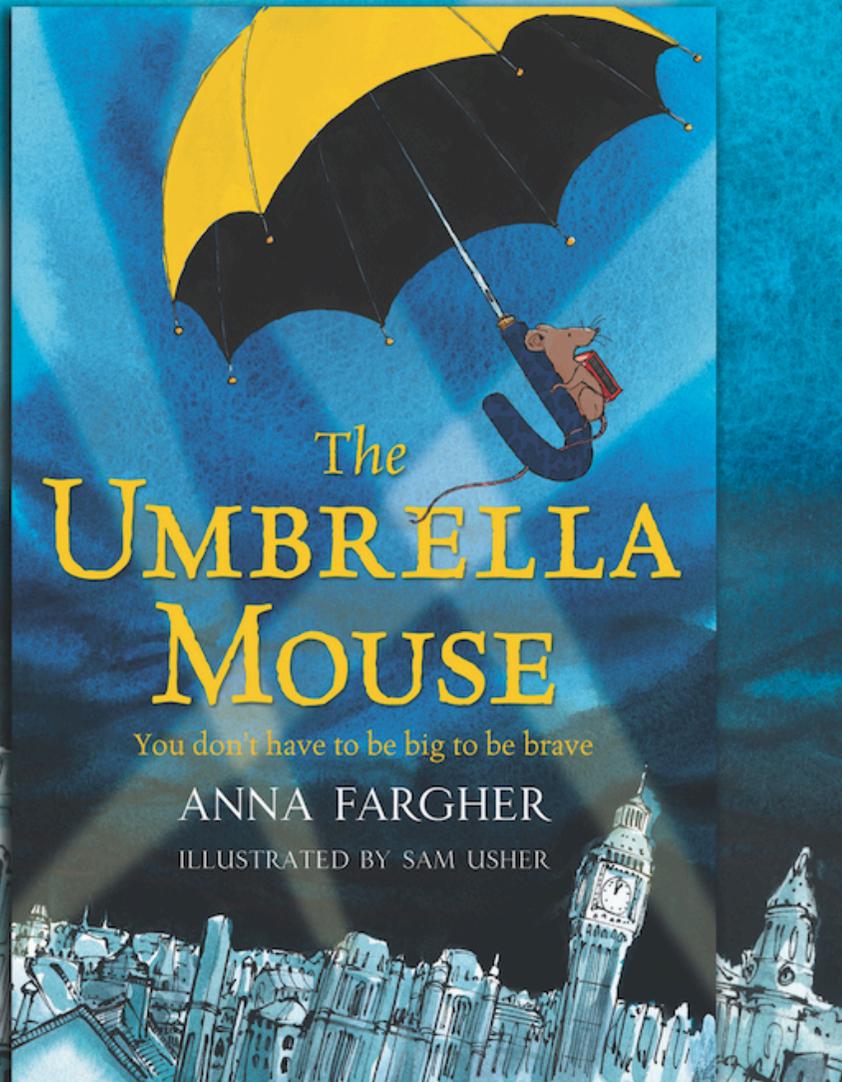


# The UMBRELLA MOUSE



## SCHEME OF WORK

**PERFECT FOR:** Ages 9+; a thrilling adventure story set in WWII; creative writing opportunities including biographies, diary entries, adverts and poetry; understanding the impact of war on humans and animals; code-cracking; learning about the events of War World Two, Alan Turing, air resistance and forces.

### KEY FOR CROSS-CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES:

English: Reading Comprehension; Creative Writing;  
Poetry; Writing to Entertain and Inform

