

Reading Comprehension with a Twist

An Extract from the Twinkl Original Story *Our Teachers Are Superheroes*

Chapter 2: Suspicion Questions



Despite the things they had in common, the two friends had very different appearances. Benji, with his dark, frizzy hair and skin the colour of caramel, was the shorter of the pair. Freya stood a few inches taller, with fiery red hair and freckles scattered across her nose and cheeks. Their families had been friends for years before Freya and Benji were born, and they had grown up around each other.

“Don’t be so ridiculous!” Freya scoffed dismissively when Benji told her about his theory while walking home that afternoon.

“Just think about it for a moment,” he beseeched her. “Wouldn’t it be amazing? Our teachers could actually be superheroes! Like some secret crime-fighting duo or something! One of them is always dashing off here or there at lunchtimes or whenever they’re not teaching us.”

“Superheroes are just for comic books,” replied Freya.

“No, they’re not!” insisted Benji. “They just don’t like to be known by their secret identities. I even saw something on the news the other day. Some guy had run out of a shop after stealing a bunch of stuff from the shelves. The shop owner had phoned the police but thought the guy had already got away. Then the news reporter said police found the thief around the corner, tied up with all the stuff he had stolen right there next to him. There was a note stuck on his chest saying: ‘Stealing isn’t cool. Don’t be a dinkus.’ It wasn’t the police who had caught him, and the thief was so confused that he said he couldn’t even remember what happened.”

“Don’t be a dinkus? That’s pretty funny. But it’s hardly likely to be Mr Jay or Miss Higgins, is it?” asked Freya.

“I’m telling you, I have a weird feeling about this,” said Benji.

The next day, Freya hardly gave another thought to their conversation. Benji, on the other hand, was constantly on the lookout for clues. He kept a close watch on his teachers all morning, and he was rewarded at lunchtime: Miss Higgins received a phone call and Mr Jay gave her a friendly nod as she left.

“Your turn today!” Mr Jay said with a smile.

Both classes were combined again for the start of the afternoon while Mr Jay read the beginning of a story. The classes sat patiently, perched on tables and packed onto the carpet, and listened while they digested their lunch. After about 20 minutes, Miss Higgins returned quietly and sat at the side until they reached a suitable place to pause.

“We’ll leave it there for now,” Mr Jay decided, closing his copy of the book as they reached a place where two sections of the chapter were separated from each other by three asterisks. “Here’s a quick trivia question: does anyone know what these three asterisks are called, where we just stopped reading?”

There was a short silence, and it became clear that this question was beyond the classes’ knowledge. Eventually, Miss Higgins raised her hand with a grin.

“Well, I know you already know!” Mr Jay laughed. “Go on then, Miss Higgins.”

“It’s a dinkus!” replied the other teacher.

“Indeed it is,” said Mr Jay. “A funny old name, rarely used nowadays, but I like it!”

Amidst the mass of children, two jaws dropped open in astonishment.

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Chapter 2: Suspicion Questions

1. What is Benji most likely to do next? Tick one.

- He will give up on trying to prove that his teachers are superheroes.
- He will become very excited and tell Freya that he was right.
- He will sit quietly and get on with his work.
- He will ask the teacher to explain what a dinkus is.

2. Based on what you have read, do you think that the two teachers will turn out to be superheroes? Explain your answer.

3. Do you think that Freya will believe Benji's theory after hearing the word 'dinkus'? Tick one.

yes no

Explain your answer.

4. What are Mr Jay and Miss Higgins most likely to do next? Tick one.

- They will announce to the whole class that they are actually superheroes.
- They will leave the classes alone to go and fight crime together.
- They will refuse to teach Benji because he knows too much.
- They will continue teaching the superheroes topic as normal.

5. Who do you think is most likely to discover what is really going on? Tick one.

Benji Freya

Fully explain your answer

6. What do you think that Benji will do next to continue his investigation?

7. Based on what you have read, do you think that Freya will start to help Benji with his investigation?

Fully explain your answer

8. The class have been learning about superheroes.
What activities might the teachers plan for the next lesson?

9. Do you think that the identity of the person who captured the thief will be revealed later in the story?

Benji Freya

Fully explain your answer

10. Based on what you have read, what is most likely to happen in the next chapter?
Tick one.

- Inspired by the latest clue, Benji continues the investigation.
- Freya shouts at the teachers and demands that they tell the truth.
- The two teachers are caught stealing from the shop.
- Benji realises that superheroes aren't real and apologises to Freya.

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Chapter 2: Suspicion Answers

1. What is Benji most likely to do next? Tick one.

- He will give up on trying to prove that his teachers are superheroes.
- He will become very excited and tell Freya that he was right.**
- He will sit quietly and get on with his work.
- He will ask the teacher to explain what a dinkus is.

2. Based on what you have read, do you think that the two teachers will turn out to be superheroes? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that they will turn out to be superheroes because there are lots of clues, such as them knowing the word dinkus and being called out of class.

3. Do you think that Freya will believe Benji's theory after hearing the word 'dinkus'? Tick one.

Explain your answer.

Accept either yes or no provided that a full explanation is also given below, such as: I think that Freya will believe Benji now because it says that two jaws dropped open meaning that she is surprised as well and she has also heard the teachers use that word for herself.

4. What are Mr Jay and Miss Higgins most likely to do next? Tick one.

- They will announce to the whole class that they are actually superheroes.
- They will leave the classes alone to go and fight crime together.
- They will refuse to teach Benji because he knows too much.
- They will continue teaching the superheroes topic as normal.**

5. Who do you think is most likely to discover what is really going on? Tick one.

Explain your answer.

Accept either Benji or Freya as an answer provided that a full explanation is also given, such as:

I think that Benji is most likely to discover what is really going on because he is the most interested. Therefore, he is likely to discover more clues than Freya.

6. What do you think that Benji will do next to continue his investigation?

Pupils' own responses provided that the answer is a logical next step that is related to discovering the teachers' true identity, such as: I think that Benji will spy on the teachers after school so that he can see what they're up to when they think nobody is watching.

7. Based on what you have read, do you think that Freya will start to help Benji with his investigation?

Explain your answer.

Accept either yes or no provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: I think that Freya will start to help Benji now because she is starting to believe him now and they are both good friends.

8. The class have been learning about superheroes.

What activities might the teachers plan for the next lesson?

Pupils' own responses provided that they are a sensible suggestion for an activity with a superhero theme, such as: I think that they will plan for the children to design their own superhero costumes.

9. Do you think that the identity of the person who captured the thief will be revealed later in the story?

Explain your answer.

Accept either yes or no provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: No, I don't think that their identity will be revealed because the thief didn't know what the person looked like and, if it was a real superhero, they would want their identity to be kept a secret.

10. Based on what you have read, what is most likely to happen in the next chapter? Tick one.

- Inspired by the latest clue, Benji continues the investigation.**
- Freya shouts at the teachers and demands that they tell the truth.
- The two teachers are caught stealing from the shop.
- Benji realises that superheroes aren't real and apologises to Freya.