

Hello Year 4!

Welcome to your sixth week of English lessons.

Great effort team, we are really proud of all your hard work!

Please follow the instructions on each page to help you - we look forward to hearing about how you have got on!

Miss Hill and Mrs Tally

Make sure you have a sharp pencil and enough paper to write on.

Challenge yourself.

Proof-read to check it makes sense

Remember...

ABC

capital letters

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full stop.

cat sat

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The cat sat on the mat. It was ginger and fluffy. The cat was called Fluffy.

Fluffy the cat belonged to Tim. Tim loved Fluffy and spent lots of time playing with him. Tim feeds him every day.

paragraph

“”!?,

punctuation

dor
dorr
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spelling

The cat sat on the mat.

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variety
of sentences

fun
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check your work

Monday 6th June

Comprehension

As dead as a dodo

1. What do you know about dodo birds? Have you ever seen one? Perhaps you've heard of one in the story of *Alice's adventures in Wonderland*?
2. You can't have seen one because the dodo bird has been extinct for over 300 years. This is why we say that something is 'as dead as a dodo', meaning *really* dead.



Monday 6th June

Comprehension

3. Even when it was alive, this large bird only lived in one isolated place, so it was only seen by a few people. There were some people who believed it was a mythical creature, a bit like the mermaids sailors reported seeing. But we do know dodos really did exist and we have a good idea of what they looked like. This is because there are old descriptions and drawings still available and some dodo bones and even an egg have also been found.

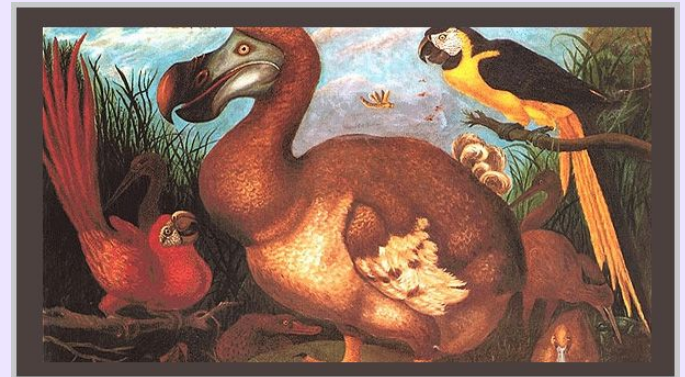


4. The first time dodos were recorded by humans was about 1598 when Portuguese sailors visited the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. The name 'dodo' is believed to have come from a Portuguese word meaning 'dumb'. These strange birds were given this name because they couldn't fly and weren't at all frightened of humans. They were very easy to catch and kill, but their flesh was tough and it wasn't very tasty.
5. Dodos are related to pigeons from South-East Asia. Their wings changed and became shorter as they didn't need to fly on Mauritius. This was because there weren't any predators there and there were plenty of the seeds and fruits they liked to eat on the ground. Dodos were large greyish birds with white tail feathers and a large hooked beak. They grew to about one metre in length and weighed about 20 kilograms.

Monday 6th June

Comprehension

6. There has been a lot of concern that these poor creatures became extinct after less than one hundred years of human contact. They were not only easy for humans to catch, but the pigs, dogs, rats and other animals people brought to Mauritius with them became the dodo's predators too.
7. Dodos were believed to be clumsy and fat, but this may not be true. Many dodo drawings were made of birds kept in cages. Dodos in their natural environment were probably much thinner, less clumsy and more active.



1. **Dodo birds only lived on:**
(a) *the Indian Ocean.*
(b) *the island of Mauritius.*
(c) *islands.*
2. **Dodo birds couldn't fly because they:**
(a) *were lazy.*
(b) *were too fat.*
(c) *had short wings.*
3. **Some people thought dodos were imaginary because they:**
(a) *couldn't see one.*
(b) *looked funny.*
(c) *couldn't fly.*

4. **The main idea in Paragraph 4 is:**
(a) *dodos don't taste very good.*
(b) *how dodos got their name.*
(c) *dodos were easy to catch.*
5. **The word *extinct* in Paragraph 2 means:**
(a) *exciting.*
(b) *no longer existing.*
(c) *away.*

