

THE ADVENTURES OF CHARLIE & MOON TEACHER GUIDE

By Martin Meader & Jana Laiz

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**Includes: Chapter Summaries, Author Biography, Discussion Questions,
Vocabulary Builders, Cross-Curricular Activities.**

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The Adventures of Charlie & Moon - Synopsis

On the night before his ninth birthday, Charlie Ramsbottom's parents give him a gift that is not to be opened until morning. It has been delivered by a strange bearded gentleman named Bizz-Buzz who arrives in a mini snow blizzard on a hot summer's night. Charlie promises not to open it but breaks his word and opens the package to reveal a powerful magic storybook called *The Book of Dreams*. Immediately, his world starts to change, mirroring the tale in the book. And as the story unfolds, a very unusual creature - a Blue and Gold Winged Straight-nosed princely eagle, called Moon, arrives at Charlie's bedroom window bringing a message from the King of the Eagles.

Summoned by the Eagle King, Charlie has been chosen to save entrapped eagles and other endangered animals from being turned into stuffed toys by Skunk Weavel, an evil toy maker who operates in the corrupt and polluted City of the Quincequonces. Failure to stop Skunk Weavel will give the toymaker power over *The Book of Dreams*, enabling him to control the dreams of children and adults alike.

Armed with *The Book of Dreams* and two large Thunder Eggs from his parent's Tumblegum Farm, Charlie and Moon leave the safety of Thunder Egg Downs and embark on a perilous journey towards the toymaker's lair. They have until the clock strikes twelve on Charlie's birthday to complete their mission. As they travel the treacherous Plains of Desire to the City of the Quincequonces, they are aided by the mystical Bizz-Buzz, Doreen Tremblingknees, Eric Grumblebum, Noni Benoni, and two Thunder Egg Chickens named Snoozeball and Runningmouth. En route, Charlie and Moon have to continually avoid being ensnared by Skunk Weavel's hench-birds, the Snarlie brothers, Flip and Flop.

Once in the contaminated City of the Quincequonces, Charlie, Moon and the Thunder Egg Chickens are all captured by the Snarlies. To the horror of all the ensnared animals, Skunk Weavel tricks Penelope, Charlie's pain-in-the-neck opera singing sister into joining in league with him and feeding Charlie the stuffing potion, turning him into a cuddly toy. The eagles immediately rise up to attack the toymaker but he sneakily escapes to Weavel World with Penelope as hostage, leaving Charlie destined to live in a world of stuffed toys.

Drifting perilously between life and death, Charlie's spirit is whisked back to his parent's farm where Bizz-Buzz reveals why he has been chosen for the quest - he has the spirit of an eagle within himself. As Charlie embodies this spirit, he is resuscitated by the antidote from the Thunder Egg yolk and returns to the land of the living. Charlie and the animals chase down the "Toyminator" to the his newly opened Weavel World theme park. Charlie, in fully-fledged eagle mode, confronts the toymaker who is about to turn his captured sister into a stuffed toy.

With his newly discovered powers, Charlie overcomes Weavel who, in refusing defeat, swallows his own potion and becomes a stuffed toymaker. As the clock strikes twelve, Charlie reclaims

The Book of Dreams and saves all the animals from a world of darkness and despair. Charlie is reunited with Penelope and then the King of the Eagles, in gratitude, gives them a special wish—to fly like birds. Soaring higher and higher into the night sky with the royal eagles, Charlie suddenly awakens in his bed and wonders if the adventure has all been a dream.

The Adventures Of Charlie & Moon - Character List

Charlie Ramsbottom	9-year old boy.
Penelope Ramsbottom	13-year old girl, Charlie's sister.
Cecil Ramsbottom	Charlie's father.
Sylvia Ramsbottom	Charlie's mother.
Bizz-Buzz	A Mystery Traveler
Doreen Tremblingknees	Niece of Bizz-Buzz
Skunk Weavel	An evil toy maker, brother of Bizz-Buzz.
Snoozeball	Thunder Egg Chicken, leader of the coop.
Runningmouth	Thunder Egg Chicken, sister of Snoozeball.
Snarlie-Bird Flip	Skunk Weavel's hench bird, brother of Flop.
Snarlie-Bird Flop	Skunk Weavel's hench bird, brother of Flip
Eric Grumblebum	Charlie's teacher.
Noni Benoni	The school librarian.
Moon (Prince Golden Moon)	A young eagle, a prince.
Listen To The Wind	Moon's father, King of the eagles.
I Can See For Miles	Moon's mother, Queen of the eagles.
Sir Edward Bainbridge	Leader of the Teddy Bears.