Drama, Speaking and Listening

Design Technology & Art

Geography

History

Maths

Music

Modern Foreign Languages

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# The UMBRELLA MOUSE

## WEEK 1: CHAPTERS 1-5 LONDON IS UNDER ATTACK



SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Reading: Comprehension</b> - Analyse an author's style of writing and identify different techniques and vocabulary used. - Identify techniques the writer has used to evoke emotions in the reader and create tension.</p> <p><b>History: World War Two</b> - Order and understand the main events that occurred during World War Two. - Use research methods to extend historical learning.</p> <p><b>Writing to Entertain and Inform</b> - Write an advert, considering effective persuasive techniques.</p> <p><b>Geography</b> - Locate countries and capital cities on a world map.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read page 1. What do you predict will happen to Mr and Mrs Smith? Read on – do you think Peter will return home safely?</li><li>2. Use the information in Chapter 1 to describe Pip. What are your first impressions of her? Does she enjoy her life in the umbrella shop? Do you like Pip? Why? Why not?</li><li>3. Which words and phrases in Chapter 2 are particularly effective at describing the bomb and its impact?</li><li>4. Imagine you are Pip in Chapter 3. What can you see, hear, taste, touch and smell?</li><li>5. Dickin is a coward. Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not?</li><li>6. What might Pip be thinking and feeling when Dickin tells her that her parents are gone?</li><li>7. How does the author create a sense of loss and sadness in Chapter 4? Which words and phrases are your favourite?</li><li>8. How did you feel as you read Chapter 5? How do you think the author wanted you to feel?</li><li>9. Why do you think Dickin is helping Pip?</li><li>10. Describe the relationship between Pip and Dickin. How is it developing?</li></ol>	<p>Create a timeline showing the main events that occurred during World War Two. You may wish to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• German forces storming the Polish frontier</li><li>• Neville Chamberlain declaring war on Germany</li><li>• The Battle of Dunkirk</li><li>• The London Blitz</li><li>• D-Day</li></ul> <p>Mr Smith says, 'As long as there's rain, there's business.' Write a persuasive radio advert for James Smith &amp; Sons Umbrellas, encouraging people to buy an umbrella. Remember to include powerful adjectives, memorable slogans and rhetorical questions.</p> <p>Locate some of the places mentioned in story on map, including: Italy, Germany, Switzerland and France. Can you find the capital cities? Can you find Normandy and Gignese? Colour the countries in red if they were part of the axis powers and blue if they were part of the allies.</p>

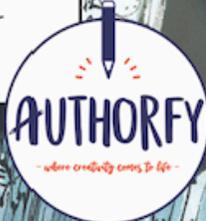


# The UMBRELLA MOUSE

## WEEK 2: CHAPTERS 6-10 THE UNDERGROUND SPIES



SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Reading: Comprehension</b> - Define vocabulary, thinking carefully about its meaning and impact. - Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of unknown words.</p> <p><b>Science</b> - Plan and write a report to explain how animals have adapted to their environment.</p> <p><b>Design Technology &amp; Art</b> - Explore the style and techniques employed by the artists who created propaganda posters and then use these to create a persuasive advert.</p> <p><b>Writing to inform and entertain</b> - Write a set of instructions and a biography, including a range of features to engage the reader.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write a definition of the following words from Chapter 6: <i>subterranean</i>, <i>abandoned</i>, <i>intermingling</i>. Can you use them in a sentence of your own now?</li> <li>Dickin says we need danger to 'test our mettle'. What does this mean? Do you agree with him?</li> <li>Read Chapter 6. Do you trust the rat and sparrow? Why? Why not? Where do you think they are taking Pip?</li> <li>In Chapter 7, the rat speaks 'nonchalantly'. What does this mean? Draw and label a picture to show your understanding of the word.</li> <li>Dickin says that when we are hurt, we learn who to trust. What does he mean? Can being hurt and betrayed ever be a positive experience?</li> <li>When Pip meets Bernard Booth she speaks 'timidly'. What does this mean? How is the word 'timid' similar to the word 'bashful'? How is it different?</li> <li>In Chapter 8, Bernard Booth describes the role the animals play in the war effort. Summarise in three sentences how the animals are helping.</li> <li>What might Dickin be thinking and feeling as he watches Pip float away into the River Thames?</li> <li>How does the author create a sense of tension and excitement at the end of Chapter 9? Is it successful? Does it make you want to read on?</li> <li>Pip is irresponsible and stubborn. Do you agree? Use evidence from the story so far to support your answer.</li> </ol>	<p>When Pip visits the market in St Giles, she meets lots of different animals, including pigeons, sparrows, dogs and rats. Work as a small group to conduct research into one of these animals and find out about their appearance, diet and how animals adapt to their environment. Present your findings as a report, with sub-titles and diagrams.</p> <p>Explore a range of posters created during World War Two that were designed to encourage people to not waste food. What techniques did they use? Which slogans were popular? Design your own piece of war-time propaganda linked to food rationing.</p> <p>Create a set of instructions about how to use Morse code. Remember to include an equipment list, imperative verbs, adverbs, labelled steps and diagrams.</p> <p>Research the life of Alan Turing. Write a biography about him, including all the important events in his life, information about his family, his role in World War Two and his main achievements.</p>



