



# Mission: Creepy Castle

**Book band: Purple**

When Shinoy and Myra are walking in the park, they hear something howling. Shinoy is convinced it's the Hound and tells Myra the legend. They call the Chaos Crew to help out. Ultimately, they discover the howling is being made by Shinoy's head teacher who is rehearsing his part in the school play.

## Skills focus

- 1a Draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts
- 1b Identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information
- 1d Make inferences from texts
- 1g Read words accurately and fluently

## Guided reading session

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Mission: Creepy Castle*

### Tune in

Show children the front cover of the book and explore any previous experience they have of Shinoy and the Chaos Crew books.

Read the title and ask children to look at the illustrations on the front cover.

**Ask:** What do you think might happen in this story?

Ask them to look at the back cover.

**Ask:** Does this help you to predict what might happen?

Focus on the information that this is a graphic novel and explore children's experiences of this genre.

Ask them to turn to page 2.

Read the text in the panel at the top of the page and give children the chance to explore the characters beneath it.

Focus on page 3.

**Ask** the following questions:

- In which order do you think we should read these panels? (*left to right, top to bottom*)
- If there is more than one speech bubble in a panel, in which order do you think we should read them? (*left to right, top to bottom*)

Read the text in the blue box in the top panel.

Establish that this is giving the reader information about the setting of the story.

Read pages 3 and 4, using different voices for the two characters.

Discuss what information is given in words in an ordinary story that isn't given in a graphic novel, for example, how a character speaks or moves, or how a character is feeling.

Establish that a reader has to read information from the illustrations in a graphic novel.

Read pages 3 and 4 again, asking children to look closely at the illustrations.

**Ask:** What can you work out from the pictures that you aren't told in words?

### Heads together

Ask children to practise reading pages 5 to 7, trying to use different voices for the characters and working out extra details from the illustrations.

As they read, move around the group, asking individual children to 'turn up the volume' so that you can hear them read.

Support them in their interpretation of the events and how they read the text.

### Wrap up

Give children feedback on their reading.

Establish that Shinoy is telling a scary tale so it should be read in a suitable tone.

Ask children to briefly summarise what has happened so far in the story.

**Ask:** What do you think might happen next?

## Vocabulary boost session

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Mission: Creepy Castle*
- Flipchart or whiteboard
- A4 whiteboards and pens

### Vocabulary table

Focus word	Child-friendly explanation	Example sentence	Tell me...
sneaky	If you do something in a sneaky way, you do it quietly and secretly.	I took a sneaky look at the cakes under the cloth.	Tell me about something you could do in a sneaky way.
suitable	If something is suitable, it is right.	A swimsuit is suitable for a day on the beach.	Tell me about clothing that would be suitable for wet weather.
unusual	If something is unusual, you don't see it very often.	The lady was wearing an unusual hat that was decorated with feathers, flowers and birds.	Tell me about something you have seen that you think is unusual.

### Tune in

Ask children to remind you what type of book they have been reading and what the story is about.

**Ask:** What do you need to do when you read a graphic novel?

Read pages 8 to 11, asking children to look closely at the illustrations. Briefly explain the meaning of the focus words as you read them. You may wish to use the information in the Vocabulary table above to help you.

**Ask** the following questions:

- On page 9, why do you think Shinoy changed his mind about calling the Chaos Crew?
- What do you think Lazlo means when he says they don't have suitable clothing for the climate?
- What do you think is unusual about the footprints?

On the flipchart or whiteboard, write up the focus words and example sentences.

Ask children to read the words and sentences. Repeat the meaning of each word.

### Heads together

Use the 'Tell me' prompts to develop children's understanding of the focus words. As they respond, ask questions to deepen their understanding.

### Wrap up

Ask children to develop their own sentences that contain the focus words and to write them on their whiteboards.

They can then hold them up so that you can check they have used the focus words accurately.

Ask them to choose one of the focus words as their word of the week.

Challenge them to use it as often as they can – both at home and at school.

## Follow-up independent sessions

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Mission: Creepy Castle*
- Multiple copies of resource sheet: Book talk

Ask children to practise reading pages 12 to 15, using information in the illustrations to help them read with appropriate expression. They can then share their reading with the rest of the group.

Ask children to work as a group. They can read pages 16 to 21, each taking on the role of one of

the characters. They can then discuss what has happened in this final section of the story.

Children can use the two timelines on pages 22 and 23 to retell the legend of the Hound and the story they have just read.

They can use Resource sheet: Book talk to note down their responses to the story. As a group, children can discuss the story, using their notes to support them.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Book talk

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What I liked about the book

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What I didn't like about the book

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I have this question about the book

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The book reminds me of

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