About the Author - Martin Meader

Martin Meader is a dad, writer, filmmaker, composer, musician, choral director, a great cook and a lover of fish and chips, mangoes and pineapples. Martin's son, Charlie-Moon, was born prematurely (at 29 weeks, weighing only 797 grams – that's less than a bag of sugar!). Martin was so grateful that Charlie-Moon decided to stay in this world that it inspired him to write a book that he could read to his son. And so this story was born. In 1997, Martin Co-Executive Produced and Co-Wrote the story of *Paradise Road*, a Fox Searchlight feature, which starred Glenn Close, Cate Blanchett and Francis McDormand. The film is based on the true story of an extraordinary group of women in a Japanese concentration camp who came together to form a vocal orchestra and created a life-affirming symphony of human voices. *Paradise Road* propelled Martin into choral conducting, and he has conducted choirs of varying sizes (including 1,000 voice choirs) in Australia, Indonesia, Canada and USA. He also runs singing workshops around the world, has (with two friends, Mark Higham and Louis Lim) invented a game called SPELL which helps people learn to read (see www.alphabeticus.com), and has just released his first album with his good friend, Rob Spence, entitled, *Inside the Heart*. *The Adventures of Charlie & Moon* is the first book in a trilogy and will be produced as a feature film. For more information on Martin, go to www.martinmeader.com

About The Cover Artist - Dawn Meader

Dawn Meader (Charlie-Moon's mum and the person who painted the cover of the book) has been a successful practicing artist for the last 20 years, drawing inspiration for her works of art from travel, meditation and dreams. Dawn used to fly in her dreams most nights as a child and often paints flight to capture the freedom that we all hold in our hearts.

About The Editor/Publisher - Jana Laiz

Jana Laiz is the award-winning author of the novel, *Weeping Under This Same Moon*. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from Westfield State University, a Bachelor's Degree in Mandarin Chinese language and Anthropology from New York University, and an advanced Chinese degree from Middlebury College. Jana is TESOL certified; able to teach English to non-English speakers at any level, anywhere in the world. Jana has been teaching for over 20 years. She has taught all levels from elementary to high school, in both the public and private sectors, as well as University. For three years Jana published a successful newspaper for children and families called *The Kids' Onion*. She was a refugee resettlement caseworker with the International Rescue Committee for over 10 years. She is currently the Publisher and Owner of Crow Flies Press, a green and independent publishing company in The Berkshires, Massachusetts, with four titles to her credit: The triple award winning *Weeping Under This Same Moon*; Winner of ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year (top US literary journal) and The International Reading Association Notable Book 2009 (85,000 members), "A Free Woman on God's Earth" co-written with Ann-Elizabeth Barnes, *The Twelfth Stone*, her new YA fantasy, and ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Award Finalist 2009, *The Adventures of Charlie & Moon by Martin Meader*.

**Special thanks to Ros Ferrier, May-Elin Goves,
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How To Use These Notes

The suggested activities are for a wide age range and ability range. You do not have to do all of the activities. If you do, you might suffer serious quincequonces. Choose carefully so students have a great time with the material.

Notes About Genre

Point out that some books of fiction fall into the category of fantasy.

List on the board the following characteristics of fantasy:

- * Events in the story could not happen in real life.
- * The story is often set in a place that doesn't actually exist.
- * The characters use special powers or fanciful strategies to solve problems.

As students read the story, have them identify ways in which *the book* fits the definition of fantasy.

Introducing the Novel

Try the following strategies as you introduce the book to the class.

