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THE PECULIAR TALE OF THE TENTACLE BOY

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CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter
Front cover and blurb

Comprehension Writing Questions **Opportunities**

Cross Curricular **Opportunities**

Complete an OWI grid:

Observe – what can you see? Can you describe it fully? Remember to look at the foreground and background of the cover.

Wonder – what questions do you have, based on the front cover? Children could start their sentences with 'I wonder if ...'

Infer – start your sentences with 'I think ...' or 'Maybe ...' Can you explain why you think this?

SCIENCE • Research different animals that have tentacles. What do you notice about them? Are they all from one animal group? Research the structure and purpose of tentacles.

Before reading the chapter:

- Who do you think the chapter is referring to?
- What do you think they will have lied about?

After reading the chapter:

How did Marina feel about where she lived? Do you agree with her opinion? Why?

Based on the cover, what do you think the book will be about?

Show children the blurb with some words redacted. Predict what the

story will be about. What do you think the missing words are? Why do

you think this? Show children the full blurb. Does the blurb confirm

Who do you think the main characters will be?

your thoughts or has it changed your mind? Why?

Where do you think it will be set?

- What does the author mean when he says 'people knew they had to take what Marina said with a pinch of salt'?
- Explain why Marina's mother would think she would make a great writer someday.
- Why did the other people of Merlington not like Marina's stories?

Rewrite the chapter from the perspective of Wendy. How will this differ from Marina's perspective? Think carefully about Wendy's feelings and thoughts when writing.

GEOGRAPHY • The story so far has been set in a seaside town. What seaside towns do you know? Research and have a look at the human and physical geographical features and compare this to the local area.









Chapter Comprehension Writing Questions Describe how Marina felt after she had thrown the seaweed at Wendy. Find and copy evidence from the text to support your answer. No, enough stories for one night. Why has the author used italics for this line? What does it show? Look at page 12. Find and copy two examples of vocabulary the author uses to show that Marina was angry. need to. What caught Marina's eye and stopped her returning home? How did Edie feel when she saw the light at the end of the chapter? Why does she feel this way? What does this show about her relationship with Marina? Do you think Marina should have gone to the pier? Explain why you think this, using evidence from the text to support your answer. Find and copy two words on page 19 that show that the pier has been abandoned for a long time. How did Marina know that it wasn't a dream? Why has William not been discovered before Marina came to the pier? Create a timeline of the different emotions Marina had throughout the chapter. Why was she feeling this way at this particular time? Can you identify what page in the chapter the emotion changes? Can you find and

Opportunities

Cross Curricular **Opportunities**

Edie and Marina both mention the spooky stories that the fishermen tell about the haunted pier. Can you create your own spooky story based on a haunted pier? Use images to help inspire you if you

At the end of the chapter, Marina has started to make her way to the pier and Edie has seen the light too. What do you think will happen when Marina gets there? Write a continuation of the story.

ART • Look at the description of the broken pier on page 12. Can you create a piece of artwork to represent this? Research other seaside artwork - what materials have they used? Which materials do you think would be best? Why?

- copy evidence to show why you think this?
- Did William act how you expected him to? Explain what your expectations were and why you thought this. What are your impressions of him from this chapter? Why do you think this?

If you could create your own creature, similar to William, what would they look like? What sea creatures could it be inspired by? Write a description of your character and see if your partner can accurately recreate the character by drawing it on a piece of paper, based on your description.

ART • Use the description of William on pages 21 and 22 to create a piece of artwork depicting what he looks like. Could you create a multimedia piece of artwork to help show the texture of his tentacles or claws? SCIENCE • Complete some research or learning regarding animal groups and their characteristics. Looking at the description of William, what animal group do you think he would be classified as? Explain your reasoning.







Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
4	 Find and copy two examples of how the author shows that the pier is not a nice place for William to live. Do you think the 'fisherman' that William refers to is a good or bad character? Why do you think this? 'Merlington was synonymous with fish.' What does the word synonymous mean in this context? Find and copy a word that shows that Marina was nervous about touching William's hand on page 27. Why is Marina surprised when William reads and speaks well? Do you agree with Marina when she says it is 'awful' that all of the old tins have been from the sea? Why? 	Write a newspaper article about the night Marina's father, Nigel Minnow, disappeared. At the end of the chapter, Marina has started to make her way back to shore, but the storm has made her lose her oars and she is floating out to sea. What do you think will happen to Marina? Write a continuation of the story.	PSHE/COMPUTING • Research and create a presentation regarding the effects of litter and waste in the sea and how people can help reduce this. Could you create a video to share online, using a tablet?
5	 Find and copy a word that shows the boat was dangerous. How had Edie been feeling when Marina was out at sea? How do you know this? Did Edie believe Marina's story? Find and copy evidence from the text to support your answer. Explain how Marina felt when Edie reacted to her story. Find and copy evidence from the text to support your answer. Who do you think was 'twitching' behind the curtain? Explain why you think this. Why would Marina want to prove William's existence? 		PSHE • Research how to keep safe in water, particularly when visiting a seaside town. Children can create a poster showing the important things to remember to ensure they are safe, and what to do if they get into trouble whilst at sea.







Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
6	 Who had told Marina the story of the fisherman and his catch? Look at the description on page 41: 'Mrs Orr towering over her desk, a look of exasperation etched on her face.' What does the word exasperation mean? Why did Mrs Orr feel this way? What is the difference between lemon sole and dover sole? What had caused the whole school to go down to the beach? 	Write a newspaper article about William washing up on the beach.	SCIENCE • Research the species of fish found in the UK and the seas surrounding it. Create a fact file for two species, making comparisons between them.
7	 How did Marina feel when she realized it was William on the beach? Why do you think she felt this way? Did Wendy believe that William is real? What does she think he is? What did Marina use to wake William up? Why would Wendy feel embarrassed after William recognized Marina? Explain why Marina decided to take William away from the beach. 		PSHE • Recap what you know so far about the different people within the community of Merlington. What are their roles? What contributions do they make? Which roles do you think are most important within the community?
8	 What kind of character is Harold? How do you know this? Why does Harold dislike Marina's mother? Do you think it is fair that Harold buys the majority of the fish and doesn't leave enough for the other fishmongers? Explain your opinion. What was Walter's excuse for not picking up the fish from Harold on time? How did Harold feel when Walter told him about William washing up on the beach? Explain how you know he felt this way by using evidence from the text. 	What do you think Harold is going to do after hearing that William washed up on the beach? Write a continuation of the story.	ART • Create a piece of artwork to depict Harold based on the description in the book. What kind of materials could you use to reflect the fact he is not a nice character?









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9	 Look at the description of Minnow's fishmonger's. How does this differ from the description of Harold's shop from Chapter 8? What does this show about the two owners and the two businesses? Which one is more successful? How do you know? What did Sally think was the reason for Harold's visit? What was the real reason Harold visited Sally's shop? Harold calls William a 'monstrosity'. Do you agree with him? Explain why you think this. 		PSHE • Harold told Sally to tell him immediately if she saw William. Would you tell him or keep it a secret? Why? ART • Can you create a sketch of Minnow's fishmonger's?
10	 Put the following events of Billy Bass's journey in order: Nigel Minnow buys Billy on an auction website. Wilson's closes and Billy goes to the ninety-nine cents store. Billy Bass is manufactured in Irving, Texas. Larry Wilson buys Billy Bass for his bar. A French lady buys Billy and takes him back to her bistro in France. How did William feel about Marina and Sally's offer to look after him? How do you know? Why would William's eyes 'widen with horror' when he saw the instruments used to descale fish? 		GEOGRAPHY • Use a map to show the route Billy took from being manufactured to being in Minnow's fishmonger's. PSHE • Marina says that her mum has always told her to 'not judge a person on appearance' – do you agree with this? Can you think of an example of a time you may have judged somebody by their appearance and were wrong about them?
11	 Who did William describe as 'bug girl'? Why did he call them this? How did William know he'd been asleep for a few hours? Summarize what happened to William before he washed up on the 	Create a 'Missing Person' report based on the information we know about the fisherman so far.	