6. **It is an opinion, not a fact, that dodos:**

- (a) *were strange birds.*
- (b) *couldn't fly.*
- (c) *ate seeds and fruit.*

7. **Dodos didn't run away from people because they:**

- (a) *had never met anything that wanted to hurt them.*
- (b) *were really very shy animals.*
- (c) *were very friendly creatures.*

8. **This text was written to:**

- (a) *inform.*
- (b) *tell a story.*
- (c) *give instructions.*

9. **The dodo would have used its hooked beak to:**

- (a) *help it fight other animals.*
- (b) *hold onto tree branches.*
- (c) *break open seeds.*

10. **The word *it* in Paragraph 4 is used instead of:**

- (a) *their flesh.*
- (b) *the bird.*
- (c) *its name.*

Monday 6th June

Questions

Something extra



- Draw a dodo bird
- Find out about the dodo bird in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Answers

1. (b) the island of Mauritius
2. (c) had short wings
3. (a) couldn't see one
4. (b) how dodos got their name
5. (b) no longer existing
6. (a) were strange birds
7. (a) had never met anything that wanted to hurt them
8. (a) inform
9. (c) break open seeds
10. (a) their flesh



English

Session 2

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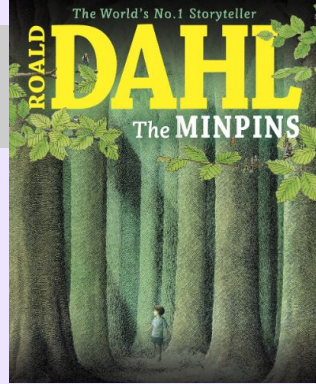
Tuesday 7th July

In our last 2 weeks we will be looking at the book 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl.

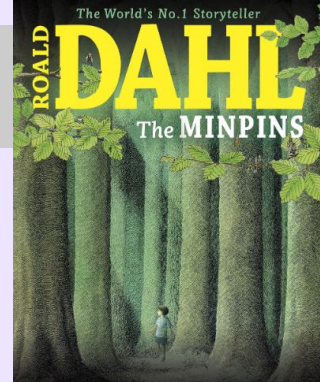
I will attach links for you to listen to the story on YouTube and we will be doing a number of lovely activities based on the book.

First of all I would like you to listen to the first chapter of the book:

[The Minpins - Chapter One](#)



Tuesday 7th July

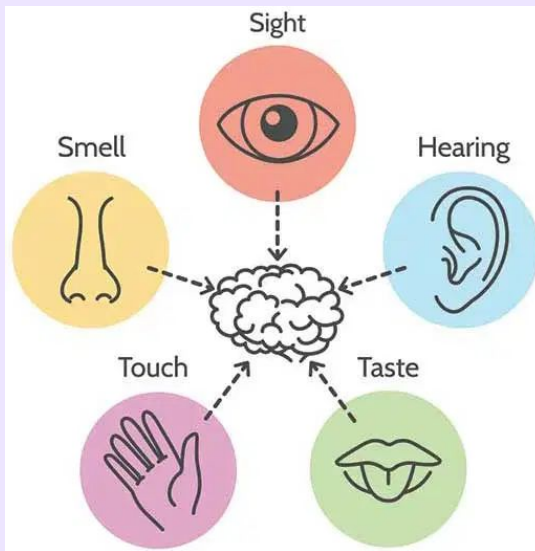


Within the first chapter of the book, we find out Little Billy is desperate to go and explore the forest beyond his garden gate.

Today, I would like you to imagine you are Little Billy, sitting at your window, staring out into the garden and the world beyond.

What can you see?

Use your senses to help you....



Tuesday 7th July

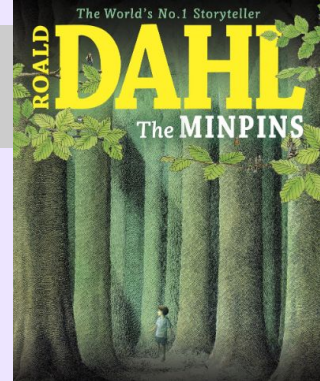
Writing for the Senses - SEE

What can you see through your window?

Write down some words and phrases to describe what you might be able to see?

- Now put them into descriptive sentences.

At least 5 different sentences, helping the audience to imagine they are there.



English

Session 3

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Wednesday 8th July

Listen to [Chapter One](#) again.



