the next month.



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5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your impression of Evie Bainbridge? What idea did Mara have when she noticed the cloud carriage? Is Mara nervous when the carriage starts moving? Why is the land around the Cloud Factory so different? 	Write a setting description of the land around the Cloud Factory. Think about how to describe it in a way which shows Mara's emotions as she sees it for the first time, and the contrast against her own village.	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Mara be in trouble when she is discovered? Why was Mara reassured that the horses were well looked after? What might the novices learn at the Cloud Factory? Will Mara continue pretending to be a novice? 		Look at paintings by Van Gogh. They are very bright and have a 'surreal' aspect to them. Create your own landscape of the Cloud Factory.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Mara have a good first impression of Cresta? What does the word 'abundant' mean? Why are cloud burst times being recorded? How do we know Barnacus is an important person? What do Mara and Cresta have in common? 		Design a set of robes that novices at the Cloud Factory could wear. What colour would represent the job they are going to do?
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does 'extraction' mean? Do you think the clouds mind being trapped in nets? Why has Cresta come to work at the Cloud Factory if she 	Create a non-chronological report about the different types of cloud - use your	Research different types of clouds. What are they called? What do different clouds do?



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	<p>thinks it is cruel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the 'queen' cloud? Why is Telma not happy when Cresta asks, 'Isn't everywhere in need of clouds?' Do you think Cresta is right when she says the clouds 'go to those who have the money to pay for them'? 	research to help you!	What animals have 'queens' or are called a 'queen'? Are there similarities between them?
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why might Mara have decided to find the piece of cloud at night? What can you infer about the 'onyx queen' from its name? Has your opinion about the Cloud Factory changed since Mara arrived? 		
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What crime is Evie committing? Is what Evie is doing to the clouds different to what Mara plans to do? Do you think the cloud understands Mara? Who is going to walk into the corridor? 	Create a comparison between Evie and Mara, and how they treat the clouds. What is different? What is the same?	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does the boy think Mara is trying to steal a cloud? What does 'nonchalantly' mean? Why did the cloud float towards the window? Is the boy telling the truth about the spells? How do you know? 		



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12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Evie thinking as she leans out of the window? What made the boy decide to help Mara? Why does Mara feel the world is unfair? Do you think Fidget trusts Eban? Why? Will the Skirex Riders find Eban and Mara? 		Create a fact file about squirrels. What do they eat? What is their habitat? How do they live?
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was Eban really casting a spell? What does 'ludicrous' mean? How will market day help them find cover? Why would the teenagers follow Eban and Mara? 	Write a survival guide for Mara and Eban. How will they get to Withering without being discovered?	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Mara ignore the question about money? Does Pancho just want a 'little chat'? Is Pancho right about the factory? Why does the cloud save Mara and Eban? Does Mara deserve the cloud's help? 		Compare urban and rural landscapes – what are the human and physical differences between them?
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will Mara and Eban get a carriage without any money? Do you agree Eban should give up his robes? 		



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16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Mara have more respect for Eban when she realizes he is leaving his home? What is a 'captive'? Do you think Eban is one? Why is Mara keeping a tight hold of her rucksack? How did the skirex know where to find them? 	Write a letter from Eban to his parents – what do you think he would write home and say? What information should he include?	Design a rucksack for Mara to use. What materials will it need to use? What colours would draw the least attention?
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the chapter title to help, predict what you think will happen in this chapter. Why does the innkeeper help them? How do we know the 'Petrified Forest' is dangerous from its name? Is Mara right about the innkeeper? Will she keep their secret? 		Create a recipe for the perfect hot chocolate – and taste it while you read the next chapter!
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why might Evie dislike Eban? Why does Eban not know what a 'sand-sea' is? Why does the cloud go grey when she's near Eban? Do you believe you should 'dance about in [the rain]'? 	Write a poem with the title 'Dance in the Rain'. Think about Mara's emotions at the end of this chapter while you write.	
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would you go through the Petrified Forest? Do you think trees can be 'sad'? Is Mara fair to be sharp with Eban? 	Write a balanced argument – should Mara and Eban go through the Petrified Forest? Remember, it needs	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will going on this journey with Mara affect Eban in any way? How? 	to be balanced, so requires arguments for and against.	
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was Mara so worried when she couldn't see Fidget? Why is there a wall in the Petrified Forest? Why was Mara surprised to see such luscious surroundings? Why is the wall surrounding the trees? What will happen when Mara wakes up? 	Write a setting description of how you imagine the world to look beyond the wall. What will Mara see when she wakes up?	Research different types of plants which grow in different parts of the world. What types of plants grow in different habitats? Can plants grow without water?
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did Mara get to the room that she wakes up in? What is another word for 'companions'? Why will they be 'escorted' back beyond the wall? Why is Struthers so protective? Why did Zita, Eban and Mara laugh at the end of the chapter? 	Write a list of questions that Zita might want to ask Eban and Mara. See if you can order them by their importance.	
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did Mara not like Fidget jumping on to Eban's shoulder first? Why does Zita's room have a ceiling made of glass? 		Grow your own plants! Use old drink cans, fill them with soil and plant some seeds in order to make your own classroom