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	 beach. What do you think the person on the boat was trying to get rid of? Why might they be getting rid of it? Approximately what time was the boat in the water? 		
12	 Explain why Sally decided to shut the blinds. Why were the people outside the shop angry when she shut them? Did William like the idea of cooking the salmon? Copy evidence from the text that shows how you know this. 'William burst from the surface like a firework' – What does this suggest about how William came out of the water? How does the author comparing William shaking his tentacles to a shaggy dog help the reader? Explain why Shrimpy's logo is a picture of a prawn. What was Marina's initial reaction when William told her to try the sashimi? Why does she react like this? Who do you think had seen Marina, Sally and William leave the shop? Why do you think this? 	Write instructions on how to make sashimi. You may need to conduct some research to help you.	GEOGRAPHY • Sashimi is one of the most famous dishes in Japan. Research Japan and its geographical features, suggesting why seafood is a staple part of their diet. SCIENCE/PSHE • Research sashimi and its nutritional content. Do you think it is a healthy meal to eat? What would be the benefits and risks of having a seafood-rich diet?
13	 Describe how William felt when he saw Marina's house for the first time. Why do you think he felt this way? Explain why Marina would fill the bath with water for William. How does William keep himself occupied when he's at the pier? 		MUSIC • Listen to the pieces of music mentioned in Marina's story about the frogs: • Tchaikovsky's violin concerto



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	What did Marina use as her inspiration for her story?		Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 How do they make you feel? What instruments can you hear? How would you describe the pieces of music? Which one is your favourite and why?
14	 How did this Saturday morning differ from a typical Saturday morning? Explain how Marina felt when William said he believed her dad was still alive. Use evidence to explain why you think this. Why do you think the fishermen are now eager to sell to Sally when they used to come to her last? Name three things that Marina packed for her snorkelling trip. 	Write a persuasive advert for Minnow's fishmonger's and their new sashimi. Remember to think about the vocabulary you choose to make the shop and the sashimi seem as appealing as possible.	
15	 Why was Peter confused when Marina said she didn't want to work in the fish industry? Read page 114. What does the word tentative suggest about how Marina felt about going into the sea? How did Marina know that the trunk was what she was looking for when she saw it? Explain how the other children knew that Marina had found something. 	Write instructions for how to tie a Honda knot. Can your partner follow your instructions correctly? What do you think is going to be inside the trunk? Describe what you think will happen when Marina opens it.	PSHE • Marina mentioned that she did not want to work in the fish industry. Based on your knowledge of Merlington, and Marina's strengths, what career would you suggest for her? What would she need to do in order to achieve this?



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16	 Find and copy a word or phrase that shows the trunk was old. Why would it take the children a long time to drag the trunk back up Marina's house? Complete the table below with evidence from the text to support the statements. 	new sashimi. Remember to think	ART • Using the descriptions from the chapter, create a piece of artwork depicting the trunk and its contents. DRAMA • Work in a group to act out the chapter, focusing on how the different characters were feeling when they were opening the trunk.
	Statement Evidence Peter is clumsy. The contents of the trunk belonged to a baby. The trunk and its contents made Marina feel nervous. Based on the description of the trunk's contents, who do you think threw it into the sea? Why do you think they tried to get rid of it?		
17	 Why would 'fishy businessmen think twice about setting up shop' in Merlington? What is meant by the phrase 'the jewel in his crown'? List three items Minnow's had on their display. Read page 125 and complete the following: Match the person to their feelings. Wendy Whitby annoyed Mrs Cuttle excited Daisy Baitman determined 	Write a script for a TV news report – including speaking to locals, Sally and/or William – in preparation for recording and producing it.	IT • Use tablets and/or computers to record, edit and produce a TV news report based on Minnow's, William and the sashimi. Could you use a green screen? You may wish to research TV news reports for ideas.



Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
	2. Complete the table below with evidence part 1. Person Wendy Whitby Mrs Cuttle Daisy Baitman • Wendy doesn't think she is a spiteful girl. Do Explain why you think this. • How is Sally feeling in this chapter? Using the explain why she would be feeling this way.	you agree with this?	
18	 How does Walter feel about Minnow's newher feels this way. Explain why Harold would be angry about the What was Harold going to do if he was able What are your first impressions of Caroline? you think she is? What does the word 'ominously' suggest about the word of the	the perspective of Harold. W is he unhappy about Minno What reasons could be used support his argument?	Vhy ow's?
19	 Suggest why Granny Minnow's memory was What does the word 'fledgling' suggest about Why does Marina feel guilty? What does this 	t the business? story that Granny tells will in	nvolve? depicting Granny Minnow's care home.



