

Who Let The Gods Out By Maz Evans

Age 9-13

Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the

task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?

Kindle Edition £0.99

- Amazon 'Look Inside' has several chapters available for you to read.
- For teaching resources with audio of Ancient Greek myths and legends, with transcripts so you can read along or even act them out!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/ks2-ancient-greece/zk73nrd>

- The publisher has chapter by chapter resources available for this book:

<https://www.chickenhousebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Who-Let-the-Gods-Out-chapter-by-chapter-resources.pdf>

- Go to the authors own webpage for fun activities relating to this book such as colouring and word searches:

<https://maz.world/schools/teaching-resources>

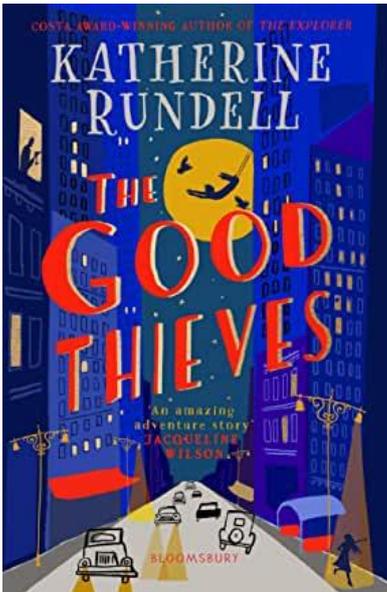
Questions

1. What was the name of the teacher who didn't like Elliot and what did he teach?
2. What was in the Really Scary Letter that Elliot found?
3. What is the matter with Elliot's Mum and why must he keep this a secret?
4. How many categories of Immortals there are and can you name them?
5. After Elliot and Virgo have done the History exam at school, who comes to rescue them, in disguise, from the Headmaster's office?
6. Where was the Earth Stone put to be safe from Thanatos?



Answers

1. His name was Mr Boil, he was the deputy head and he taught history.
2. It was a letter sent to Elliot's mum, Josie, saying that they had borrowed £20,000 which they had to repay or sell their farm.
3. She is losing her memory and can't remember anything beyond a few minutes. He can't tell anyone as the authorities might put him into care as he is not old enough to look after his mum.
4. There are 5 categories and they are Deities, Constellations, Elementals, Neutrals and Daemons.
5. Zeus and Aphrodite, pretending to be rich American relations.



6. Zeus put it inside the lid of Elliot's watch.
The Good Thieves By Katherine Rundell

Age 9+

In 1920s New York, Vita's grandfather has been cheated out of his home by a con-man with Mafia connections.

She has come from England with her mother who wants to take him back with them but Vita is outraged and formulates a plan to get justice for her grandfather, despite her physical limitations.

When she joins forces with an acrobat, a pickpocket and a horse-whisperer, she is sure her scheme will work but nothing has quite prepared this motley band for the dangers and challenges they meet.

Vita's story poses the moral question: if you try to steal back something that has been taken from you by trickery, is that a crime or is it justice?

Full of tense moments and dramatic twists and turns, this is a great story of triumph over adversity and the value of trust, friendship and self-belief.

Kindle Edition £6.18

- The first three chapters are available for you to read on Amazon 'Look Inside'.
- For a masterclass by the author Katherine Rundell on how she wrote the book, follow this link:

<https://authorfy.com/masterclasses/katherinerundell/>

Questions

1. What has Sorretore stolen from Grandpa and what has Grandpa hidden there that Vita thinks will help them?
2. What does Vita take from Sorretore's office and where does she hide it?
3. How do the children disguise themselves as wealthy children so they go unnoticed?
4. When the children are chased by Sorretore's men in the park, how do they escape and what do they discover?
5. Who is `Dillinger and what does he want from Vita?
6. When the children go to Hudson Castle, why is Vita not unhappy that her red book with the plan is stolen and they are caught by the guards?
7. Where is the safe hidden and what does Vita find in it?
8. When the adults hear what the children have done and

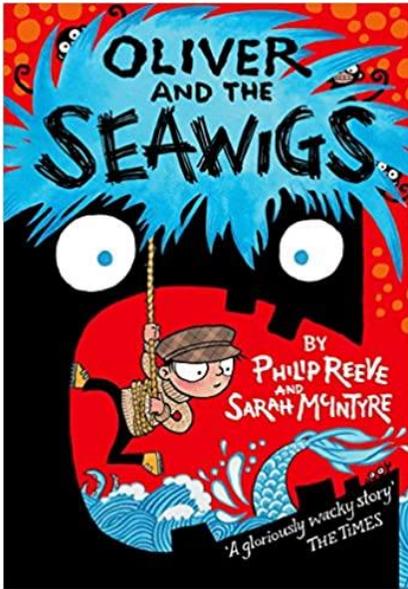


Grandpa gets the castle back, what do they decide to do?