- Display the cover and ask students what kind of story they think it will be.
- Who is the main character?
- Do they have flying dreams or what do they think it would be like to fly?
- Have students read the kids' quotes on the back of the book and share with the class their predictions. Write these down and return to them when the class has finished the book to compare.
- Make a prediction about what will happen in the story.
- What is the role of the author?
- What is the role of the illustrator?
- What is the role of the editor?

- What is the role of the publisher?

EXPLORING THE BOOK

PROLOGUE: A SEED IS SOWN

Synopsis

In this chapter, the scene is set for an amazing adventure to start. We are introduced to some characters and events, which firmly place this story in the fantasy genre.

In the Shire of Tumblegum, a strange character (Bizz-Buzz) arrives in a mini blizzard at a farmhouse on a hot summer's night. He delivers two birthday gifts for Cecil & Sylvia Ramsbottom to give to their son, Charlie. But Charlie must not open the gifts until his birthday, the next day. Bizz-Buzz boards a bus powered only by a singing and dancing ticket collector, Doreen Tremblingknees. A small feathery animal with a rusty chain attached to his right claw watches the interaction between Bizz-Buzz and Doreen.

Vocabulary

The story has some challenging words, so in order to get kids involved and understanding, have them complete the word match. This will increase contextual understanding. Possibly unfamiliar words to children in this chapter are: fateful, ramshackle, cicadas, protruding, approaching, lament, peculiar, expectancy, meandered, remnants, decision, reassurance, expelling enormous, wafted, irritating.

Challenging Vocabulary – Matching Words:

Peculiar	Wandered
Expectancy	Weird
Meandered	Drifted
Remnants	Cry
Decision	Choice
Reassurance	Annoying
Expelling	Huge
Enormous	Broken Down
Wafted	Hope
Lament	Comfort
Irritating	Bits and Pieces
Ramshackle	Forcing Out

Reading

Read the prologue to the children, stopping to discuss difficult words and interesting points. Students follow along in their books. Ask students to read short passages.

Interesting Points

- * Names of characters and places.

Comprehension and recall questions:

- * Where is the story set?
- * What time of day was it?
- * What was the old man wearing?
- * Who drove the bus?
- * What made Doreen Tremblingknees such a unique character?
- * What powered the bus?
- * What was hiding in the bushes?
- * What was attached to the animal's right claw?

Higher thinking questions

- * Read the discussion between Bizz-Buzz and Doreen again to the children.
- * Ask: What were Bizz-Buzz and Doreen talking about?
- * What sort of animal was hiding in the bush?
- * Where was the animal going?
- * What was engraved on the chain?
- * Who are the characters on the cover of the book? (Charlie is not yet introduced into the story.)

Suggested Cross Curricular Activities

Music

Listen to and dance to rumba or other South American music.

Sing Scarborough Fair and replace the words with Doreen's lament.

Art

Draw what you think Doreen Tremblingknees looks like.

If you want, you can send your drawing to: info@martinmeader.com

Drama

Create/put into play form then perform a particularly dramatic scene in the chapter.

Charades: Mime one of the characters then have the others guess who it is.

Questions for students:

As you read, ask the children the following questions:

- What is a Shire? Describe what you think it is.
- It is five days before Christmas but frogs are croaking and crickets are chirping. Where in the world do you suppose this story takes place?
- Cecil and Sylvia are waiting on the porch. Do they know the stranger? Why do think they are not surprised to see him?
- Who do you think the gifts are for? Can you make a prediction?
- Why do you suppose Doreen Tremblingknees keeps honeybees in her hair?

PART ONE: THE CALL TO ADVENTURE

CHAPTER ONE: THE GIFT

Synopsis

In this chapter Charlie is given the birthday present from Bizz-Buzz. Bizz-Buzz tells Charlie's parents to give it to him the night *before* his birthday with instructions not to open it until the morning. A voice from inside the present urges him to open it and Charlie cannot resist and unwraps the package. What is revealed inside is an antique book and as Charlie starts to read it, the story seems to merge with reality.

Pre-Reading

Read the title of the chapter to the children and ask them to predict what this chapter will be about.

Who will be given a gift?

What is the gift?

What's going to happen to the animal with the chain around his claw?

Who are Bizz-Buzz and Doreen and what do they have to do with Charlie?