Billy's Mum is trying her hardest to frighten Billy into not going into the forest.

She recites to him a well known poem:

***Beware! Beware! The Forest of Sin!
None come out, but many go in!***

Why do you think it is called the Forest of Sin?

What do you immediately think of when hearing its name?



Wednesday 8th July



“Whangdoodles are worse,” his mother said, “and Hornswogglers and Snozzwangers and Vermicious Knids. And worst of all is the Terrible Bloodsuckling Toothplucking Stonechuckling Spittler.”

All these terrifically terrible creatures apparently
live in
the Forest of Sin!

What do you imagine when you hear their
names?

Wednesday 8th July

Today's activity is you describing what you think these disgustingly frightening creatures may look like!

Choose one of the creatures Billy's mother names and write a character description of it.

We want a wide range of exciting vocabulary! Use a thesaurus to support your writing.

Consider the following things (*these are ideas to start you off - not only options*):

- Size - *gargantuan* or *miniscule*?
- Skin - *fur* or *scales*?
- Skills - *fly* or *breath fire*?
- Movement - *walk* or *slither*?
- Body - *horns*, *spikes* or *tail*?



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Thursday 9th July

Hi Team! Today I want us to think about the 'Devil' we are introduced to in the opening chapter.

Who is Roald Dahl referring to when writing about the Devil?

Just then a funny thing happened. Little Billy began to hear somebody whispering in his ear. He knew exactly who it was. It was the Devil. The Devil always started whispering to him when he was especially bored.

What is the Devil trying to do?



Thursday 9th July

Sometimes, when we really want to do something that we know we shouldn't, we hear a little voice in our heads, egging us on, trying to persuade us that it is a good idea!

Sometimes there is another little voice, telling us that it is a bad idea, and tries to dissuade us from doing it!

People can describe it as an angel and devil on your shoulder!

You don't need a cookie now, mum is going to call you for tea in 10 minutes. You'll get into trouble!

If you wait you could have one later!



Go on...go and get a cookie from the cookie jar. Mum won't mind, I know it's nearly dinner time but it's your favourite cookie....triple chocolate chip!

