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THE SHELL KEEPERS

Truly Johnston

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does the author mean by 'mudlarking'? What can you infer about the relationship between Corrine and Siya? Siya says, 'Treasure isn't just gold, Corrine. It's all the things we love.' Do you agree? 	'There's more beneath the sand and sky than human eyes can spy.' Make some predictions about what Siya is referring to, what might happen and where the shell comes from.	GEOGRAPHY: Create two maps: one based on locations described in this chapter, and one based on where members of your family were born.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why has Corrine made a mess of her room right before it's time to go? Why did Siya call Corrine 'dynamite'? What's the difference between mudlarking and beachcombing? 	Make an emotion map for Corrine.	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the bay changed since Corrine's last visit? Does she approve of the changes? Pick out some text to show how the author shows something important and exciting is about to happen. How does Corrine process what she is seeing after she notices the shell? 'There's more beneath the sand and sky than human eyes can spy.' Look at your prediction about what this means – how did you do? 	Write a diary entry detailing the highlights of Corrine's day at the beach.	



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4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Kauri decide to trust Corrine? What are Democonch? What does Kauri mean by 'enknotten'? Why does Kauri need help? Where are the rest of her family? 	Kauri uses language in an interesting way which Corrine works hard to understand. Start a list of unusual words and what they mean.	ART: Make a drawing or model of Kauri's shell.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why have the family gone over to Siya's flat? Do you think Anthony is surprised to hear about Corrine's discovery? Support your answer from the text including information from their previous conversations. Why do you think Siya left a clue for the children to find rather than tell them what they need to know? Support your answer from the text. 	<p>Write a character profile for Siya, including all the information you know about him already and anything you can infer from his behaviour.</p> <p>Add to Corrine's emotion map.</p>	SUSTAINABILITY: Research what this means. Do you think Siya lived sustainably?
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do Mr Mercer and Charlie come over to Siya's flat? Mr Mercer refers to Siya as 'Old Jack'. Why do you think this is the case? What does 'Siya' mean? What can you infer about how most people feel about the new hotel? What do Anthony and Charlie argue about? What gives Corrine and Anthony an idea of where Siya has hidden the first clue? 	Write a newspaper article opposing the new hotel and why it's not necessarily good for Whiteshell Bay. Include a statement from Mr Mercer outlining why and how he thinks his development will be of benefit to the town.	GEOGRAPHY/BIOLOGY: Research the different habitats that can be found on the coast and the forms of life they support.



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7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think Siya left Corrine and Anthony a beautiful painting? Support your answer from the text. What do the children rely on as they work together to unravel the clues Siya has left? Discuss if Corrine is right to suspect Siya might be Kauri's shell keeper. 	Write the first clue for a treasure hunt using the skill 'keepsight'.	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underline key words or phrases in the text that tells you how Corrine feels. Why does Kauri get upset? What words do the characters use to mean 'grandfather'? What is wrong at Whiteshell Bay and why is it important the children work out what's gone wrong quickly? Do you think it's right for Kauri to go home with Corrine and Anthony? 	<p>Add to your glossary.</p> <p>Write a character profile for Kauri, including all the information you know about her already and anything you can infer from her behaviour.</p>	HISTORY: Research how many civilisations used a lunar calendar and why most switched to the Gregorian calendar. What other calendars are in use today?
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do the children decide to check out rocks beneath the old emporium? What does every Democonch have? Is this similar to how humans live? What does Kauri mean by whale 'upbelch' and what is it used for? 	Kauri is struck by how differently the children live. Write a diary entry detailing what she notices about/in Anthony's home and how she feels.	GEOGRAPHY: Research tides, how they are formed, how they are related to the lunar cycle and the different types.



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10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the beach, Kauri thinks things are worse. Why does she feel this way? What are sweepings and how do they interrupt the speakpath? How do Corrine and Anthony decide to help? 	Write the next clue for your treasure hunt using the skill of 'keepbow'. Try and link it to the first clue.	TECHNOLOGY: Research modern and ancient communication systems. What does Wi-Fi stand for? How does it work? Is this technology changing?
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you infer what 'waning' means from the text? Can you pick out some text to infer how Anthony feels about the scale of clean-up required at the beach? The children notice more decaying seaweed. What else indicates that the problem is worse than they first thought? 	Write the events of this chapter from Charlie Mercer's point of view. When do you think he notices the children and what emotions does he experience?	SCIENCE: Learn about marine ecosystems: the different types and features, how they support life, and their threats.
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Corrine suspect about the damage to the beach? Why does Anthony disagree with her? Why do Anthony and Corrine fall out? Why do you think Kauri asks Corrine to lie down when she gets stuck in the shifting sand? 	Make a list of things Corrine spots on the beach while she is picking up the rubbish. Add to Corrine's emotion map.	GEOGRAPHY: Learn more about quicksand. Why can't it support weight? Where is quicksand likely to occur?
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'I didn't practise keepbow' – what leads Corrine to this realization? Explain why Kauri needs to work fast with the crabs to release Corrine. What helps calm Corrine down as Kauri works to save her? 	Write the script of a vlog of the events of the day from Anthony's viewpoint.	GEOGRAPHY: Add to research about tides. Why can tides be dangerous? What's the difference between low tide and high tide?



