



The Day the World was Weighed Down

Book band: Gold

Shinoy wakes up to discover that mega-gravity is weighing everyone and everything down. Merit arrives and identifies that a spaceship above them is causing the problem. He and Shinoy fizzle into space and discover that the Galactic Mobile Library Service spaceship is causing the problem. Once it is moved, life on Earth returns to normal.

Skills focus

- 1a Draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts
- 1c Identify and explain the sequence of events in texts
- 1d Make inferences from texts
- 1g Read words accurately and fluently

Guided reading session

You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *The Day the World was Weighed Down*

Tune in

Show children the front cover of the book and read the title.

Ask: What does the title make you think about?

Focus on the Shinoy and the Chaos Crew logo.

Ask the following questions:

- Have you read any of the other books in the series?
- What happened in them?

Read page 2 and check children understand the concept behind the series.

Read the back cover blurb.

Ask: What do you think super-strength gravity could be?

Explain that you are going to read the first few pages of the story concentrating on reading with expression.

Ask children to follow as you read.

Read page 3 in an expressionless monotone.

Ask the following questions:

- What do you think of my reading so far?
- How could I make it better?

Read pages 3 to 7, using the punctuation, meaning and dialogue to help you read with expression.

Ask for children's feedback on your reading and discuss some of the techniques you used.

Heads together

Ask children to read pages 3 to 7 themselves, focusing on using some of the techniques that you demonstrated earlier.

As they read, move around the group asking individual children to 'turn up the volume' so that you can hear them. Comment positively when children emulate your techniques.

Wrap up

Ask children to summarise the opening of the story.

Ask the following questions:

- What do you think is happening to make everyone feel so heavy?
- What do you think might happen next?

Vocabulary boost session

You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *The Day the World was Weighed Down*

Vocabulary table

Focus word	Child-friendly explanation	Example sentence	Tell me...
boulder	A boulder is another word for a rock.	The boulder rolled down the hillside and into the river.	Tell me about something you could roll down like a boulder.
fiddled	If you fiddled with something, you kept touching it.	The girl fiddled with her hair as if she was nervous.	Tell me about something you could fiddle with.
lobbed	If you lobbed something, you threw it.	The team captain lobbed the ball onto the pitch.	Tell me about a time you have lobbed something.

Tune in

Ask children to remind you what Shinoy discovered in the opening of the story.

Read pages 8 to 13, briefly explaining the meaning of the focus words as you read them. Use the information in the Vocabulary table above to help you.

Ask the following questions:

- What did Merit roll down like a boulder? (*the stairs*)
- What did Merit fiddle with? (*his earpiece*)
- What did Merit lob to Shinoy? (*a coin/a Chaos Crew Void Transit Disc*)

Heads together

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

You may wish to demonstrate the kind of responses you are expecting.

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

Ask children to show you what rolling like a boulder, fiddling and lobbing look like.

Wrap up

Ask children to summarise what has happened in this section of the story.

Ask: What do you think Merit and Shinoy are going to do next?

Ask children to choose one of the focus words as their word of the week and 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 *The Day the World was Weighed Down*
- Reading Journals
- Multiple copies of Resource sheet: Quiz

Ask children to read pages 14 to 19 aloud to their Reading Partner, concentrating on reading with expression. They can take turns to read a page each. They can then give each other feedback on what they

did well and what they could do better next time.

Ask children to read pages 20 to 21. They can then work with their Reading Partner to develop a story map in their Reading Journals to support a retelling of the story.

Children can use Resource sheet: Quiz to help them develop their scanning skills by looking for information in the text.

Resource sheet



Name: _____

Quiz

1. What did Merit smash into at the bottom of the stairs?

2. What does Merit say he owes Bug?

3. When Shinoy arrived on the spaceship, what was he worried about?

4. Who does the librarian say has requested the book?

5. What does Mum suggest could be used to collect overdue books?



1. a shoe rack
2. a hot mocha with triple cream and marshmallows
3. that his brain might be stolen
4. Doctor Snair
5. library drones

Quiz answers