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	 person? What is the 'cloud of uncertainty' that Sally is referring to in her TV interview? Find and copy evidence that shows Granny hasn't recognized Marina. 		
20	 What time of day was the fisherman out at sea? Explain what the 'tight bundle' was that the figure threw into the sea. How did the fisherman know someone was trying to keep the baby a secret? What does Granny's story suggest about the fisherman as a person? How would you describe him? Use evidence from the text to explain why you think this. Why did the fisherman make up stories about the pier to make others think it was haunted? Who was the fisherman? 	Rewrite Granny Minnow's story from the perspective of the fisherman. Write it in the first person, making sure to include the fisherman's inner thoughts and feelings.	HISTORY • Granny Minnow's story mentions Poseidon. Research Poseidon and create a fact file.
21	 Why were the other fishmongers still not as successful as Minnow's despite introducing sashimi to their shops? What was Marina's reason for preventing her mum showing William the photo album? Explain how flatfish differ from other types of fish. How did the teacher know that Marina was unwell? Compare Marina's feelings about William leading the lesson to how her classmates felt. 	Write a balanced argument discussing the reasons for and against Marina telling William the truth. What would your decision be?	SCIENCE/IT • Mrs Orr talks about Charles Darwin. Research his scientific theories and create a presentation to share the information you find.



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	Suggest why Wendy also didn't feel positively about William leading the lesson.		
22	 How did Edie know that Marina was unwell? Why would Sally Minnow be displeased about the whisky? Describe how Marina feels when she finally tells Edie what had been bothering her. Can you find a piece of evidence to support your answer? Throughout the chapter, the author uses the weather to reflect Marina's negative emotions. Can you find and copy two examples? 	Write the letter Edie threw into the sea. What do you think Edie's mother would want to tell her grandmother?	HISTORY • Look at how medicines have changed over time, particularly around the use of animals or animal parts in the past. Compare this to modern-day medicine and explain why these changes have occurred.
23	 Name two costumes that are mentioned in the chapter. What did the committee think was the purpose of the meeting? Which fishmongers were absent from the meeting? What do you think is the reason for this? Explain why Harold would not want minutes taken. Why had the fishmongers abandoned their usual offering? What does the word 'tomfoolery' mean? 		DT • Design a 'fish-themed' Halloween costume that you would wear if you lived in Merlington. Make sure to annotate your design with the materials you would use.
24	Before reading the chapter: • What do you think Harold's plan will be? After reading the chapter: • Explain why you think the laughing stopped.	Write a continuation of the story, focusing on Walter and Harold's plan. What are they going to do next?	PSHE • Do you think William is a person or a fish? What constitutes being human? Have a look at human rights – do you think these should apply



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	 Why did Walter not think it was murder? Do you agree with him? Why? How did Harold manage to persuade the other fishmongers to agree with his plan? What do you think Walter meant when he said they had been discussing the bonfire celebrations? Based on the chapter, has your initial prediction about Harold's plan changed? What do you think Walter and Harold are going to do? 		to William? If so, do you think any of them have been violated or will be violated by Harold's plan?
25	 Why was Marina feeling miserable? How did Marina feel when she realized the shop was busy? Why did she feel this way? Explain why Sally was surprised that Marina wanted to clean the sneeze guards. Did you expect Marina to react the way she did? Why? In the text it says that Sally's face was 'beginning to colour in anger'. Who was the anger directed towards? 	Rewrite the chapter from the perspective of William. Can you continue the story? What will William do after he leaves the shop?	
26	 How did Harold manage to persuade William to go with them? Why would the postman need scuba gear? Look at page 198. Find and copy evidence to show that Walter was nervous about what they were going to do. Who was the person who threw William into the sea as a baby? Does Walter know about how Harold's past links to William? Find evidence to justify your answer. 		