Reading

As students read, have them think about these questions:

Do you think it was fair to expect Charlie NOT to open the present? Would you have opened it? Have you ever broken your word? If so, what happened?

- Did the opening lines of the book grab your attention right away? In what way?
- What do you like about Charlie? Moon?
- How do you feel about Penelope so far?
- Was there anything or any words/phrases you did not understand?

Vocabulary Word Search

Anorak, windswept, mauve, anticipation, destination, thunder egg, illuminated, bated breath, temptation, spellbound, keyhole, algebra, encrusted, antique, statue.

Word Search – find words from Chapter 1

jmanorakoywhartlstwindsweptrotubwfw
ejbmauvedojecharliemoonufsvlkfe
lefsngranticipationuhsercdestination
iwonderhowtofindallthesewordsuhh
batedbreathbardehirufnlaencrustedr
temptationquerdednuoblepskeyholec
nxsdfnalgebrathunderbggeryrtnjvnv
mdighdantiquevnjfkvdfkbvbizzbuzzzzill
uminatedramsbottomsdnjinstatueivfhh
penelopednvjflippolfcnjknsvknvn

In this chapter, the author uses some very descriptive and imaginative language.

Discuss the following:

- * The two of them were probably cast from the same mop.
- * A moonbeam skipped in through his window to create a warm mysterious glow around the strange birthday present.
- * Most of Charlie's trousers and shirts didn't seem to like clothes-hangers.

Class discussion

Do Charlie and Penelope fit the usual stereotypes of boys and girls, sisters and brothers?

Cross Curricular Activities**Art**

Draw what you think Bizz-Buzz looks like.

If you want, you can send your drawing to: info@martinmeader.com

Society and Environment

Seasons around the world, the earth in the solar system.

Math

Timetables, calendar. Practice times tables by singing them operatically.

Science

Hemispheres – discuss Earth's hemispheres, climate, seasons, weather, geography of both the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. Talk about the equator. In which hemisphere do you live?

Values

Discuss trustworthiness and honesty and possible quincequonces/consequences of being untrustworthy and dishonest.

Literary Interview

Do you have any questions for the author? What would you ask him? Martin Meader is willing to answer your questions. Email him at info@martinmeader.com

CHAPTER TWO: THE CHOSEN ONE.

Synopsis

Here Charlie meets the animal that has been making its way up to the farmhouse. The baby eagle, Moon, tells Charlie he is the chosen one and that he has a special message for him. However, before Moon can tell Charlie what this message is, two ominous characters appear, the Snarlies, obviously terrifying Moon.

Pre-Reading

Read the title of the chapter to the children and ask them to predict what this chapter will be about.

What does "The Chosen One" mean? Who will be The Chosen One?

Who is tapping at the window?

Vocabulary

terrified, glazed, trance, impeccable, minefield, high-pitched, squawked, trellis, jutting, fledgling, strict, instructions, bloodstained, exasperated, clang, scanned, investigation, incoherently, pleading, maneuvering, suspicious, suffocate, hurt-speeding, commotion, whining, wheezing, sniffing, peered, dragonish, slimy, specters, ruckus, disgustingly stinky, hideously, unconscious, momentarily, revolting, hobnail, trespassers, etched, exterior, panic, shiver, sneered, inquisitively, boastfully, towered, peered.

SEE WORD PUZZLE ATTACHED AS A PDF

Interesting Point

- * Sucked in air like a hungry vacuum cleaner – simile

Comprehension and recall questions

- * Why did Moon come to Charlie?
- * How did Charlie prove to Moon that he really was Charlie Ramsbottom?
- * How was this eagle different to other eagles Charlie had seen?
- * Why did Moon get angry with Charlie?
- * What made Moon so scared he jumped back under the covers?
- * What were the four enormous bloodshot eyes that dive-bombed into Charlie's closet?
- * What did the Snarlies look like?

- * Who did Charlie lock in the wardrobe with the Snarlies?

Higher thinking questions

- * How did Charlie feel when he heard the tapping?
- * What tells you that?
- * Even though he wasn't particularly brave, what made Charlie open the window and look outside?
- * What happened when Charlie pushed the window open?
- * Is Moon the eagle's real name?
- * Why did Charlie lock Penelope in the wardrobe with the Snarlies?

