

Sophy Henn

PiZAZZ



IT'S NOT EASY
BEING SUPER...

SCHEME OF WORK

PERFECT FOR:

Students aged 7+; a lighthearted tale told from the perspective of young superhero, PiZazz; saving the world; the environment; comic strips and illustrations; dealing with everyday school issues such as bullying, friendship and moving to a new school; and more.

KEY FOR CROSS-CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES:

English: Reading Comprehension; Creative Writing;

Writing to Entertain and Inform

Drama, Speaking and Listening

Design Technology & Art

Geography

Science

Music

Mathematics

PSHE and Citizenship

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WEEK 1 (PAGES 12–90): LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS SUPER

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES

Reading: Comprehension

- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.
- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings.

Reading: Creative writing

- Write a speech for Pizazz to use in her school council election.

Drama, Speaking and Listening

- Act out the telephone conversation between Susie and Pizazz.

Design Technology & Art

- Design a new superhero cape for Pizazz and use a range of materials to make it.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Before reading, flick through the book and glance at some of the pages / illustrations / comic strips. Why do you think the text is broken up with illustrations and comic strips? How could this benefit the reader or make the story more exciting?
2. Pizazz mentions her name a lot and says she finds it 'embarrassing' (page 12) and that she 'hates it' (page 16). Why do you think she dislikes having such a unique name? What would your superhero name be?
3. The term, 'reclusive millionaire', is used on page 18. What do you think the word 'reclusive' means? Try using it in a sentence.
4. When Pizazz is talking about her super power, she calls it 'embarrassing'. What do you predict her power could be? (page 23)
5. Auntie Sarah isn't a superhero in the usual sense. How can she be super if she isn't a hero?
6. On page 47, the word 'scarper' is used. What do you think it means? Can you think of three other words you could use instead?
7. Do you think Tom and Susie are good friends to Pizazz? Give three reasons to support your answer.
8. What does Pizazz mean on page 52 when she says 'you spend a lot of time wishing you were normal'?
9. Do you think it was fair that Pizazz was made to go to school? Come up with two reasons for and two against (page 62).
10. Based on what we know about Pizazz so far, do you think she would make a good school councillor? What could she say to persuade people to vote for her?

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Pizazz wants to be a school councillor. To earn the role, she needs to write a speech convincing her classmates to vote for her. Talk with a partner about what you think would make Pizazz a good candidate for the role and then write a speech for her.

Pizazz finds it hard moving to a new school, and she misses her friends, Tom and Susie. In the story, she speaks to Susie on the phone about her old school and everything that is going on. Get into pairs and act out the conversation. Try to imagine what they might have said to each other.

All the superheroes in the book have different outfits, but Pizazz isn't happy with her cape. Use your art skills to design a new cape for Pizazz that she would be proud to wear. Once you have designed the cape, why not use materials from school or home to make a real life, wearable superhero cape.

WEEK 2 (PAGES 91–149): BECOMING AN ECO-WARRIOR

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES

Reading: Comprehension

- Look at the different ways the text is presented, and discuss what this makes you do as a reader, and why the author has chosen to do it.

Science

- Investigate how we can protect the planet and look after our environment.

Mathematics

- Collect data using a tally chart about environmentally friendly activities such as recycling and walking to school. Present the data in a bar chart to show how many people are supporting the planet.

Geography

- Survey your local area and go on a visit to a local park. Create a plan of the park and discuss how it could be improved.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. On page 95, the author chooses to use lots of extra letters in the word 'so'. Why do you think they did this? What effect does it have on you as a reader?
2. What word on page 111 tells us that Aunty Blaze is brave? What other words could you use to describe her bravery?
3. Why do you think Aunty Blaze was told her plan was unacceptable for the normal world?
4. How do you know that Pizazz is getting fed up with her mum on page 117?
5. Pizazz calls someone 'The Big Cheese'. What do you think it means if you call someone this?
6. Ivy gave a speech to present her ideas about the park. Give three reasons why the park should stay. Can you turn them into a short speech?
7. Do you think Mrs Harris is trying to tell the girls off? What evidence can you find to support your answer? (page 129)
8. How do you think Pizazz felt about being made to apologise? Come up with three different words that could describe her feelings. (page 139)
9. What do you think the word 'debacle' could mean? (page 145)
10. Do you think it's possible for a hero and villain to be friends? Why might it be difficult?

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

On pages 98–99, Pizazz collects ideas to help save the planet and protect the environment. Come up with a list of different activities that you think people should do to help protect the environment. Some possible ideas could be: walk to school, recycle, reduce waste, etc.

Once you have decided on five or six planet-saving ideas, create a tally chart and ask people in your class / school which ones they do at the moment. When you have your final results, create a bar chart to show which activities are the most / least popular.

Survey your local area by going on a walk with your class. Note down important features or areas of interest. If you can, visit your local park or play area and create a plan of it on paper. Discuss in a group or as a class how you think the park could be improved and whether it is being looked after appropriately or not.

WEEK 3 (PAGES 150–203): THE PARK PROTESTS

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES

Reading: Comprehension

- Predict how the story will end.
- Infer how each character will feel about the park protest.

Reading: Writing to Entertain and Inform

- Create a persuasive poster that will raise awareness about the park protest.

Music

- Create your own protest chant or song to support the protection of the park.

PSHE and Citizenship

- Create steps for people to follow when they are feeling anxious or nervous.

Creative Writing / Design Technology & Art

- Create your own Pizazz-style comic strip

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were Pizazz, what would you say to Serena about her behaviour? (page 154). What do you think of Serena?
2. How would you describe Gramps' personality? (page 162)
3. On page 163, what does Gramps mean when he says he would have to be 'everyday super, not super super'?
4. As well as Mr Simpson, who else do you think will be affected if the park shuts? (page 168)
5. On page 172, Pizazz has bubbles in her tummy. What does this tell us about how she is feeling? What advice would you give her to help at this moment?
6. Which protest sign on page 175 is the most effective? Explain why you chose that particular sign.
7. What is the purpose of a petition? (page 178)
8. It says the bulldozer doesn't go fast enough to zoom. What word could you use instead of 'zoom' that would be more suitable? (page 186)
9. Ivy manages to be a hero, despite not having powers. What does it actually mean to be a hero? (page 188)
10. Why is it so important that Pizazz's glitter is biodegradable? (page 200)

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Create a poster that could be displayed in school or public locations to raise awareness about the park protests. It will need to persuade people to support the cause, so you need to make it stand out! Using catchy slogans, alliteration and rhetorical questions will help to make it more convincing.

When people protest, they often repeat chants or sing songs to support their cause. Create a short chant or song that you could practice and perform to the class.

Discuss possible strategies people could use to help them when they are feeling anxious or nervous about a situation. Turn these into a list of suggestions or strategies that people can follow to support them in these difficult situations.

Pizazz is the first in a series of comic book style stories from Sophy Henn. Using Pizazz as the main character, create your own comic book strip, remembering to use lots of speech bubbles, thought bubbles and captions.