Answers

1. His home Hudson Castle. There is an emerald necklace that belonged to her Grandmother, hidden the castle.
2. A ring, she sews it into the hem of her skirt.
3. They get smart clothes from the lost and found in hotels and stations.
4. They go down a manhole/storm drain and along a tunnel. They find Soretore's gang getting ready to load trucks with prohibition alcohol.
5. He is a corrupt policeman who works for Sorretore. He wants the ring that Vita stole from the office.
6. The necklace is in the castle which is impossible to enter. Her plan was always to get caught so they would be taken into the castle.

7. It is in the chimney. She finds the deeds for the castle but no necklace.
8. They set up a circus school at the castle and Silk and Vita join the circus.



Oliver and the Seawigs
By Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

Age 7-9

For as long as he can remember, Oliver has been travelling the world, having exciting adventures with his explorer parents. But he's actually quite pleased when they realise there are no longer any blank spaces left on the map to explore, and decide to head home to Deepwater Bay, where Oliver can have his own

bedroom and go to school.

But Oliver's peaceful life at Deepwater Bay is soon interrupted when his parents mysteriously disappear. Teaming up with some unusual new friends - a grumpy albatross, a short-sighted mermaid, and a friendly island called Cliff - Oliver sets out to rescue them. But first he must defeat the evil Stacey De Lacey and his pesky army of sea monkeys...

Kindle edition £0.82

- Read the first chapter on Amazon 'Look Inside'
- Visit the author Sarah McIntyre's website Jabberworks for activities like how to draw a sea monkey and make your own seawig:

<http://www.jabberworks.co.uk/oliver-and-the-seawigs/>

Questions

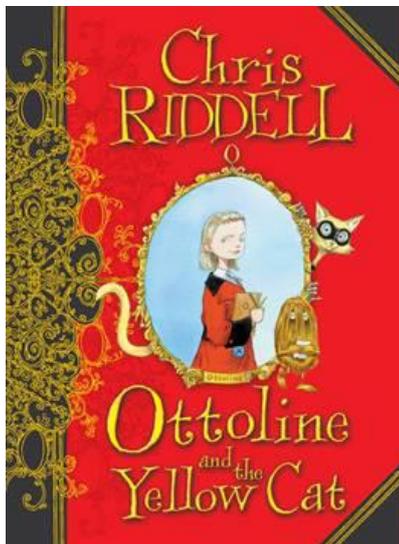
1. Where are all the rambling islands heading and why?
2. When they came across the rambling isle Thurlstone, what do they discover is on it?
3. What does Thurlstone want from Oliver's island cliff?
4. When Oliver decides to sneak into Thurlstone to rescue his parents what happens?
5. How does Iris help Oliver and his parents escape the jars?
6. How does Oliver get Thurlstone to break up?
7. Where do Oliver and Iris live in the end?



Answers

1. They are heading to the Hallowed Shallows for the night of the Seawigs.
2. Oliver's parents hanging in glass jars.
3. The wreck of a submarine they have just recovered from the seabed.

4. He gets caught and put into a jar.
5. She sings and her voice cracks the glass jars.
6. He climbs inside and tickles the island.
7. Iris lives in the old submarine and The Crisps move to their house on the top of the cliff.



Ottoline and the Yellow Cat By Chris Riddell

Age 7+

Introducing Miss Ottoline Brown, an exceptionally inquisitive Mistress of Disguise, and her partner in crime, Mr. Munroe. No puzzle is ever too tricky for the two of them to solve . . .

Ottoline lives in a stylish apartment in Big City with a small hairy creature called Mr. Munroe.

Together they look after the Brown family's eclectic collections - and dabble in a spot of detective work. So they are the first to the scene of the crime when a string of high-society dog-nappings and jewel thefts hits Big City. Ottoline (who luckily has a diploma from the Who-R-U Academy of Disguise) and Mr. Munroe go undercover - and expose an ingenious scam masterminded by furry feline crook, the Yellow Cat.

Kindle edition £3.99

- To listen to the beginning of this story go to the World of Stories:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/stories/ottoline-and-the-yellow-cat/>

- To see the author show you how to draw Mr Munroe follow this link:

<https://youtu.be/IR80qW1Z0Rk>

- To get the most out of this book have a look at the chapter by chapter ideas for discussion. Discover opportunities for you to pause and reflect on the stories within stories.