# The UMBRELLA MOUSE

## WEEK 3: CHAPTERS 11-15 NOAH'S ARK



SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Reading: Comprehension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Retrieve information from a text.</li><li>- Identify evidence from the text to support theories and opinions.</li><li>- Use clues from the text to make predictions.</li></ul> <p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify the effects of air resistance and understand how forces affect moving objects.</li><li>- Create a secret message using lemon juice.</li><li>- Understand how heat can cause oxidization.</li></ul> <p><b>Design Technology &amp; Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Design and make a parachute for Pip, thinking about the materials needed to create a functional product.</li></ul> <p><b>Modern Foreign Languages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Listen to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding.</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hans plans on returning to Switzerland after helping Pip find her family in Italy. True or false?</li><li>2. Read to the end of Chapter 12. Who do you think Madame is? What role do you predict she will play in the story? What might happen next?</li><li>3. Madame Fourcade is a hedgehog. True or false?</li><li>4. In Chapter 13, Pip shouts out, 'John has a long moustache!' Why does she do this? What do you think it means?</li><li>5. Who is Herr General?</li><li>6. What does the word 'goliath' mean? What is a Goliath Rat? What role do they play in the war?</li><li>7. Madame Fourcade says, 'We must continue to nibble away at the enemy!' What does she mean? Why is this funny?</li><li>8. Read to the end of Chapter 14. What do you predict the members of Noah's Ark will ask Pip to do to prove her worth?</li><li>9. Hans says, 'Only fools judge by appearances.' Why does he say this? What does it mean? Can you think of another saying like this with a similar meaning?</li><li>10. Describe and summarise <i>Plan Violet</i> in one sentence. Why do you think this secret operation is called <i>Plan Violet</i>?</li></ol>	<p>In Chapter 11, Pip finds herself flying. Conduct research into forces and how air resistance affects moving objects. Create a parachute for Pip and GI Joe to travel in on their journey. Investigate how the movement of the parachute is affected by its size.</p> <p>Explore the poem <i>War Horse</i> by Brenda Williams. Use this poem's structure and language as inspiration for your own poem, re-telling the events of World War Two through the eyes of another animal. It could even be written from the perspective of Pip, GI Joe or Madame Fourcade.</p> <p>One of the animals calls GI Joe, 'Mon ami'. What does this mean? Learn how to say some other popular phrases in French. Rehearse with a partner.</p> <p>Pretend you are a secret agent and create your own invisible ink, using lemon juice and water. Now, heat the paper, using a lamp, to reveal your hidden message! What happens when you heat the lemon juice? Why?</p>



