



A PLACE CALLED PERFECT



PERFECT FOR: ages 10+; fans of 'A Series of Unfortunate Events'; creative world-building; setting the tone; creating tension and atmosphere; mystery stories and plot twists.

KEY FOR CROSS-CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES:

English: Reading comprehension; Creative Writing; Writing in Role; Writing to Persuade; Writing to Explain; Poetry

Design Technology & Art

Drama, Speaking and Listening

Science: The Human Body; Light and Dark

Maths

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WEEK 1 (CHAPTERS 1 - 4): WHAT IS PERFECT?

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence. - Identify how language contributes to meaning. <p>Writing in Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note and develop initial ideas, drawing on reading. <p>Writing to Persuade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the intended audience and purpose of a piece of writing. <p>Design Technology & Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design a package for a product to appeal to a buyer. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What impression do you get of the <u>setting</u> from looking at the map and the names of the places? Why? (pages 6–7) 2. What do you notice about the way the scenes are described in chapter 1 and the beginning of chapter 2? (pages 12–14) What does this tell you about how the characters are feeling? 3. What <u>verbs</u> has the author chosen to use on pages 14–15? What impression of movement does this give you? 4. Can you use clues from the text to <u>infer</u> Violet's age on pages 13–17? Why do you think this? 5. What do you think has caused the family's blindness? What makes you think this? (chapters 2–3) 6. Why has the author decided to use more <u>speech</u> in this part of the book? What effect does this <u>have on</u> you as a reader? (pages 23–25) 7. What man was outside the window? How did Violet know? (pages 25–26) 8. Why does Violet dislike George and Edward so much? What are her reasons? (chapters 2–3) 9. How does the author make 'Perfect' sound so perfect? 10. How do the occupants of 'Perfect' get their daily supply of tea? (page 41) 	<p>Ask pupils to role-play Violet having to leave her home and move to 'Perfect'. What questions might they ask her? How might she respond? How can pupils portray her character in body language and facial expressions?</p> <p>Write a letter home in role as Violet; it should be addressed to her friends and describe her new 'Perfect' home. Can pupils give a sinister hint as to what they think might happen?</p> <p>Design a packet for the Archer brothers' tea. Create an advert to sell the tea using clues from the book. What <u>persuasive language</u> can pupils use to convince people to buy it?</p> <p>Using the descriptions of George and Edward on pages 16-17, ask pupils to draw portraits of the men and compare them with others, reasoning why they have drawn them in this way.</p>



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WEEK 2 (CHAPTERS 5 - 11): ROSE-TINTED GLASSES

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence. - Identify how language contributes to meaning. - Make comparisons across different texts. <p>Design Technology & Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw real and imagined landscapes. <p>Science: The Human Body; Light & Dark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiment with different transparent, translucent and opaque materials. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what ways can you identify a change in Violet's mother? (chapter 5) 2. What words does the author use to describe Violet's eyes on page 53. What does this tell you? 3. Why is the introduction of the pills significant to the storyline? What does it explain? (pages 64–65) 4. On pages 75–77 Violet meets Iris Archer. What would you do if you were in her shoes? Does she sound like a 'crazy old woman'? 5. Violet's mother says: "I'll stand over her next time" when talking to Edward Archer on page 82. What can you <u>infer</u> from this about what he knows? 6. In chapter 11 we meet Boy. Can you think of any other literary characters that this character is similar to? What comparisons can you make? 7. What are your first impressions of Boy? Is he a likeable character? Why\why not? (pages 87–93) 8. The residents of 'Perfect' seem to think Violet is a rule-breaker who needs to be tamed. Can you describe Violet in your own words? 9. Violet's feelings towards her mother have changed across these chapters. How would you describe their relationship now? How does this compare to before? 10. By the end of chapter 11 what more have we learnt about 'Perfect'? <p style="text-align: right;">Write a clue list.</p>	<p>Ask pupils to draw the 'reality' that Boy describes and also to draw 'Perfect', making comparisons between the two. As an extension, can they adapt their drawings, depicting a place as it is in their own world and then as it might look through rose-tinted glasses? Pupils should consider the power of perspective; and how this changes according to different people.</p> <p>Pupils should write a job description for the 'Perfect' child or parent using clues from the text, bearing in mind that this job description would be featured in a local newspaper. They should consider their <u>audience</u> and appropriate <u>style</u> when constructing the description.</p> <p>Experiment with the function of the eyes and use of light and glasses. Use different materials to distort pupils' views of the world. What is the effect of seeing things differently? Can pupils design their own pair of glasses?</p>



