

SIMON MAYO

Itch Pupil Activities

Before you read the book

- Look at the book jacket. Ask yourself these questions:
 - What do you like about the jacket and why?
 - How does the jacket make you feel about the book?
 - If you could ask one question about the book, what would it be?
 - Make a prediction about the book's plot i.e. what do you think is going to happen in the book and why?
- Now look at the blurb. Answer these questions:
 - Has the blurb given you any more clues about the plot of the book?
 - Look at the prediction you made earlier. Were you right?
 - Now you have more information, make another prediction about the book.

Studying the opening

- Before you read the opening. Think about what makes an **effective** opening? Write down **three** things that you look for in an opening e.g. suspense.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- Now read these five different openings to books. Rank them in order according to how much you like each one, 1 = most favourite 5 = least favourite. Remember to think about why you ranked them in this order.
 - A. A new term is about to begin and everything in the world is slightly less rubbish than it used to be.

 The Donut Diaries: Revenge is Sweet (Anthony McGowan)
 - B. I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. Wonder (R.J Palacio)
 - C. My name is Raphael Fernandez and I am a dumpsite boy. Trash (Andy Mulligan)
 - D. The room is cold because she's left the window open, and a wintry storm has turned the sky purple. The wind sneaks in and stabs at her with its icy fingers but she doesn't notice. Killing Honour (Bali Rai)

- E. Wind howled through the night, carrying a scent that would change the world. A tall Shade lifted his head and sniffed the air. He looked human except for his crimson hair and maroon eyes. Eragon. (Christopher Paolini)
- · Now read the opening of ITCH.

The earthquake was a small one. The post office shook only slightly, the window rattling in its frame and dislodging an Advent calendar. The van outside vibrated just enough to set off its alarm, and if you were watching closely you might have seen the traffic lights shudder in their concrete base.

- How effective do you think this opening is and why?
- What clues does it give us about what may happen later in the book?

Zooming in on the language

- The opening of ITCH is full of exciting verbs (action words). What is the effect of this?
 - Highlight all of the verbs in the opening.
 - For each one, think about the kind of **movement** it is describing. Is the movement big or small? Is it powerful or weak?
 - What do all of these words **suggest** about what is about to happen in the story?
 - How does this make you **feel**?
- After you have read the first section of the book (until waiting), write down what you think is going to happen at the end of the book. Remember, you must say why you think this. You will go back to your prediction after you have finished reading the book!

Introducing Itchingham Lofte

- · Read chapters one to three.
- · You are now going to create a character profile of Itch.
 - 1. On the next page, draw a picture of what **you** think Itch looks like.
 - 2. Around the picture, write down words or phrases to describe Itch e.g. quiet.



• Think about your first impressions of Itch. Why have you made these conclusions about him? You must find some evidence to back up your points. Pick out 3-5 of your points from your character profile. Complete the first two columns in the table. Extension - can you also analyse the evidence that you have picked out?

How I would describe Itch (POINT)	My evidence (EVIDENCE)	Why my evidence supports my point (ANALYSE)
Itch is mischievous.	'He had got away with so much over the years.'	This tells me that Itch is constantly doing things that he shouldn't. It suggests that he is able to do things without his family knowing.

After you have finished reading ITCH

How does Itch change during the book?

- Look at the Itch character profile that you made after reading the first three chapters. Would you still describe Itch like this? Do you think he **changed** during the book? If so, how?
- Write down **five ways** to describe Itch at the **end** of the book. For each point, decide if you would have described Itch like this in the beginning.

How would you des	like thi	you describe was s? What is evidence?	he like this in the beginning?

Itch - the accidental hero!

Itchingham Lofte isn't your normal 'hero'. Or is he? Think about other famous heroes. They can be real or imaginary. What makes them heroic? Write down 5-10 points in a mind map.



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Imagine if you were an 'accidental hero' like Itch. What skills

like Itch, you're not allowed any super powers!

kick like Jack?

would you have? How would you 'save the day'. Would you have a side

In the space below, draw and label your 'accidental hero'. Remember,

Now think about how you described Itch in the 'How does Itch change?'

ITCH ends on a cliffhanger. It makes us want to know more! there is a sequel to ITCH. What do you think would happen? writing the opening of this sequel. Think about how the first book finished. And at the bottom of the well, a polythene and lead radiation box, closed and sealed, lay in a metre of mud. surrounded by rusted winch machinery, rotten wooden planks and pieces of melted rucksack. Inside the box a small dark cluster of rocks lay together, 1,285 feet below the school notice board. And waited.

ITCH Wordsearch

Use your quick thinking and observation skills to find the words hidden below.

V	0	0	Y	X	F	S	R	A	С	R	Q	Χ	Χ	В	P	G	L	V	Н
R	Z	N	N	G	0	Z	Н	E	I	P	L	U	Τ	0	N	I	U	M	Q
С	V	Τ	0	A	0	L	A	M	0	M	С	F	P	I	M	N	Q	L	D
P	P	K	N	Τ	R	L	0	L	V	M	G	J	U	P	P	D	E	Z	S
Ε	L	X	С	E	N	G	0	D	Z	F	A	X	R	0	N	С	M	D	G
R	S	Н	L	0	M	M	R	E	A	S	J	Q	A	L	С	I	A	U	Н
I	С	F	N	K	R	E	K	A	G	D	S	A	0	0	P	N	S	0	G
0	I	U	V	X	F	N	L	F	D	R	U	Н	V	N	E	E	U	J	Н
D	S	Т	A	С	E	U	R	E	L	I	R	В	Q	I	N	S	0	S	В
I	Y	A	0	P	L	P	Н	M	R	K	0	I	Q	U	0	R	Q	M	U
С	Н	В	S	Τ	В	E	N	Q	Н	M	Н	A	С	M	I	A	С	S	R
В	P	L	P	P	A	M	U	N	L	U	P	Y	С	M	Τ	Y	I	J	A
S	S	E	Z	A	M	A	С	L	Н	I	S	G	S	Т	A	F	P	L	N
S	С	С	L	R	M	Y	L	D	R	D	0	Z	С	I	I	Н	S	U	I
Ε	J	M	Т	Т	A	G	E	J	С	0	Н	J	M	M	D	V	M	M	U
U	E	Y	I	I	L	R	A	A	P	S	P	S	С	M	A	Q	E	I	M
M	Y	G	P	С	F	P	R	K	I	S	I	S	В	G	R	J	E	N	A
Z	V	R	R	L	L	M	R	F	K	E	I	X	S	U	Y	M	Н	0	Χ
A	G	S	F	E	Z	0	F	Y	R	0	Τ	A	R	0	В	A	L	U	R
Н	I	K	С	Н	E	M	I	S	Τ	R	Y	Q	L	X	I	S	Z	S	F

Arsenic	Laboratory	Geology	Radiation
Phosphorus	Radioactive	Periodic	Uranium
Chemistry	Luminous	Physics	Rock
Element	Nuclear	Plutonium	Sodium
Flammable	Particle	Polonium	Table

Extra Activity - Why don't you try making your own scientific word search? Remember, there are 118 elements to choose from.

Or 126 as the case may be...

Design your own element!

Use your scientific knowledge and brain power to create your own unique scientific element. Will it be as powerful as lofteium?

Draw your element

Describe your element.



Itch by Simon Mayo - OUT NOW! www.itchingham.co.uk



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