Wanted Posters

Provide the children with the description of the Snarlies on pages 23-24 and ask them to create wanted posters.

Cross Curricular Activities

Science

Flight

Maths

Discuss Charlie's bedroom and get the children to draw a map of their own bedroom.

Art

Draw what you think the Moon look like.

If you want, you can send your drawing to: info@martinmeader.com

CHAPTER THREE: ESCAPE FROM THE SNARLIES.

Synopsis

Charlie and Moon have to leave the bedroom because of Moon's loud snoring and they end up in the Thunder Egg Chicken coop. Two Thunder Egg Chickens, Snoozeball and Runningmouth, talk to them and take them to the dormitory to hide from the Snarlies who are following close behind.

Pre-Reading

Read the title to the students and get them to predict how Charlie and Moon might get away from the Snarlies. What will happen to Penelope?

Vocabulary

Din, cradled, racket, excruciating, wheezing, unaware plight, rickety, trellis, whimpering, macadamia, Milky Way, harrumbling, amiss, gritting salvo, pang, extinct, safe haven, convocation, snitch, dragonsque matronly, companion, gruesome, goons, guts for garters, dignified, curtsy, astonished, down, shuffle, dormitory, suffocated, reprimand, snot-choked gasps, betrayer, chattering, wide-eyed, arrayed dangling, pea-brain, thunderous snorting and rampaging, reeled stench, intensity momentarily, stunned, awestruck.

Interesting Points

- * "His eyes the size of saucers." p.30, - metaphor.

Comprehension and recall questions

- * What did Charlie slam into Moon's mouth to stop his snoring?
- * Why is the farm called Thunder Egg Farm?
- * Who helped the Snarlies get out of the wardrobe?
- * How big are the Thunder Egg chickens?
- * What do Thunder Egg Chickens like to play?
- * Where did Charlie and Moon hide in the chicken coop?
- * Why had Charlie been too scared to go into the chicken coop before?
- * What did one Snarlie flick at Penelope?

Higher thinking questions

- * Why did Charlie take Moon out of the bedroom?
- * Why is Runningmouth called Runningmouth?
- * Why did Penelope not think Charlie would be hiding in the chicken coop?
- * What is a Ferocious Attack of the Roaring Trumpets?

Oral Language

Children in groups of three, pretend they are Penelope and the two Snarlies locked in the closet.

What do they say to each other?

How do they get out?

Writing

Write and illustrate ten good uses for Gooba.

Cross-Curricular Activities**Maths**

Play card-games like Snap and Go Fish.

Science

Hatch some chickens

Society & Environment

Discuss practices associated with mass production of chickens and eggs, the need to use free range products.

Art

Draw what you think the Snarlies look like. You can draw Flip or Flop or both.

If you want, you can send your drawings to: info@martinmeader.com

CHAPTER FOUR: HAPPY FAMILIES

Synopsis

Snoozeball and Runningmouth very cleverly distract the Snarlies with a game of Happy Families, allowing Moon and Charlie to escape, only to be captured later by Flop. But Charlie and Moon manage to escape again through a secret panel.

Pre-Reading

Ask the children if they can figure out a way for Moon and Charlie to escape.

What do they think Happy Families (the title of the chapter) might have to do with Moon and Charlie's escape?

Vocabulary

Petrified, crackled with static, casino-style shuffle, sidled, receptacle, hoity-toitilly, sly wink, addicted, τ shortsighted, apparent, posers, ignoramus, animated, gooba, shambled, humiliated, atmosphere of anticipation, flickering shadows, prowess, muted protestations. celestial orb, pronunciation, panting, menacing, indignantly, commotion, astonished, teetering.

Interesting Points

- * Flip's right hand bird looked and sounded as though he made a habit out of running into brick walls. (p.38)
- * Discuss what this might mean, "a bell rang in Charlie's brain." (p.40)
- * Discuss the meaning "spreadsnarlied." (p.45)

Comprehension and recall questions

- * What are the two Snarlies' names?
- * What card game did Snoozeball get the Snarlies to play?
- * What are some things Flip and Flop did and said that shows they are not very smart?
- * Why did Flip get angry with Flop?
- * What happened when Charlie and Moon reached the top of the stairs?
- * How did Charlie and Moon manage to get away from Flop after he captured them?

