



# The Day of the Howling Head Teacher

**Book band: Purple**

Mr Amitri, Shinoy's head teacher, is behaving very strangely. Shinoy summons Salama to help. She thinks Mr Amitri's mind has been swapped. Eventually, she discovers that his mind has been swapped with Eddy's – the school dog. Shinoy and Salama manage to change Mr Amitri's mind back – but not completely – just to make him a bit more fun.

## 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
- 1f Check reading makes sense

## Vocabulary boost session

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *The Day of the Howling Head Teacher*
- Flipchart or whiteboard

### Vocabulary table

Focus word	Child-friendly explanation	Example sentence	Tell me...
glitch	A glitch is a problem that stops something from working properly.	A glitch in the system meant that we couldn't play our favourite video game.	Tell me about a time when a glitch stopped something working for you.
dastardly	If you say something is dastardly, you mean it is wicked.	When she saw the mobile phone lying on the ground, she thought about doing something very dastardly.	Tell me about a time when someone had a dastardly plan.
hilarious	If something is hilarious, it is really, really funny.	Even though I told a hilarious joke, nobody laughed!	Tell me about something you think is hilarious.

### Tune in

Show children the front cover of the book and explore their familiarity with the Shinoy and the Chaos Crew series.

**Ask** the following questions:

- Have you read any other books in the series?
- What happened in those stories?

Ask children to read the title.

**Ask:** Why do you think a head teacher might be howling?

Read the back cover blurb. Establish that the setting for the story is Flat Hill School, the Chaos Crew member in the story is Salama and that the plot involves the head teacher behaving very strangely.

Read pages 2 to 5, briefly explaining 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.

Check that children understand the concept behind the series, revisiting page 2, if necessary.

**Ask:** What weird things has Mr Amitri done in this opening part of the story?

List children's responses on the flipchart or whiteboard under the heading: *Mr Amitri's weird behaviour.*

**Ask:** Why do you think he's behaving like this?

### Heads together

**Ask** the following questions:

- What does the glitch mean Shinoy can do? (*summon his TV heroes*)
- Who comes up with dastardly plans? (*S.N.A.I.R.*)

- What was hilarious? (*Mr Amitri's behaviour*)

Use the 'Tell me' prompts in the Vocabulary table to develop children's understanding of the focus words. You may wish to demonstrate the kinds of responses you are expecting.

Encourage children to ask questions about each other's responses.

### Wrap up

Ask children 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.

## Guided reading session

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *The Day of the Howling Head Teacher*
- Flipchart or whiteboard
- Reading Journals

### Tune in

Ask children to remind you what happened in the first part of the story.

Read pages 6 to 9.

**Ask** the following questions:

- Why do you think Salama needs a disguise?
- What has Mr Amitri done in this part of the story that is weird?

Add children's responses to the list you started on the whiteboard in the Vocabulary boost session.

### Heads together

Ask children to read pages 10 to 13 and to note down more of Mr Amitri's weird behaviour in their Reading Journals.

Take feedback and add what children have identified to your own list of weird behaviour.

Read through the list.

In order to check children's understanding of what they have read, **ask**: What do you think a mind swap is?

**Ask**: Why did Shinoy think Salama might find fastening the mind belt around Mr Amitri's head difficult?

### Wrap up

**Ask**: Salama thinks Mr Amitri has had his mind swapped. Looking at the list of how Mr Amitri has behaved, who or what do you think he might have swapped minds with?

## Follow-up independent sessions

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *The Day of the Howling Head Teacher*
- Multiple copies of Resource sheet: Quiz
- Paper and pencils

Ask children to read pages 14 to 21, then skim back through the text to check whether they had spotted all the clues that Mr Amitri had been mind swapped with the school dog.

Ask children to draw a story map of this story and use it to retell the story to their Reading Partner.

Children can use Resource sheet: Quiz to revisit the story and develop a deeper understanding of it.

# Resource sheet



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

## Quiz

1. What colour is the rucksack that Mr Amitri is holding at the beginning of the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Mr Amitri want to do with the kitchen staff?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What had happened to Shinoy's Maths homework?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Shinoy grab when there's a noise from the cupboard?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does Mr Amitri say the dog's name is?  
\_\_\_\_\_



1. green
2. chase them around the playground
3. it had been half eaten
4. a plastic ruler
5. Eddy

## Quiz answers