

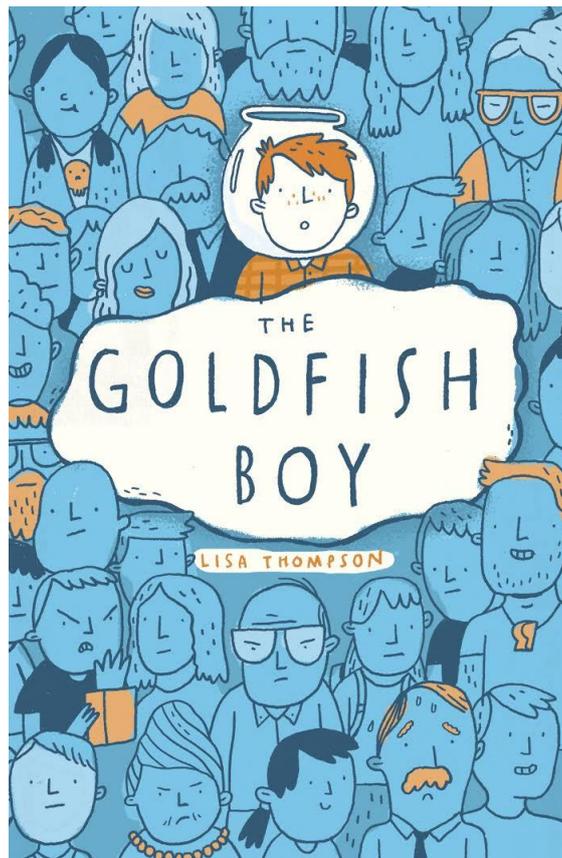
King Charles I School

Your summer reading challenge!

We have given you the book 'The Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson. This book is yours to keep and read over summer!

Here are some summer reading activities you could complete whilst reading the book.

1. Take a picture of yourself reading the book in the most unusual place!
2. Write a review of the book - who would you recommend it to?
3. Rewrite the ending to the book – how would you have written the ending?
4. Draw a timeline of events to show what happens in the book.
5. Choose a character that is your favourite and explain why.



Name:

Competition:

Design your own missing persons `Investigation Board` using the novel as inspiration.

If a child went missing, which of these do you think you could find:

- Clues could be left behind from their room;
- Clues left behind on a phone or computer if they have one;
- Clues that could be found by talking to neighbours or family;
- Any other clues you think could be found.

Entries can use images and words/annotations of clues. The more imaginative, the better!

Winners will be announced when all entries are given in.

Good luck!

Reading Schedule: Read for at least 30 minutes per day

Week	Pages to read
1	1-65 (Chapter 1-6)
2	66-119 (Chapter 7-10)
3	120-180 (Chapter 11-15)
4	181-244 (Chapter 16-19)
5	245-305 (Chapter 20 -26)
6	305-359 (Chapter 27-34)
7	360-395 (Chapter 35-38)

Context: Author: Lisa Thompson

Lisa Thompson worked as a radio broadcast assistant first at the BBC and then for an independent production company making plays and comedy programmes. She grew up in Essex and now lives in Suffolk with her family.

5 Her debut¹ novel, *The Goldfish Boy*, was bought as part of a two-book deal with Scholastic (UK). It was published in the UK in January 2017, where it was a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month and went on to become a bestseller. The US version was published by Scholastic Inc in February 2017 and was given a starred review by Kirkus Reviews. *The Goldfish Boy* has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal, The Branford Boase Award, and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

Key information about obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD):

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- Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) is a common mental health condition in which a person has obsessive² thoughts and compulsive behaviours.
 - It affects men, women, and children, and can develop at any age.

Symptoms of OCD

- If you have OCD, you will usually experience frequent³ obsessive thoughts and compulsive behaviours.
 - 15 ▪ An obsession is an unwanted and unpleasant thought, image or urge that repeatedly⁴ enters your mind, causing feelings of anxiety⁵, disgust or unease.
 - A compulsion is a repetitive behaviour or mental act that you feel you need to carry out to try to temporarily relieve the unpleasant feelings brought on by the obsessive thought.
- 20 For example, someone with an obsessive fear of their house being burgled may feel they need to check all the windows and doors are locked several times before they can leave the house.