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14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Mercer rushes to the lifeguard station as soon as he hears there's been an incident on the beach. What is he most concerned about? Why does the lifeguard, Evan, think the beach may close? Support your answer from the text. When the children talk about what happened earlier and how Corrine got into trouble, what do they resolve on doing? 	As Kauri worked to save Corrine, she was encouraged by hearing the 'songcraft' of her family over the speakpath. Write some lyrics to help encourage you do something hard. Add to your glossary.	SCIENCE: The children become invested in saving the beach. Research what is needed to keep a beach thriving as a healthy ecosystem. Think about the threats (pollution, erosion) and explore ideas to reduce this.
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think Corrine is affected by her experience of shifting sands on the beach? Discuss if Corrine is right to tell Nimali about Kauri and the Democonch. 	Write a short story using three or four words from your glossary.	PSHE: Using the events of this chapter, discuss keeping secrets and how asking for help keeps you safe.
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrine repeats her hypothesis that Mr Mercer is responsible for the damage to the beach but Nimali is not convinced. Discuss why both Anthony and Nimali think Corrine is wrong. What does Kauri think? What compromise does Anthony come up with so they can move forward? Why does Kauri need to return to her shell? Why does Charlie Mercer become uncomfortable when the children start talking in the information office? Do they get any helpful information from their visit? 	Write the text for an information leaflet or poster for use in the information shop/office. Include any information that will make the new hotel appeal to local people.	ART: Design an information leaflet or poster for people who go to the information shop/office to take with them. Think about the illustrations and colours that will convey Mr Mercer's vision.



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17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you think Corrine feels about being back at the beach? What do you think helps her cope? Are you surprised by Kauri's first request when they meet up? Where do they decide to go to find the next clue? Do you think the children are worried about working out what's wrong in time? Support your answer from the text. 	Write a diary entry from Nimali's perspective about seeing the Democonch shells for the first time.	CONSERVATION: Discuss the role of recycling and reusing things in daily life. Do you think this is beneficial?
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight some of the descriptive language the author uses to describe how the children feel after they find the last clue. What does 'keepwit' mean? Mum and Auntie Lillian reminisce about Siya's old desk. How does this help the children? 	<p>Predict what happens next in the story. What do you think they'll find in the Hemingway?</p> <p>Write the next clue for your treasure hunt using 'keepwit'. Remember to link this clue to the first two.</p>	
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the first surprise when the children get their mums out of the way and get to the Hemingway desk? What treasure do Corrine, Anthony and Nimali find at the end of their hunt? Discuss if the treasure hunt was a good idea or if it would have worked better to just get a set of instructions from Siya. 	Write a table of contents for Siya's book. Consider what important and useful information you can include.	ART: Design a batik pattern. Think about what symbols and colours you'd like to include. Research batik dyeing methods.



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20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where do the children head off to? Can you pick out some text that describes how the new hotel, Maison Paradis, is different from the old emporium? What's the first thing the children do at the open day and why do you think they feel a little guilty? Why does Corrine pretend to tie her shoelaces? 	<p>Write an article for the New Recorder about the open day.</p> <p>Make some predictions about what happens next in the story.</p>	
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think Charlie likes the new version of the beach? Support your answer from the text. What does Corrine do to make sure she can hang back from the tour? Which Democonch skills do the children use to search the office at the hotel? Do they find out any useful information to help them on their quest? 	<p>Turn this chapter into a play script.</p>	
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think Nimali is trying to defuse the situation after Mr Mercer catches Corrine and Anthony in his office? What do you think gives Corrine the confidence to confront Mr Mercer about his actions? Discuss why you think Mr Mercer underestimates the children. List the evidence they have to back up their accusations. Can you infer how Charlie feels about the revelations? Pick out some text to support your answer. 	<p>Write some voiceover commentary for a video that has been recorded of the showdown with Mr Mercer. Think about what will help someone watching it understand the events – where, who and why.</p>	



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23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Corrine comfort Kauri as she faces up to the possibility that they are too late? What does Auntie Lillian think will happen to Mr Mercer? And Charlie? Why do you think the children would like to return to the beach that evening? 	Put yourself in the children's position. What thoughts would go through your mind? Write a short journal entry describing your feelings.	
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beach is aglow when the children arrive. How do you think this makes them feel? What does Asterias suggest they do next to show they are thankful? 	Add to your glossary. Write a to-do list for the party. What human food do you think the Democonch would like?	ART: Draw or paint a picture of the party on the beach. Think about which elements you'd like to include.
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The author creates a wonderful sense of the beach and the sea in the moonlight. Highlight some examples of how language is used to convey this. What gifts do the Democonch present to the children to show appreciation and help them with their work as shell keepers? What is a 'brightenmark'? 	Turn this chapter into a play script.	<p>SCIENCE: Look up bioluminescence. Make a list of animals and organisms that produce bioluminescence and where they can be found.</p> <p>DRAMA: Consider some of the props you'll need to bring your script to life and make a list of what's required.</p>



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26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you think Corrine and Nimali have changed during their week at Whiteshell Bay? How does Aunty Lillian embarrass Anthony? 	Choose one of the child characters – Corrine, Anthony, Nimali or Charlie – and create the script for a holiday vlog about this week in Whiteshell Bay.	FUN PROJECT: ‘Enknotten’ is about maintaining or restoring balance in nature. Create an enknotten project for your class.
Epilogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have things changed in Whiteshell Bay? How has Mr Mercer reshaped his vision for the hotel? What do you think about the new plan? What has changed for Anthony? 	Write a new chapter with new or important information about being a shell keeper for the children to add to Siya’s book.	TREASURE HUNT: Bring all your clues together and match them to the location of your treasure. Explore and decide on the treasure at the end of your hunt.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make some predictions about the next Democonch adventure. 	<p>Compare your predictions from earlier – were any right?</p> <p>Compare your glossary to the glossary provided at the end of the book. How did you do?</p> <p>Write a book review including your own your thoughts about the story and why others should read it.</p>	ART: Create your own cover for the story. What elements will you highlight?