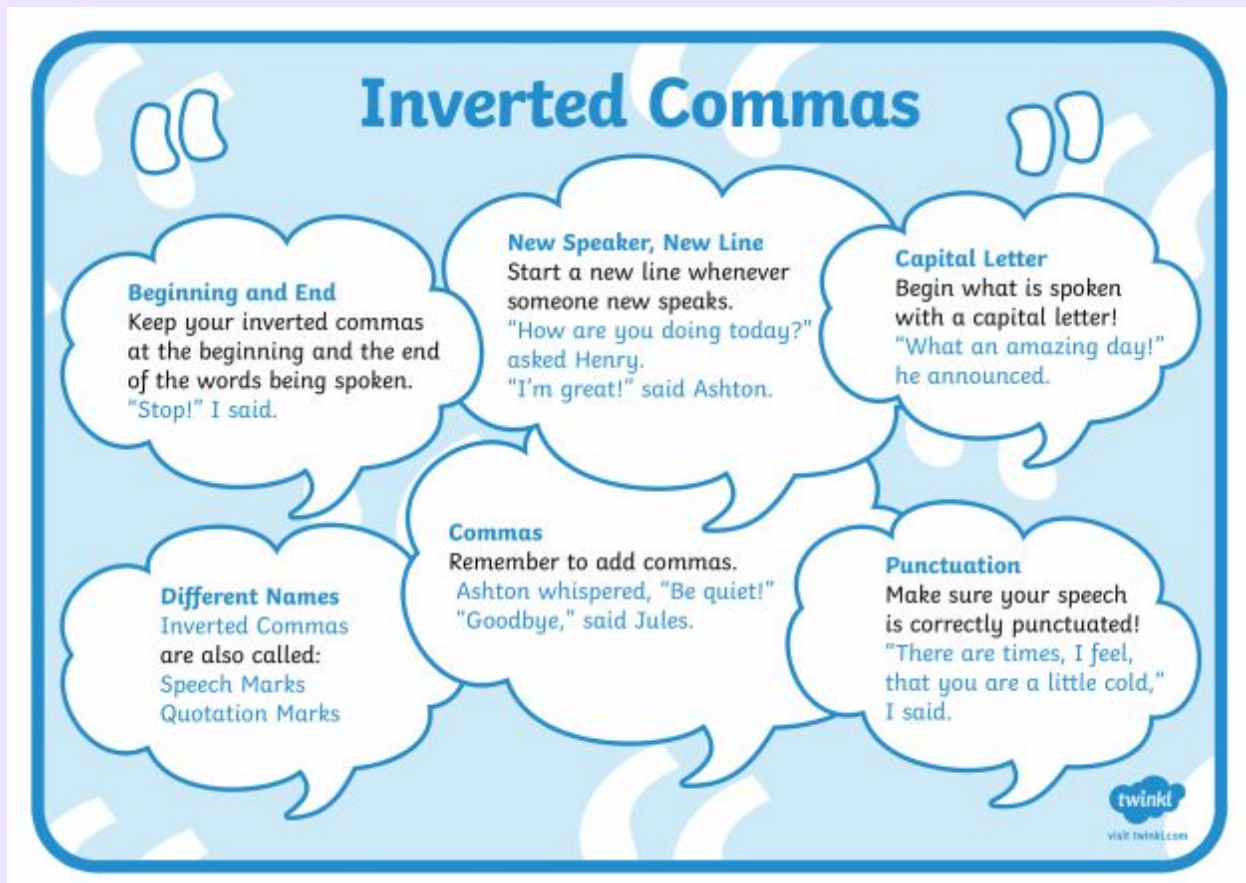
Thursday 9th July

After listening to Billy's mum's warnings, the Devil tries to persuade Billy to go into the Forest of Sin.

We would like you to write a conversation, as the angel on Billy's shoulder, trying to persuade him not to go.

DON'T FORGET

- Inverted commas for any speech
- Interesting dialogue tags
- Persuasive vocabulary
- Refer to information we have already got from the story.



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Close Read

Today's English Lesson will be a close read activity based on an excerpt from 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl

Teacher Notes

The purpose of a close read activity is to gain an understanding of the text by reading it multiple times.

Close Read Instructions:

- 1) Look at the vocabulary. Do you know what the words mean?
- 2) Read the text to yourself and ask yourself the following questions:
What did I just read? What did it say?
- 3) Now read the text again with an adult - this will help you gain a better understanding.
- 4) Read the questions and now reread the text again to find evidence that will support your answers.
- 5) Answer the questions in writing.

All close read texts are age appropriate.

Friday 10th July

In a jiffy he had dropped silently on to the flowerbed below.

In another jiffy he was out through the garden gate.

And in yet another jiffy he was standing on the very edge of the great big dark Forest of Sin!

He had made it! He had got there! And now the forest was all his to explore!

Was he nervous?

What?

Who said anything about being nervous?

Hornswogglers? Vermicious Knids? What sort of rubbish was that? Little Billy hesitated.

“I’m not nervous,” he said. “I’m not in the least bit nervous. Not me.”

Very very slowly, he walked forward into the great forest. Giant trees were soon surrounding him on all sides and their branches made an almost solid roof high above his head, blotting out the sky. Here and there little shafts of sunlight shone through gaps in the roof. There was not a sound anywhere. It was like being among the dead men in an enormous empty green cathedral.

1. Explain what a 'jiffy' is.
2. Before Billy states outloud, "I'm not nervous," who is he talking to?
3. In your own words, explain why the author has described the trees in the forest as *'dead men in an enormous empty green cathedral'*

Friday 10th July

Answers

1. Explain what a 'jiffy' is.

A 'jiffy' is a measurement of time. It isn't specific, like a second or a minute, but describes a very short amount of time it takes to do something.

2. Before Billy states outloud, "I'm not nervous," who is talking?

Range of answers, must have a justification: Billy is talking to himself to try and make himself feel braver. The angel on Billy's shoulder might be trying to make out he is scared so he will turn back and go home.

3. In your own words, explain why the author has described the trees in the forest as '*dead men in an enormous empty green cathedral*'

Range of answers, must have a justification: The trees are really tall and don't move, like the pillars and tombs in a cathedral. Cathedrals have really high ceilings and tall pillars holding the roof up and people are buried in cathedrals, this description could add to the feeling of being nervous, imagining dead people.