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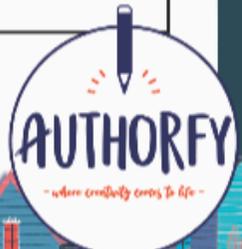
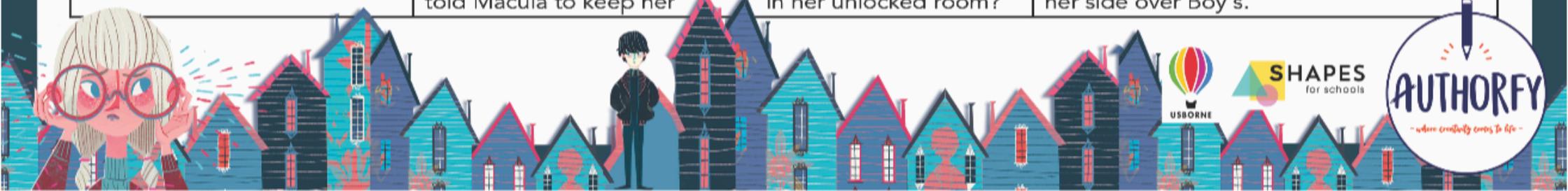
WEEK 3 (CHAPTERS 12 - 17): NO-MAN'S-LAND

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence. - Identify how language contributes to meaning. <p>Writing to persuade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the audience for and the purpose of writing. - Adapt writing to suit a specific audience and purpose. <p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measure weight and volume accurately. - Plot and interpret data on a line graph. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What words has the author used to indicate that the characters are being quiet and cautious? (pages 94–95) 2. Using what you know about Boy and the gatekeeper, predict what it is like in 'No-Man's-Land' (pages 98–99) 3. The author uses three <u>similes</u> in this part of the book. Why do you think she has used these here and what effect on you as a reader do they have? (page 103) 4. How does the author make 'No-Man's-Land' sound like a more pleasant place to be than 'Perfect' despite sounding so run down? What do the descriptions make you feel about this place? (page 104-105) 5. How are Pippa Moody and Mrs Moody related? (page 107) 6. Why do you think the author describes 'the Watchers' on pages 113 and 114 in so much detail? What do we learn about 'the Watchers' that we didn't know before? 7. How does Violet convince Boy to help her? Why is she so persuasive? (page 126) 8. What do you think the 'jars of colour' are? What are they used for? (chapter 15) 9. How does the author show the change in mood of Violet and Boy? (pages 134–135) 10. In chapter 17, how does the author build tension and suspense? 	<p>Ask pupils to write a piece for a holiday brochure persuading tourists to visit 'No-Man's-Land' or 'Perfect' using clues from the text. They should use existing holiday brochures as inspiration and to record what information should be included.</p> <p>In Maths, create your own 'jars of colour' using different weights/volumes of ingredients to combine and make different colours. Make a record of the different weights and volumes used.</p> <p>Create a line graph showing the different levels of tension through the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violet arriving in 'Perfect' and meeting the Archer brothers. - The family losing their sight. - Her Dad going missing. - Meeting Boy and going to No-Man's-Land. - Finding the room of jars. - Entering the cemetery.



A PLACE CALLED PERFECT WEEK 4 (CHAPTERS 18 - 24): REIMAGINING

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Infer motives from characters' actions.- Select and retrieve information from reading. <p>Writing to explain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use causal connectives to explain or give instructions and inform the reader.- Write clearly and succinctly for a specific audience and purpose. <p>Drama, Speaking and Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Empathise with a character's point of view.- Use what you know about a character in order to empathise with them and persuade them.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In chapter 19 we meet a new character – 'the Woman'. Why do you think the author chooses not to name her?2. What can you infer about this character already?3. Why is Violet so insistent Boy looks through the window to see if her Dad is there? (page 170)4. Boy thinks it's too dangerous to act but Violet disagrees. What are their motives? Who do you think is right? (pages 171–172)5. What does William imply Boy has done? How does Boy feel about this? (page 183)6. What did the brothers use to change the residents' vision of 'Perfect'? (page 188)7. Violet has an idea about who Boy's mother is. Who do you think she is/was and why do you think she left Boy in the orphanage? (page 191)8. William seems reluctant to help. Why do you think this is? (page 204)9. How do you think William has changed over time? Why do you think this has happened?10. On pages 216–217 we learn that William thinks Macula is dead; however we know this is not true as Violet has met her. What do you think the brothers have told Macula to keep her in her unlocked room?	<p>Write a newspaper report exposing the Archer brothers for their scheme in blinding the town of 'Perfect'. Include an interview or quotes from William, Violet or Boy. Refer to examples of newspaper articles to retrieve success criteria and use these to help you structure your piece.</p> <p>Ask pupils to draw and label the 'Relmaginator'. They should write an explanation of how it works based on what they have learned in these chapters, adding their own inferences and imagination to fill any gaps. Pupils should make sure they use causal connectives in their explanation. When they have read more of the book, they should refer back to see how accurate they were!</p> <p>Violet and Boy are both in need of William. Hot-seat the characters to show their differing points of view and, as Violet, try to persuade William to choose her side over Boy's.</p>



