



Pit Boys: Chapter 2

Teacher Resource Pack

Online Activities

There are five multiple-choice questions that can be completed using our ready-made 2DIY activity. The children can complete these individually using iPads, computers or laptops or as a group on the whiteboard, like a quiz show. There is a link to the activity at the end of the chapter, which will open the quiz directly.

In the writing activity at the end of the chapter, the children write an account of a day in the life of a hurrier.

Classroom Activities

There is a range of multiple-choice and open-ended spelling and grammar questions that can be printed and completed in class or as homework.

Comprehension Questions

1. What did the work of a hurrier involve?
 - a opening and closing trapdoors
 - b pushing coal-filled tubs
 - c encouraging others to work faster
 - d extracting coal with a pickaxe
 - e hauling tubs of coal

2. Why were hurriers and thrusters needed in the coal mines?
 - a coal mine owners couldn't afford many pit ponies
 - b to keep an eye on the trappers
 - c the deepest tunnels were too narrow for pit ponies
 - d to keep dangerous gases away
 - e to work in pairs

3. Who did William blame for the death of his father?
 - a his mother
 - b Joseph
 - c Alfie
 - d Thomas Foster
 - e the minister from the chapel

4. "*The Butty docked me a penny for being slow with the last tub...*"
What is the meaning of the word *docked* in the quote above?
 - a found
 - b offered
 - c showed
 - d delayed
 - e deducted



5. What did William and Joseph have in common?
- a their fathers had been in a mining accident
 - b they were both puny lads
 - c they both worked as hurriers
 - d they were around the same age
 - e they both had a younger brother called Alfie



Chapter Sequencing

Put these events in the order in which they happened in the story, numbering them from 1 to 5. The first one has been done for you.

William called Joseph a puny little scrap.

Joseph told William that Mr Foster had found him sleeping.

William was docked a penny for being slow with his last tub of coal.

William was annoyed with Joseph for not opening the trapdoor.

William realised that Joseph's arms were covered in cuts and bruises.

1



Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

1. Choose the correct **spellings** to complete the sentences below.

William's coal tub was stationary/stationery while he had stern words with Joseph.

The drafts/draughts in the coal mine helped to stop dangerous gases building up.

Joseph's actions had a bad affect/effect on William's wages.

2. Underline the **relative clause** in the sentence below.

The boy turned to the thruster who was crouching at the other end of the coal tub.

3. Tick one box in each row to show whether the sentence is written in the **active voice** or the **passive voice**.

Sentence	Active	Passive
The door was shoved open by William.		
The boy pulled a face.		
William let go of his arm, pushing him roughly out of the way.		



4. Complete the sentence below by adding an **expanded noun phrase**.

Joseph was a _____ boy.

5. Use the **past perfect** form of the verbs in brackets to complete the sentences below.

The coroner _____ (write) in ink on some important-looking papers.

The minister _____ (speak) to William's mother.

William _____ (watch) in awe.



Serial Mash

Comprehension Questions (Answers)

1. What did the work of a hurrier involve?
 - a opening and closing trapdoors
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- b they were both puny lads
- c they both worked as hurriers
- d they were around the same age
- e they both had a younger brother called Alfie



Chapter Sequencing (Answers)

Put these events in the order in which they happened in the story, numbering them from 1 to 5. The first one has been done for you.

William called Joseph a puny little scrap.

2

Joseph told William that Mr Foster had found him sleeping.

4

William was docked a penny for being slow with his last tub of coal.

5

William was annoyed with Joseph for not opening the trapdoor.

1

William realised that Joseph's arms were covered in cuts and bruises.

3

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (Answers)

1. Choose the correct **spellings** to complete the sentences below.

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Sentence	Active	Passive
The door was shoved open by William.		<u>✓</u>
The boy pulled a face.	<u>✓</u>	
William let go of his arm, pushing him roughly out of the way.	<u>✓</u>	



4. Complete the sentence below by adding an **expanded noun phrase**.

Joseph was a timid, weak-looking boy.

Accept any expanded noun phrase that makes grammatical sense.

5. Use the **past perfect** form of the verbs in brackets to complete the sentences below.

(write)

The coroner had written in ink on some important-looking papers.

(speak)

The minister had spoken to William's mother.

(watch)

William had watched in awe.



Open-Ended Questions

1. Look at the paragraph beginning: *Joseph hugged his...*

Find and copy one word meaning felt around clumsily.

2. Look at the paragraph beginning: *Joseph hugged his...* to the paragraph ending: *...the boy recoil.*

Why did Joseph squeal so loudly?

3. Look at the paragraph beginning: *He barged at...* to the paragraph ending: *...Joseph more clearly.*

Why do you think that the boy asked Joseph whether he was made of glass?

4. Look at the paragraph beginning: *Joseph was such...* to the paragraph ending: *...ground for Alfie.*

Why was William so keen for his brother Alfie to learn to read and write?

5. Describe the change in William's attitude towards Joseph during this chapter.



Purple Mash Extended Writing Exercise

Using evidence from this chapter, write a detailed account of a day in the life of a hurrier.