Causes of OCD

It is not clear exactly what causes OCD. A few different factors⁶ may play a role in the condition.

25 These include:

- family history – you are more likely to develop OCD if a family member has it, possibly because of your genes
- differences in the brain – some people with OCD have areas of unusually high activity in their brain or low levels of a chemical called `serotonin`

¹ Debut: First

² Obsessive: Cannot control thinking/doing something.

³ Frequent: Happens quite a lot.

⁴ Repeatedly: Keeps coming/happening.

⁵ Anxiety: Worry.

⁶ Factors: Ideas or elements.

- life events – OCD may be more common in people who have experienced bullying, abuse, or neglect, and it sometimes starts after an important life event, such as childbirth or a bereavement⁷
- personality – neat, meticulous⁸, methodical⁹ people with high personal standards may be more likely to develop OCD.

Plot Summary

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson is a middle grade-mystery novel whose protagonist⁴ Matthew Corbin suffers from severe obsessive-compulsive disorder. Spending his days cataloguing the behaviours of his neighbours, Matthew has not left home in weeks. This happens to come in handy when a toddler who is staying at the house next door goes missing, and Matthew was the last person to see him alive. As the mystery unfolds, Matthew is torn between wanting to stay at home where he has control and isn't judged for his illness and knowing that he is one of the few witnesses that can help find the little boy.

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Matthew Corbin in his bedroom. His obsessive-compulsive disorder causes germ phobia and excessive cleaning – it has gotten so bad that he has not been able to go to school, or even leave his room in weeks. Instead of going to school, Matthew does his work at home and sees a therapist. During his downtime, he spends his days watching his neighbours come and go in the cul-de-sac, called the Close, where he lives. Matthew's anxiety is so high that when he discovers one of his neighbours is having a baby, he becomes anxious about the germs the child will bring near his home, which might seep under his door.

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One day, Matthew is watching out his window and notices the arrival of his next-door-neighbour Mr. Charles's two grandchildren, who have come to stay with him. Shortly after the arrival of the children, the younger boy, Teddy, who is only a toddler, disappears. Matthew, who was the last person to see Teddy alive, immediately becomes a primary witness in the search for Teddy. He is convinced that something has changed in his neighbourhood and that he can get to the bottom of it if he only makes careful note of the clues.

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Matthew enlists⁵ the help of two friends from the Close, Melody and Jake, to help him find Teddy and to keep an eye on the neighbours. Quite quickly, Matthew realizes that the neighbours have secret lives that he never noticed before. He learns about Old Nina's son, who disappeared when the family was on vacation, and that Old Nina leaves a light on for him every night in case he comes home. He also becomes much closer to eager Melody, whose friendship he is at first hesitant to accept, and who collects graveyard memorials written on paper before they are thrown away. Matthew also becomes acquainted⁶ with

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⁷ Bereavement: Losing someone / death of someone

⁸ Meticulous: Very neat.

⁹ Methodical: Cleary method and thinking.

⁴ Protagonist: the main character in the text who is normally the `good` character.

⁵ Enlist: ask to help or bring in to help with something.

⁶ Acquainted: to get to know or become familiar with.

30 the missing boy Teddy's sister, a young girl who is obsessed with her doll and seems not to care about the people in her life.

Though confined¹ within his bedroom and the study in his house, Matthew learns a lot about friendship, his community, and himself as he investigates Teddy's disappearance. He continues to navigate² the sometimes awkward and strained relationship with his father, who does not understand mental illness the way Matthew or his friends do. Matthew also
35 frequently visits his therapist, an insightful specialist who helps him learn more not only about the mystery of Teddy's disappearance, but also about some of the possible reasons behind his sudden bout of compulsive cleaning.

The novel ends with a victory for Matthew, who solves the mystery, helping to reunite Teddy with his family. He also overcomes, in small bounds, his germ-phobia³, even
40 managing to leave his bedroom to join a party in the neighbourhood, where he interacts with the people he has been watching for so long. Though a mystery at heart – the villains in this story will surprise even the most astute⁴ reader – the story is truly about Matthew's ability to slowly, and with help, overcome not only his illness but also learn how to love and be loved by others despite his difference.