<http://justimagine.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Ottoline-and-the-yellow-cat-1.pdf>

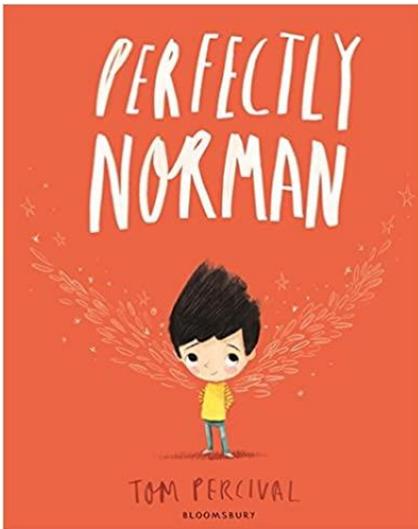
Questions

1. Where had Ottoline's parents found Munroe and what did he look like? (In a cold bog in Norway and he was small with very long hair ie a bog troll)
2. What was the yellow cat doing? (Stealing jewels from people's houses by giving people pets that then reported back to him where the valuables were kept.)
3. How did Munroe get inside the yellow cat gang? (By disguising himself as a lap dog)
4. Where were Ottoline's parents and how did they communicate with her? (They were away on a collecting trip but always sent her lots of postcards.)
5. How did Ottoline catch the cat when it came into her bedroom? (She and her friends had set up booby traps of cardigan towers, avalanches of pillows, the Hoover and mop, a shower curtain, custard pies and finally a giant white bear in her bed that caught the cat in her arms.)
6. What was going to happen to the cat and the cockatoo now they had been caught? (They would be sent to a petting zoo in the country.)



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Perfectly Norman

Age 3-6

Norman is very surprised to have wings suddenly - and he has the most fun ever trying them out high in the sky. But then he has to go in for dinner. What will his parents think? What will everyone else think? Norman feels the safest plan is to cover his wings with a big coat.

But hiding the thing that makes you different proves tricky and upsetting. Can Norman ever truly be himself?

Kindle Edition £3.75

- Read along with the story:

<https://youtu.be/ZfqXfJx-P3U>

- Have a go at the publishers activities for this book:

https://media.bloomsbury.com/rep/files/perfectly_norman_activity_pack_a4.pdf

- Make your own magic wings collage:

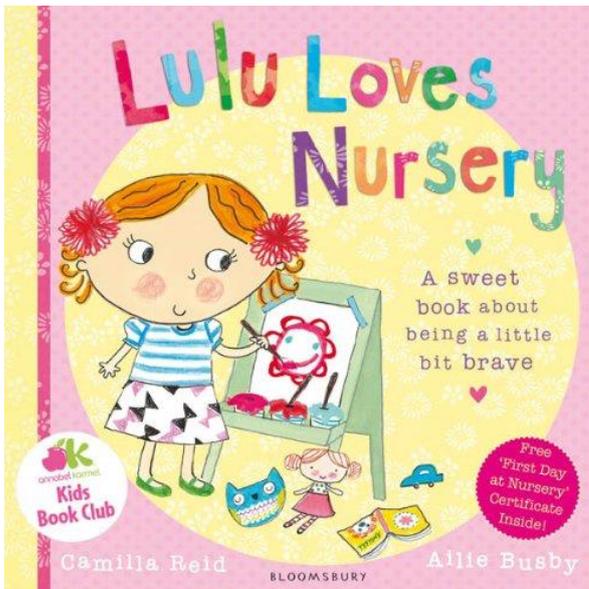
<http://www.booknerdmommy.com/wing-mural-collage-inspired-by-perfectly-norman/>

Questions

1. What did Norman suddenly grow one day?
2. Why and how did Norman hide the wings from his parents?
3. Why does Norman always feel uncomfortable, when is the only time he feels normal?
4. What happens when Norman sees birds in the sky?



Answers



1. Wings
2. He is worried they won't understand and so he hides them under a yellow coat.
3. He has always got the coat on even in the bath, at the park, at a party so he doesn't fit in and is too hot unless it is rainy cold weather outside.
4. He realises that it is the coat that makes him miserable not the wings so he takes his coat off and flies.

Lulu Loves Nursery By Camilla Reid and Ailie Busby

Age 3+

Today is Lulu's first day at nursery, and she is worried. She doesn't want to leave her mummy, and what if she doesn't make any friends?

But soon Lulu is having lots of fun playing in the sand box and dressing up - she even gets a special certificate from her teacher at the end of the day. Well done, Lulu!

Kindle Edition £4.49

- Read along with this picture book extract from the publisher:

https://issuu.com/bloomsburypublishing/docs/lulu_loves_nursery_is_suu_extract/8

- Book related simple dressing up ideas from the World Book day website:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas-2019/>

- Read along to with another Lulu book with this free version of Lulu loves stories:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/lulu-loves-stories/>

Questions

1. Can you name two things Lulu likes to do with her Mummy?
2. Where is Lulu going & why is she sad?
3. Can you remember three things Lulu does at Nursery?

This is Lulu. She says, "Hello!"



Can you wave hello to her?

Answers

- 1.They splash in puddles, feed the ducks & eat ice cream.
2. Lulu is going to Nursery and she is sad as she must say goodbye to Mummy.
3. Lulu reads stories, goes exploring, meets Fred and they build a tower, bandage some toys & dress up.