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is an apothecary? Why is it strange the garden was already there? Why does Mayor Peabody describe the smell as 'like life itself'? 		garden that has been made in an eco-friendly way.
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Mara feel seeing Brume again? Why is it 'odd' that Eban's cheeks were pink? Do you agree there may be 'free clouds' in Mara and Eban's world? What impression have you been left with about Eban during this chapter? Has it changed your opinion of him? In one word, describe how Mara feels as the chapter ends. 	Write a recipe that Struthers might use. Focus on the design of the food – it needs to have a floral link in its taste or design. Remember, the steps need to be very clear so he can follow them!	
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Zita give up Eban and Mara to the dispatchers? Should Mara have taken the elixir? Would you have hidden at the house, or headed back into the forest? 		Create your own elixirs, specifying measurements. What could you combine? What amount of each liquid would they need? (You could even make them using different juices!)
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Mara feel Brume and Fidget are traitors? Do you think Evie is a hypocrite? Does Evie believe Mara will tell someone what she has been doing? 	Write a diary entry from Evie's point of view, after her conversation with Mara. What would she be thinking? How would she be feeling?	



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26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Eban doubt what Mara has told him? Why are there fewer people, now there isn't as much water? Will Eban and Mara outrun the harpies? 	Using a picture of a harpy, write a non-chronological report. You can create some details about them, but present it as factual information using features of non-fiction.	Use collage to make your own mythical creatures that have different body parts of different animals.
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will Mara and Eban escape the harpies? What do the harpies want? Why do they have no need for a cloud? Will Mara tell secrets to the harpies? What secrets might Eban be hiding? 		
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are Mara's secrets not what the harpies want? Why will Eban not tell the harpies his secrets? What is a 'matriarch'? Why has Mara flown away? 	Inside a thought bubble, write what Eban might be thinking as the harpy asks for his secrets. Use this as a chance to predict what they might be!	
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Mara know that Caleus understands how serious the situation is? What signs were there that the harpy took the secret? Would you choose to give Eban the elixir? 		



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30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What truth and lies were told in this chapter? Do you think Mara and Eban have become friends? Why did Eban feel trapped at the Cloud Factory? Why does Eban think the clouds should be free? 	Write a job description for Eban's role at the Cloud Factory. What did he do? What were his main duties?	
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does 'coaxed' mean? Give three reasons why Mara is glad to be back in Withering. Why was Mayor Peabody worried about Mara? Will Mara tell them everything that happened? 		Create an image of a sandstorm using real sand to enhance your picture. How can you use it to add texture?
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is Mara and Eban's story described as a 'joint tale'? Why does Mara feel her journey was for nothing? What did they see when they looked out of the window? Why does the mayor pretend not to know why Evie has arrived? How can a smile make you feel 'chill to the bone'? Are you surprised by Aunt Dru's attitude? What will the onyx queen do? 	Write the next chapter – titled 'The Onyx Queen' – to predict what will happen next.	Design a town hall for the mayor. Look at different designs from around the country – how are they different from each other? (Some good ones to start: Birmingham Town Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall, Royal Wootton Bassett Town Hall.)
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why can't they stop the onyx queen even if they wanted to? Was it right to leave Eban outside? Do you think Brume can beat the onyx queen? 		Discuss as a class: do our choices make us who we are?



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34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Brume want to protect the town? • How will Mara be able to help Brume? • What made the onyx queen stop? • Why did Brume go straight to Eban? • How is the rain different to how it was before? 		
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think Brume's release will change Withering? • Why is Brume happy? • Why did Old Bern blush at the mention of the mayor? • Why has Eban returned? • Who instigated the change at the Cloud Factory? • Is this the ending that Mara deserved? 	Write a book review!	Design a textile cloud that you can name and keep! You can even sew it.