¹ Confined: trapped or stuck somewhere.

² Navigate: find his way around or figure something out.

³ Germ-phobia: to be scared of germs.

⁴ Astute: very good and knowledgeable.

Key characters:

Matthew Corbin - Matthew is the narrator¹ of the book and the 'Goldfish Boy'. He is a funny, kind, likeable twelve-year-old, but he also has an overwhelming fear of germs which is making his life very difficult. Because of his anxieties, he spends most of his time indoors watching the neighbours in the cul-de-sac from the safety of his window.

5 **Melody Bird** - Melody lives opposite Matthew with her mum, Claudia. She keeps her head down at school and Matthew has never really paid much attention to her, that is until he notices her strange interest in the local graveyard . . . She is a kind; thoughtful girl and she decides that her and Matthew should be friends and solve the mystery of what has happened to Teddy together.

10 **Jake Bishop** - Jake and Matthew were best friends throughout primary school but drifted apart since starting high school. Jake suffers with chronic² eczema³ and has been the victim of bullying in the past. His way of coping was to become the bully. He teases his old friend Matthew and shouts things up at his window but his favourite thing to do is to torment⁴ Melody Bird while he rides his bike around the close. When he discovers that Matthew and
15 Melody have teamed up to try and solve the mystery of what has happened to Teddy, he tries to get included on the team.

Casey and Teddy Dawson - Six-year-old Casey and toddler Teddy are staying next door to Matthew with their Grandfather, Mr Charles, while their mum works abroad. Casey prefers her sinister⁵, china doll over her little brother and would have probably been a lot happier
20 being an only child. She spots Matthew watching from the window one day and torments him that he looks like a goldfish in a tank. When Teddy is on his own picking petals in the front garden one day, he gets very excited as he spots 'the goldfish boy' in the window all by himself. Matthew ducks away, not realising that he would be the last person to see the young boy before he goes missing.

25 **Old Nina** - Old Nina lives alone in The Rectory which backs onto the graveyard. A shy, reclusive⁶ character she goes out of her way to avoid her neighbours, only emerging now and then to water her flowerpots. Matthew is suspicious of her behaviour and is puzzled as to why she keeps a lamp lit in her window day and night.

¹ Narrator: the character who tells the story.

² Chronic: extremely poor / bad.

³ Eczema: a skin condition which causes dry, red, itchy patches.

⁴ Torment: tease and be unkind towards.

⁵ Sinister: evil or extremely bad.

⁶ Reclusive: someone who likes to be alone and stays away from other people.

Week 1:

Chapter 1 The Arrival Summary:

- We are introduced to Matthew, a young boy who lives with his family in a quiet cul-de-sac in a town outside of London.
- Matthew watches his neighbours from the spare room window at the front of his house and makes detailed notes about the daily lives of: Mr. Charles; Penny and Gordon Sullivan; Melody Bird, her dog Frankie and her mum Claudia; Mr. Jenkins and his wife Hannah; Jake Bishop; and Old Nina. Old Nina is the vicar's widow and lives in 'The Rectory', an old red brick building between number 3 and number 5 on the road.
- The spare room Matthew watches from used to be a nursery for his baby brother, who is no longer alive.
- Matthew notices an unusual black car parked outside Mr. Charles' house. In it are Mr. Charles' daughter and her two children, a six or seven-year-old girl called Casey and her brother Teddy, who is a young toddler.

Chapter 1: Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Cul-de-sac	A cul-de-sac is a street with only one in or out.	There were seven houses in our little cul-de-sac.
Draughts	Cool air in a room or other confined space.	It had been put there to stop the draughts.
Pointlessly	Lacking meaning; senseless.	Which dangled pointlessly over a tower.
Sterilizer	To destroy germs in or on, usually by bringing to a high temperature with steam, dry heat, or boiling liquid	A sterilizer, a monitor, tiny vests.
Glinting	Give out or reflect small flashes of light.	The silver blades glinting in the sunlight.
Lunged	To make a sudden forward thrust	He lunged along their pathway.
Grotesque	Repulsively ugly or distorted.	He made a grotesque noise.
Porcelain	Pottery with a white, fine-grained body	Carrying a porcelain doll.
Antique	An item perceived as having value because of its look or historical meaning.	Something from an antique shop.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 1