Why did the Snarlies put a net over Penelope?

Higher thinking questions

- * Why did Snoozeball get the Snarlies to play Happy Families?
- * How did Runningmouth feel about the Snarlies?

Writing

Predict what might happen in the next chapter.

Cross-Curricular Activities

Health

Need for rest and sleep.

Society & Environment

Families – discuss how we are members of groups, the importance of and inter-dependence of members in such groups.

Art

Draw what you think Charlie looks like.

If you want, you can send your drawing to: info@martinmeader.com

CHAPTER FIVE: BREAKFAST IN BED

Synopsis

Charlie and Moon manage to escape from the Snarlies and make their way back to Charlie's bedroom, where his mum brings him Birthday breakfast in bed. Moon finally tells Charlie that he has come because an evil toy-maker is turning all the eagles into stuffed toys and Charlie is the one chosen to save them.

Pre-Reading

Ask the children to predict what's going to happen.

Will Charlie, Moon and Penelope get away? How?

What does the title of this chapter suggest?

Vocabulary

Interlopers, whine, hurtled, nervous system, shortsighted, passageway, surged, unexpectedly, blood-curdling, satchel, gruesome, recess, wilt, berating, perilous, ascend, unceremoniously, gravity, physics, catapulted, descend, hurt-speed, illuminated, iridescent, castigating, radar, throaty, warble, lattice, duet, stealthily, protectors, ridiculous, pollution, dungeon, apologetic, guardianship, vulnerable, fearlessly, volume, gobsmacked, ancient, gravest, seal, decree, unsettled, desperate, stunned, parchment.

Interesting Points

- * Lair (p.48) - discuss names of animal homes.
- * Hench-birds (p.48) What is a henchman? Discuss author's use of language.

Comprehension and recall questions

- * How did Charlie and Moon escape from the Snarlies when they were in a dead-end tunnel?
- * Whose voice did Charlie hear on Flip's radio?
- * What did Charlie's mum give him for breakfast?
- * Why had Moon come to find Charlie?
- * How is Skunk Weavel able to find the eagles?

- * How had the eagles found out about Charlie?

Higher thinking questions

- * What made Charlie suddenly change and become very brave so that he started chasing the Snarlies?
- * How did Charlie feel about the message in the book? (pp.57-58)

Newspaper Article

Children write the newspaper article Listen-To-The-Wind found about Thunder Egg Farm on page 56.

Cross-Curricular Activities

Maths

10 X table, (10 X 1000). Measuring distance, cooking - make jelly.

Society & Environment

Birthdays; how are they celebrated by students in the class? Discuss what is considered "good manners" by the students and their families.

Art

Draw Runningmouth and Snoozeball.

If you want, you can send your drawings to: info@martinmeader.com

CHAPTER SIX: SHOW AND TELL.

Synopsis

Charlie's birthday is celebrated at school. He tells everyone about the plight of the royal blue and gold winged eagles and why he was being chosen to save them, but no-one believes him. Moon's nose changes into a beak after eating the Thunder Egg yolk and he follows Charlie to school. When Charlie reads the book again he sees that today's events have already been written into the book and that he has no choice but to go and rescue Moon's family and all the other eagles from the Skunk Weavel.

Pre-Reading

What is this chapter going to be about?

Will Mr. Ramsbottom discover Moon?

If Charlie was in your class and told this story, what would you think? What will Charlie's classmates think about his book and story?

Vocabulary

Bonny, myopic, random, perfunctorily conch shell, reverted, consumed, gingerly ~~steering~~, chastise, propelled, churned, decline. Vaguely, outmaneuver, beehive hairdo, turban, dilapidated, cancel, reluctant, bulbous, dumbstruck, demonstration, momentarily, desolate.

Interesting Points

- * The writing in the book changes according to who is reading.
- * The story is magically written into the book.

