

Cosima Unfortunate STEALS A STAR



Teacher's Pet

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Kensington, 1899. Cosima Unfortunate has spent all her life at the Home for Unfortunate Girls – a school where any disabled children, or children deemed different, are sent, whether their families want it or not. It is there that she meets her friends – Pearl, Mary and Diya – and they start to practise mini heists involving the theft of cakes, biscuits and other sweet goodies.

But when Cos finds out that Lord Francis Fitzroy, the explorer behind the Empire Exhibition, is planning to adopt them, she and her friends plot the biggest heist of their life. Instead of fondant fancies, they're going to steal Fitzroy's prized tiara, containing the legendary Star Diamond of India! But, as they start preparing for the day, Cosima finds herself drawing ever closer to discovering the one secret she's always wanted to know – the truth about her parents...

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1. When Mr Stain was coming, Cos hissed to warn the others. What does the word tell you about the way that she spoke?

2. What was Cos' walking stick made from?

3. Explain what Pearl is like.

4. What did Pearl create to help with the plan?

5. What simile is used to describe how Diya's face lit up when Cos asked about her latest invention?

6. What word, meaning able to be extended, is used in the name of Diya's invention?

7. Explain how Cosima was given the last name 'Unfortunate'.

8. What do you think will happen next?



Comprehension – Chapter 1 Answers

1. When Mr Stain was coming, Cos hissed to warn the others. What does the word tell you about the way that she spoke?

The word 'hissed' means that Cos was trying to speak quickly but was also trying to keep her voice at a whisper so that he would not hear.

2. What was Cos' walking stick made from?

Her walking stick was made from an old broom that Diya had found in a closet.

3. Explain what Pearl is like.

Pearl liked spending time alone, found talking to new people tricky, and hardly ever smiled.

4. What did Pearl create to help with the plan?

Pearl made fake cakes and pastries out of rope.

5. What simile is used to describe how Diya's face lit up when Cos asked about her latest invention?

Diya's face lit up like Mr Edison's new-fangled electric lightbulbs.

6. What word, meaning able to be extended, is used in the name of Diya's invention?

Protractible means able to be extended.

7. Explain how Cosima was given the last name 'Unfortunate'.

Cosima was the only child in the Home for Unfortunate Girls who did not know her parents so was just referred to as Cosima Unfortunate.

8. What do you think will happen next?

A reasonable prediction bearing in mind what has been learned so far in Chapter 1.



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