

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

Why do you think Benji and Freya's jaws dropped?

2. Why do you think Freya disagrees with Benji when he tells her his theory about the teachers being superheroes?

3. Do you think the two teachers are superheroes? Tick one.

yes no

Explain your answer.

4. Compare Benji and Freya's thoughts about their teachers being superheroes.

5. Why do you think the person who captured the thief left before the police had arrived?

6. How are Mr Jay and Miss Higgins different from teachers in other stories?

7. Would you like your teacher to be a superhero? Tick one.

yes no

Explain your answer.

8. How do you think Benji feels when he hears Miss Higgins say the word **dinkus**?

9. **After about 20 minutes, Miss Higgins returned quietly...**

Where do you think Miss Higgins had been?

10. **“Well, I know you already know!”**

Why do you think Mr Jay says this?

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Chapter 2: Suspicion Answers

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

Why do you think Benji and Freya's jaws dropped?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Benji and Freya's jaws dropped because they were surprised that Miss Higgins used the same word that had been associated with the thief.

2. Why do you think Freya disagrees with Benji when he tells her his theory about the teachers being superheroes?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Freya disagrees with Benji because it seems very unlikely that their teachers would be superheroes and they don't have any real proof.

3. Do you think the two teachers are superheroes? Tick one.

yes

no

Explain your answer

Accept either 'yes' or 'no' as the answer as long as a reasonable explanation is also provided, such as: Yes, because they are acting suspiciously and keep leaving the room to take phone calls.

4. Compare Benji and Freya's thoughts about their teachers being superheroes.

Accept answers that compare Benji thinking that the teachers are superheroes with Freya believing that they are not superheroes, such as: Benji thinks that his teachers are superheroes because he has seen them acting strangely. However, Freya thinks that Benji is wrong.

5. Why do you think the person who captured the thief left before the police had arrived?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that they left because they wanted to protect their identity like real superheroes do.

6. How are Mr Jay and Miss Higgins different from teachers in other stories?

Pupils' own responses provided that a comparison is made, such as: I think they are different from teachers in other stories because they take phone calls in lessons, they wear capes and they leave the room without anyone knowing where they are going.

7. Would you like your teacher to be a superhero? Tick one.

yes no

Explain your answer.

Accept either 'yes' or 'no' as the answer as long as a reasonable explanation is also provided, such as: No, I would not like my teacher to be a superhero because then they wouldn't be there all the time when I might need them to help me.

8. How do you think Benji feels when he hears Miss Higgins say the word **dinkus**?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that he felt really excited because it is proof that Miss Higgins could be a superhero and he might think that Freya will believe him now.

9. **After about 20 minutes, Miss Higgins returned quietly...**

Where do you think Miss Higgins had been?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Miss Higgins had been away being a superhero and fighting crime.

10. **"Well, I know you already know!"**

Why do you think Mr Jay says this?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Mr Jay says it because he is suggesting that Miss Higgins caught the thief and wrote 'Don't be a dinkus' on him.