

ANNABELLE SAMI ILLUSTRATED BY DANIELA SOSA

Agent Zaiba INVESTIGATES



THE MISSING DIAMONDS

Agent Zaiba INVESTIGATES

PERFECT FOR: Ages 7+; a fun adventure full of mystery and humour; an inquisitive and intelligent British Pakistani protagonist; exploring traditional bhangra music and henna art; writing secret codes, newspaper articles and persuasive job applications; exploring themes of jealousy, fame and family.

KEY FOR CROSS-CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES:

English: Reading Comprehension; Creative Writing;

Poetry; Writing to Entertain and Inform

Drama, Speaking and Listening

Design Technology & Art

Geography

Science

Maths

Music

Physical Education

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SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES	COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS	EXTRA ACTIVITIES
<p>Reading: Comprehension - Predict what might happen from details stated and implied. - Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings.</p> <p>Drama, Speaking and Listening - Understand a character's thoughts and attitudes by completing a Role on the Wall.</p> <p>Geography - Locate a country on a map and research the country's culture, food and climate.</p> <p>Music - Discuss the origins of bhangra music and identify its key features.</p> <p>Art and Design Technology - Design and create a traditional henna pattern.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before beginning, create a spider diagram of words, themes and ideas linked to 'crime'. Is it ever right to commit a crime? 2. Use the information in Chapter 1 to draw and label a picture of Zaiba. Can you find out what a shalwar kameez and dupatta look like? 3. Read Chapter 1. What are your first impressions of Zaiba? Do you think she will make a good detective? Why? 4. Which words and phrases in the first few chapters give the impression that the hotel is plush and extravagant? 5. Read up to Chapter 4. What role do you predict Mr Ainsley will play throughout the story? Does he remind you of any other characters in stories or films? 6. Read Chapter 4 and discuss why the author hasn't revealed who the celebrity is and why this might be. What effect does this have? Is there anything else the author hasn't told us yet? Why? 7. How does Zaiba know that no one comes up into the attic? (page 59) 8. What do you think the saying 'an agent's information is only as good as their memory' might mean? What other attributes might a good secret agent need? (page 66) 9. Mariam is lonely. Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not? Use evidence from the story so far to support your ideas. 10. How does the author create a sense of excitement at the end of page 79? Does it make you want to read on? 	<p>Complete a Role on the Wall activity. Draw an outline of Zaiba. On the inside of your drawing write down everything you learn about her in these chapters. On the outside, record any questions you might like to ask her.</p> <p>What can you find out about the origins of bhangra music? Listen to some traditional bhangra music and discuss the key features, including which instruments you can hear. Perhaps you can work in a small group to create a celebratory dance, too?</p> <p>Use a map to locate Pakistan and calculate how long it would take to travel there. Conduct research into the country's traditional food, music, customs and culture, and present your findings to the class in the form of a large, engaging A3 poster.</p> <p>Research henna art and patterns. Draw around your hand to create an outline and paint your own henna design, thinking carefully about the complex and intricate nature of the patterns.</p>

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<p>Reading: Comprehension - Use dictionaries to check the meaning of words and understand words in context. - Retrieve and record information.</p> <p>Geography - Use the 8 points of a compass and grid references to write directions.</p> <p>Writing to Entertain and Inform - Write a biography, thinking carefully about the layout and features for this type of writing.</p> <p>Drama, Speaking and Listening - Understand and empathise with a character's thoughts, feelings and attitudes and express these through use of role-play.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write a definition of these words from Chapter 7: <i>pandemonium</i>, <i>ornate</i>, <i>lurched</i>. Now use them in a sentence of your own. 2. What does a 'thrill of anticipation' mean? Why is Zaiba feeling like this? (page 89) 3. Why do you think Mr Ainsley hesitates on page 92? Do you have any ideas about the cause of the 'unfortunate meltdown'? 4. Even though Zaiba is jealous of Ali for his speed, she still praises and compliments him. What does this tell you about Zaiba and what might it suggest about their relationship? (page 110) 5. Ali feels that no one ever listens to him. Why? Do you agree with him? (page 114) 6. Read to the end of page 118. Why do you think there is a plate of grilled steak and sausages on the ground? Who do you think has left it there and why? 7. Is there anything unusual about Clark and his behaviour? Make a list of questions you'd like to ask him. 8. Read Chapter 11. How is the character of Mariam developing and changing as the story progresses? Have your feelings toward her changed at all? 9. Why do you think Georgia goes 'deathly pale' on page 157? What might she be thinking and feeling? 10. How are the words 'skulking' and 'waiting' similar? How are they different? (page 157) 	<p>Zaiba is a huge fan of the detective Eden Lockett. Write a biography, using information from the book and your own imagination, to describe her family, life and achievements. Remember to include paragraphs, write in the past tense and refer to Eden's famous cases.</p> <p>On pages 98 and 99, we learn about the hotel's maze. On squared paper, create your own design of a maze or labyrinth. Using either grid references or by referring to compass points, write a set of instructions for navigating your series of twists and turns. You may wish to use symbols and a key to show what is in your maze.</p> <p>In a group of five, re-create the events from Chapter 10. One of you should play Zaiba, one should play Ali, one Poppy, one Mr Ainsley and one of you should play Clark. 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>



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<p>Reading: Comprehension - Identify and discuss the main themes in the story. - Create character profiles, exploring how the characters have developed. - Retrieve and summarise information from a passage and use it to inform writing.</p> <p>Writing to Persuade - Write a persuasive letter and a newspaper article, thinking carefully about the layout and language features required for both pieces of writing.</p> <p>Science - Create a secret message using lemon juice and understand how heat can cause oxidization.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Summarise Chapter 12 in six sentences. Now try to summarise it in three. Can you do it in one sentence? Look at the list of suspects on pages 165-169. Who do you think might be responsible for the theft? Why? Look at page 174. What do you think Poppy might be trying to tell Zaiba? Read to the end of page 192. Do you think Zaiba should tell the police or confront the criminals? What would you do and why? How can your expression be 'like thunder'? What might this look like? How are Jessica and Hassan feeling? (page 193) Why has Clark sabotaged the other hotels? Do you feel sorry for him? (page 209) Do you think Georgia deserves to be punished? Why? Why not? (page 213) What role does Zaiba's ammi play in the story and how does this particular relationship develop our understanding of Zaiba and why she wants to be a detective? The main theme in this story is jealousy. Do you agree? Why? Why not? What do you think Zaiba learns about herself, her friends and her family over the course of the story? How has she changed and grown? 	<p>What qualities would you need to join the Snow Leopard Detective Agency? Write a persuasive letter applying for a job as a detective, making sure you list your skills and attributes and explaining why you would be a good addition to the team.</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 (ask an adult to help). What happens when you heat the lemon juice? Why?</p> <p>Write a newspaper article about the case of the missing diamond collar, summarising how Zaiba, Ali and Poppy solved the crime. Remember to include a headline, a photograph, witness statements and to write in paragraphs.</p> <p>Create illustrated character profiles for Zaiba, Ali, Poppy, Georgia, Clark, Aunt Fouzia and Maysoon. Include information about their personality, relationships and how they develop as the story progresses. What adventures might they all have next?</p>