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27	 What made Harold famous? 'Baby Harold's appetite was unrivalled.' What does the word unrivalled mean in this sentence? Compare how Harold and Caroline dealt with the fact they could not have a child. Use evidence to support your answer. Has the chapter changed your opinion on Harold? Explain why. 	What do you think is going to happen next to Harold and Caroline? Write a continuation of the story.	
28	 Who is the baby that Caroline found in the box? What did Harold think was the cause of the baby's appearance? Why had Harold decided to throw the chest into the sea? What is 'déjà vu'? What was Harold referring to when he thought about it? Does the chapter answer any questions you had about Harold? Does it change your mind about him? Explain why. 		PSHE • Harold treasured the chest as a reminder of the happy times he and Caroline had. If you had to fill a chest with things to remind you of happy times, what would you include? What would the items remind you of?
29	 How did the picture of Nigel Minnow differ from what Sally remembered Nigel looking like when they first met? What were the group of boys going to throw on the fire? Why does Sally like Marina's stories? Find and copy evidence to show that Sally is a kind mother to Marina. What were Sally's concerns regarding the trunk? Explain why Marina felt sick when her mother suggested that her father's disappearance was linked with William being abandoned. 		PSHE • Sally says, 'Sometimes you have to be honest with the people you care about, even though it might hurt them in the process.' Do you agree? Can you think of an example to support your argument?



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30	 What did Harold say had happened to him? Is this accurate? Why do you think he is saying this? How did Marina feel when Harold and Walter were telling their version of events? How do you know she feels this way? Explain why Caroline would stand up for Marina and William. Where do you think Marina will go to find William? 	Write a witness statement for Harold and for Walter – what elements will be the same? Which elements may be different?	
31	 'as still as a mirror' – Give two things this suggests about the water. How did Marina's emotions differ this time compared to when she first went to the pier? Why was Walter worried about Marina finding William? What was Harold's plan? Explain why Harold choked when Walter pointed towards the pier. 		
32	 Where had William been hiding? Find and copy the evidence that shows Sally wanted to make sure William wasn't seen. How did Sally know William hadn't done what Harold had said? Describe how Sally felt once William had told her what had happened. Can you find evidence to support your answer? Why was Caroline so panicked about Marina being at the pier? 	What do you think William is going to do next? Continue the story from his perspective.	



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33	 Explain why Harold kept Marina at the pier. Find and copy evidence from the text that shows Harold's plan had to change. Summarize why Harold dislikes William so much. Describe how Marina felt when she realized that Harold was William's father. Find and copy evidence that supports your answer. Why had Harold kept the chest? 		
34	 What happened to Marina's father? Is this what you expected? What was Harold's motive for attacking Marina's father? How was Marina feeling when she was in the water? Why was she feeling this way? Who saved Marina? Find and copy evidence that shows Sally was relieved once she had found Marina. 	Write a newspaper report about the pier burning down. Think carefully about what the sequence of events would be from the perspective of someone on the beach. Who could be your sources?	PSHE • Research how to keep safe in the event of a fire. Can you create a poster to help inform others?
35	 What had happened to Harold after the pier collapsed? Why was Harold's injury from William less dramatic now? Who had told the policemen what had actually happened? Explain why Caroline said she needed to go to the police station too. What does this show about her as a character? What are the 'white horses' referred to on page 271? 	Write a newspaper report about Harold's arrest. Write a witness statement for Marina that she would have given to the police.	PSHE • Research the British judicial system and create an estimated timeline for the events that would follow Harold and Walter's arrest. PSHE • If you were Sally and Marina, would you forgive the other people of Merlington? Why?





Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
36	 Before reading the chapter: Who do you think the chapter is referring to? After reading the chapter: How did Marina's Christmas dinner differ from what people normally have? Explain why Sally would have bought Marina the locket. Why was Marina surprised by Wendy? Suggest why Wendy would feel awkward when talking about her dad. 	Retell the events of the chapter from the perspective of Wendy. What do you think had happened before she went to visit her grandad?	
37	 How did the sailors feel when the fisherman let the whale go? Why did they feel this way? What had caused the fisherman's memory loss? Summarize Marina's story in as few words as possible. Explain why Marina would buy Sally a Japanese cookbook. What did Marina spot in the sea? 	Write a newspaper report about the return of Nigel Minnow and William. How do you think William found Marina's dad? Write what you think happened after William left after the pier incident, up until his return with Nigel.	
Epilogue	 What time of year is it? How does the description of Merlington in the summer compare to what it was like in winter? What were Marina and William doing at the end of the chapter? 	Create a persuasive advert for the new pier.	ART • Create a piece of artwork depicting Merlington in the summer. What materials do you think would be most appropriate to use? IT • Create a trailer for the film depicting William's life.