# The UMBRELLA MOUSE

## WEEK 4: CHAPTERS 16-19 FEAR AND FURY



SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Reading: Comprehension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Use clues from the text to infer information about a character and what they might be thinking and feeling.</li><li>- Use an Emotions Graph to explore a character's thoughts.</li></ul> <p><b>Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Use your voice and instruments with control and expression to create a frightening soundscape based on a battle.</li></ul> <p><b>Drama, Speaking and Listening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Understand and empathise with a character's thoughts, feelings and attitudes and express these through use of role-play.</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe in three words how Pip is feeling at the beginning of Chapter 16, when Madame Fourcade tells her to use her umbrella to bring down the telegraph wires.</li><li>2. Why might butterflies in a hurricane be considered courageous? What does this mean? How does this apply to the members of Noah's Ark?</li><li>3. Why does a 'rosy glow' appear beneath Pip's whiskers at the beginning of Chapter 17? How is she feeling? Why?</li><li>4. What are your first impressions of Lucia? Do you like her? Use evidence from the story to support your opinion.</li><li>5. What do you think André is saying to Hans and Madame Fourcade in Chapter 18? Where might Emile be?</li><li>6. How might the story have changed if Pip hadn't gone to watch Operation Popeye?</li><li>7. Summarise the events in Chapter 18 in six sentences. Now try and summarise them in three sentences. Can you summarise them in one sentence?</li><li>8. How does the kidnapping of Madame Fourcade impact the animals in Noah's Ark? Why do you think chapter 19 is called 'Fear and Fury'?</li><li>9. Why do you think Lucia is so mean to Pip in Chapter 19? Is she just frightened or could it be something else?</li><li>10. How has Pip shown bravery and courage throughout the story so far? Give examples to support your ideas.</li></ol>	<p>Create an Emotions Graph to show Pip's changing thoughts and feelings during these chapters. You may wish to refer to: when Pip uses her umbrella to bring down the telegraph wires; when she believes that Madame Fourcade is dead; when Madame Fourcade congratulates Pip for her role in <i>Plan Violet</i>; how Pip feels as she watches <i>Operation Popeye</i>.</p> <p>Work in small groups to create a frightening, tense soundscape for Chapter 16, using your voice and body percussion to recreate the sound of the swooping birds, the gunfire, the wind and the planes flying overhead.</p> <p>In a group of four, re-create the events from Chapter 19. One of you should play Pip, one should play Lucia, one Léon and one of you should play GI Joe. Perform the scene four times; each time considering another character's perspective. Think about how you will change your body language, voice and facial expression each time.</p>





# The UMBRELLA MOUSE

## WEEK 6: CHAPTERS 24-27 THE CHOICE



SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Reading: Comprehension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify and discuss the main themes in the story.</li><li>- Create character profiles, exploring how the characters have developed.</li><li>- Retrieve and summarise information from a passage and use it to inform writing.</li></ul> <p><b>Maths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Plot and interpret data on a bar graph.</li></ul> <p><b>Computing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Design an informative presentation, including animations and slide transitions.</li></ul> <p><b>Creative Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Write a sequel based on the story, using the style and language features employed by the author.</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Discuss what has happened in the story so far. How do you predict the story will end?</li><li>2. Were you surprised to learn that Lucia is a traitor? What clues and hints were there earlier on in the story?</li><li>3. Try reading out loud, 'A traitor might have been a friend.' How can you show Madame Fourcade's feelings through your expression and tone?</li><li>4. How are Lucia and Pip similar? How are they different? Summarise your ideas using a Venn diagram.</li><li>5. Read to the end of Chapter 26. What do you predict has happened to GI, Hans and Leon?</li><li>6. Look at the title of Chapter 27. What choice do you think Pip will have to make? What difficult choices has she already had to make throughout the story?</li><li>7. The author says that Pip has seen cruelty, bravery, selfishness and self-sacrifice. Make a table and find examples throughout the story of where Pip has seen these things.</li><li>8. Why do you think the author chose to tell this story from Pip's point of view? What does her perspective add to our understanding of the war?</li><li>9. Pip is a hero. Do you agree? Use evidence from the text to support your opinion.</li><li>10. Which of these do you think is the most important theme in the story? Can you rank the themes from least important to most important? <i>Friendship, war, family, betrayal, animals, sacrifice, courage.</i></li></ol>	<p>Conduct research into the numbers of deaths during World War Two, for all of the countries involved. Present your findings in the form of a bar graph, thinking carefully about scale.</p> <p>Create a PowerPoint presentation about the end of World War Two. Try to include animations, interesting slide transitions and sound clips.</p> <p>Create character profiles for Pip, Madame Fourcade, Hans, Lucia, GI Joe and Dickin. Include information about their personality, relationships and how they develop as the story progresses.</p> <p>Freeze-frame key moments in the story: <i>the umbrella shop being destroyed, going to St Giles, meeting the animals in Noah's Ark, Plan Violet, saving the animals from the camp.</i> How can you show the characters' thoughts and feelings at these points in the story?</p> <p>What do you think might happen in a sequel to this story? Write a new exciting adventure for Pip and the members of Noah's Ark.</p>

