



# Mission: Merciless Ice Mines

**Book band: Gold**

When it starts snowing in summer, Shinoy knows he has to call for the help of the Chaos Crew. The problem is swiftly identified and a trip down a disused mine shaft is called for. Ember uses her superpowers to solve the problem and things start to return to normal.

## 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: Merciless Ice Mines*
- Multiple copies of Resource sheet: What's the story?

### Tune in

Show children the front cover of the book and discuss any other Shinoy and the Chaos Crew books they have read.

**Ask:** What do you know about the Chaos Crew?

Read the title.

**Ask:** What does the title make you think will happen in the book?

Ask children to read the back cover.

**Ask:** How does this make you feel about the story?

Draw attention to the information that the book is a graphic novel.

Explore their knowledge of the features of graphic novels.

Ask children to turn to page 2.

Read the text in the panel on page 2, then give children time to explore the characters.

Ask them to look at page 3.

Discuss the order in which the panels and speech bubbles should be read. (*left to right, top to bottom*)

Read the text in the blue box at the top of page 3 and establish that this isn't a speech bubble.

**Ask:** What information does it give us? (*the setting of the story*)

Explain that because most of the story is told through speech and thoughts in a graphic novel, information about the setting and how characters are speaking, moving and feeling has to be given through these blue boxes and the illustrations.

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

Focus on page 4.

**Ask** the following questions:

- What is Shinoy doing in the second panel? (*making a snow angel*)
- Why does Myra say, 'It's definitely not flip-flop weather'?
- What has happened so far in the story?
- What can you work out from the pictures that you aren't told in words?

### Heads together

Ask children to read pages 5 to 7, using different voices for the characters.

They can then use Resource sheet: What's the story? to add further speech and/or thought bubbles to add further information about what is happening at this point in the story on pages 6 and 7.

### Wrap up

Ask children to share their speech/thought bubbles with the rest of the group.

Use this as an opportunity to check their understanding of the story so far and their ability to interpret the illustrations.

## Vocabulary boost session

### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Mission: Merciless Ice Mines*
- Flipchart or whiteboard
- A4 whiteboards and pens

### Vocabulary table

Focus word	Child-friendly explanation	Example sentence	Tell me...
thermals	Thermals are warm clothing that you wear when it is cold.	We would wear thermals if we went to the North Pole.	Tell me about a place where you think you would wear thermals.
weird	If you say something is weird, you think it is rather strange.	I think it would be weird if I saw a flying elephant.	Tell me about something that you think would be weird.
shifting	If something is shifting something, it is moving it.	I think I could shift the table.	Tell me about something that you could shift on your own.

### Tune in

Ask children to remind you what kind of book this is.

**Ask** the following questions:

- What can you tell me about graphic novels?
- What has happened so far in the story?

Read pages 8 to 11 aloud, briefly explaining the meanings 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:

- Which members of the Chaos Crew have turned up? (*Merit and Ember*)
- What do the Chaos Crew think has caused the snow?
- What does Merit plan to do?

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

Ask children to read these. Repeat the explanations of the words as they do so.

### Heads together

Use the 'Tell me' prompts in the Vocabulary table to develop children's understanding of the focus words.

As they respond, ask questions to deepen this understanding.

### Wrap up

Ask children to create, on their whiteboards, their own sentences that contain the focus words. They can hold them up so that you can check that they have used the focus words appropriately.

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.

## Follow-up independent sessions

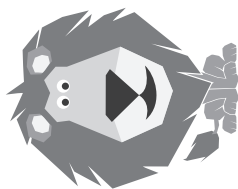
### You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Mission: Merciless Ice Mines*
- Multiple copies of resource sheet: Book talk

Children can practise reading pages 12 to 15, using different voices for the characters. Encourage them to think about how the characters are feeling to help them use appropriate expression. They can then share their reading with the rest of the group.

Children can read pages 16 to 19 quietly to themselves. They can then discuss, as a group, what has happened in this section of the story.

Children can finish reading the story and then note down their responses to it on Resource sheet: Book talk. As a group, they can refer to their notes and hold a Book talk discussion.



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

What's the story?





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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