Comprehension and recall questions

- * What happens to the book when Charlie's dad looked at it?
- * What did the book say was happening to royal blue and gold winged eagles?
- * What was Charlie's second present?
- * What was special about the bus that took Charlie and Penelope to school?
- * Is this their regular bus?
- * Would you have been disappointed with Charlie's birthday gifts? Should his parents have given him the EM9 he wanted?

- * What did Charlie tell the children at school about his book?
- * What had happened to Moon's beak? How did it happen?

Higher thinking questions

- * Why would eating Thunder Eggs save Moon's family? Is there something special about them? What do you think that is?
- * How did Charlie feel about going to save Moon's family? Why?

Speaking and Listening

Students (in pairs) tell Charlie's story as he told it in his class (p.65) - consider the context, purpose and non-verbal communication involved.

Extension: What would you do if Mr. Grumblebum told you to go and tell your story to the school principal.

Writing

Children try to imagine they are Charlie and that they have decided to write a letter to the local zoo. The letter must ask the zoo to help him save the blue and gold winged eagles from extinction.

Cross Curricular Activities

Music

Children make maracas using plastic bottles and rice. Play along to some South American style music/songs.

Health

Foods that make you strong.

POETRY

Write an acrostic poem using any of these words:

S

N

A

R

L

I
E
S

OR

M
O
O
N

Art

Draw the inside of the Chicken Coop or Doreen with her beehive hairdo.

Or decorate a skateboard.

If you want, you can send your drawings to: info@martinmeader.com

Dance/Math

What is an Eagle hop? Can you demonstrate? How many eagle hops equal a foot or meter?

CHAPTER SEVEN: HATCHING A PLAN

Synopsis

The thought of leaving Thunder Eggs Down terrifies Charlie and he tells Moon he can't help him rescue his family. His mum and dad tell him they know the whole story and that it is up to Charlie to decide what he wants to do, and when a bad storm blows in and threatens to destroy Charlie's farm, he decides to help Moon out. His mum and dad help him get ready and soon, "the journey to save Moon's family and the Book of Dreams had finally begun". (p. 78)

Pre-Reading

Ask the children if they think Charlie will help Moon.

How would they feel if they were Charlie?

What sort of plan will be hatched?

What will the plan be?

Vocabulary

Amazement, irritatingly, resolutely, traversing, permeated, tsunami, obliviously, Mozartian aria, precariously, algebraic, discreetly, bedraggled, nostalgic, glared, licorice, ferocious.

Interesting Points

- * Group names like a 'gaggle of chickens' (p. 77), a murder of crows, pride of lions, school of fish, a litter of pups, a herd of cows, a pod of whales, a troop of monkeys, a flock of flamingos, a swarm of bees, an army of ants, a pack of wolves.
- * How many animal group names can you come up with? Can you draw them?
- * City of Quincequonces.

Comprehension and recall questions

- * Why was Charlie scared?
- * How did Charlie stop the storm?
- * Who helped Charlie make the decision to help Moon?
- * What did Charlie do to Penelope when she wanted to lead the expedition?
- * How did Charlie and Moon travel?

- * What did Charlie bring with him when he left the farm?

Higher thinking questions

- * How did Moon feel when Charlie said he couldn't leave Thunder Eggs Down?
- * Why did a terrible storm come?
- * How did Charlie's mum and dad feel about Charlie going off to help Moon and his family? Would your parents let you go on such a mission?
- * How would you feel if you were Charlie going off to the city of Quincequonces?
- * What is the author doing with the word Quincequonces? Can you make other plays on words?

Write literary letters

Children write a letter to a character from the story. They swop their letter with a friend who has to write a reply as the character.

Writing

Write a retell of the first half of the book. It may be necessary for the teacher (to either elicit or) list the main events on the board. If listed by the teacher, list the events in the wrong order so the students have to write them in the correct order.

Cross Curricular Activities

Maths

Algebraic equations.

Newsflash!

Write a front-page story about what has happened so far and predict what you think will happen. Make sure you have a picture in the story.

Music and Art

Draw the Happy Family Cards while listening to Mozart's Magic Flute, especially the Queen of the Night aria

Crafts

Make your own set of Happy Family Cards

If you want, you can send your drawings to: info@martinmeader.com