A PLACE CALLED PERFECT WEEK 5 (CHAPTERS 25 - 31): EVOKING EMOTIONS

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify ways authors create tension and their effect on the reader. - Infer motives from characters' actions. <p>Creative Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse an author's writing style and identify different techniques and effective vocabulary used. - Use an author's writing in order to model a new piece of writing in the same style. <p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the use of emotive language. - Use an author's writing to inspire your own work. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On page 233 we learn that Boy has 'never had a hug before'. How does this make you feel? What does this tell you about him? 2. Can you use clues from the text to show that Boy is growing impatient with Violet? (page 235) 3. How does the author introduce some comedy to the narrative on pages 252–253? What is the effect of this? 4. Why is the last sentence on page 256 a good sentence to end the chapter on? What effect does it have on you as a reader? Does it make you want to read on? Why? 5. Why does Merrill think using the orphans is a bad idea? (page 265) 6. Why does Violet say, "We need to move faster," to the orphans? (page 273) 7. How does the author raise the tension in this part of the book? Pick out the different techniques and effective vocabulary that you can see. (page 282) 8. Why does William need so much convincing? (page 296–297) 9. On page 301 William is reunited with his mother, Iris. How does Violet react? What does this tell us? 10. What do you think about their plan to get the 'Perfectionists' to join their side? Will it work? 	<p>Ask children to work in groups to write their own 'plan of attack' on 'Perfect'. What do they need to do first? How are they going to do it? In order to help their thinking, they should re-imagine the scene in the classroom and use different parts of the classroom to represent the different locations in the story.</p> <p>Rewrite the part of the book where Violet and Boy are climbing into the crates of leaves (pages 241–243) in the style of another author or ask pupils to re-write it in their own unique style. At the end of the task, ask pupils to define what we mean by <u>style</u>. Why is it important?</p> <p>Ask pupils to choose a chapter that they felt was particularly effective in evoking an emotion in them. They choose their favourite page from this chapter and create a <u>blackout poem</u>, selecting the words and phrases that were particularly effective in making them feel this way.</p>



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WEEK 6 (CHAPTERS 32 - 36): THE BATTLE

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify ways authors incite emotion in the reader to build a connection to characters. - Infer motives from character's actions. - Identify an author's language for effect. <p>Drama, Speaking and Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a freeze-frame of moments in the battle. - Use body language and facial expressions to depict feelings and motivations. <p>Writing in Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note and develop initial ideas, drawing on reading. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why didn't Violet want to stay and help Merrill? (page 315) 2. What does the author want us to feel about the family's reunions? How does she make us feel this way? (page 317) 3. How does the author incite emotion in the reader to make a connection with the characters? (page 329) 4. Why do you think Edward's face changes? What does this indicate? (page 338) 5. The relationship between Boy and Violet has been growing steadily throughout the book. How would you describe their relationship at this point in the story? (page 340) 6. Why does the author use lots of short sentences at the bottom of page 351? 7. Why is the moment when Macula 'wrapped him in a hug' a pivotal moment for Boy? (pages 358-359) 8. Where do you think Edward has disappeared to? 9. Do you think it is a good idea for the town to keep the plants as their new watchers? Why? (chapter 36) 10. Why do you think the author has decided to leave 'loose ends' to finish the book? What affect does this have on you as a reader? 	<p>In small groups children should freeze-frame different parts of the battle, demonstrating the different roles of the people who are taking part using body language, different levels and facial expressions to show each character's emotions and motivations. Who is winning and how can they show this?</p> <p>Using the freeze-frames as inspiration, pupils should describe the battle in more detail than is included in the book. Can they use short sentences to raise the level of <u>action</u> and <u>suspense</u>?</p> <p>Taking on the role of Edward, ask pupils to write a diary entry demonstrating where he has gone through clues to his whereabouts. Can they predict what he is planning to do next?</p> <p>Draw the new 'Town' and demonstrate how different it is to 'Perfect'.</p>



The sequel to 'A Place Called Perfect' is published in September 2018...

About 'The Trouble With Perfect':

Having uncovered the secrets that lay behind the spookily pristine town of Perfect, Violet and the townsfolk are enjoying their new freedom from the maniacal rule of the evil Archer twins. But have they really seen the last of Edward Archer? Why is Boy acting strangely? And who is masterminding a scary zombie army?

Another quirky, creepy and unforgettable adventure, perfect for fans of Roald Dahl, Neil Gaiman and Tim Burton.