Using the vocabulary from the table above, answer the following questions:

1. On page 1, what did Mr Charles have on the top of his head?
2. On page 1, how is the bald patch described?
3. On page 1, what did Matthew (the narrator) notice?
4. On page 2, what number house did Jake Bishop live at?
5. On page 2, how many houses are there in the cul-de-sac?
6. On page 3, who did Matthew rarely see?
7. On page 3, where did Matthew like to watch the neighbours from?
8. On page 6, who`s turn was it to walk the dog?
9. On page 10, how does Matthew describe the new woman?
10. On page 11, what was Teddy wrapped in?

Chapter 2 My Secret Box Summary:

- We learn that Matthew has an issue with germs.
- He refuses to go in the conservatory because the family cat, Nigel, vomited on the floor. He feels the whole room is full of disease as he believes that any dirt or germs will lead to illness and death. As a result, Matthew cleans all the time.
- He does not go to school anymore because he felt that he had to continually wash his hands all the time to feel clean.
- One day, Matthew's mum caught him using bleach to clean the taps in the bathroom; the bleach had burned Matthew's hands. Matthew asks his mum for a box of Latex gloves so that he can clean without hurting himself.
- He keeps the box under his bed. Matthew says he must keep it a secret from his dad as he would not understand and be very upset.

Chapter 2 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Smuggled	To move (goods) illegally – normally into or out of a country.	Smuggled upstairs and hidden.
Clinical	Very efficient and without feeling; no `nice` features.	My box was clinical.
Oblong	Having the shape of an oblong – rectangular.	An oblong back gardens.
Sacrificed	Give up (something valued) for the sake of other considerations.	Being sacrificed to the Gods of pool.
Smother	To cover completely/cover with a lot of something.	To smother it in disinfectant.
Flaking	To come or fall away from a surface in flake.	The paint was flaking.
Emulsion	A type of paint used for walls.	Umpteen coats of emulsion.
Infested	(Of insects or animals) be present (in a place or site) in large numbers.	It felt infested with germs.
Scrawling	To write (something) in a hurried, careless way.	I had been scrawling graffiti everywhere.
Weeping	Shedding tears or an injury that is oozing liquid.	It looks like it is weeping.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 2

Using the vocabulary from the table above, answer the following questions:

1. Page 14: How is Matthew`s box described?
2. Page 14: How are Matthew`s mother and father shown to be different?
3. Page 15: Why does Matthew hide when his dad sees him?
4. Page 16: Why does Matthew not want to play pool?
5. Page 16: What is Matthew afraid will get into his room?
6. Page 17: What does Matthew talk to in his room?
7. Page 19: What does his friend Tom notice?
8. Page 19: What shocks Matthew`s mother?
9. Page 20: What is wrong with Matthew`s hands?
10. Page 21: What is the secret agreement between Matthew and his mother

Chapter 3 The Pond Summary:

- While Matthew is cleaning his room, he notices Teddy in Mr. Charles' garden playing with a dead baby bird.
- Teddy throws the dead baby bird into the pond. Casey appears and begins to play with her doll in the shade. Matthew becomes very panicked; he cannot stop thinking about the dead bird and he thinks that the germs are now making their way into his bedroom.
- Matthew then hears a scream and sees Casey dragging Teddy across the grass as he has tried to play with her doll. Teddy grabs Casey's doll and throws it into the pond. Casey then pushes her brother in the pond and her brother begins to struggle.
- Matthew bangs on the window for Casey to get help from her grandad. He runs as if to go and help but cannot bring himself to leave the house, instead he runs to the spare room and manages to get Mr. Charles' attention from the window. When Casey sees her grandad, she pulls Teddy out of the water.
- Penny and Gordon offer their help. Matthew finds it hard to sleep believing that Casey is tapping on his window, tormenting him.

Chapter 4 What Do We Do About Matthew? Summary:

- Matthew's mum tells him she has made an appointment for him at the Doctor's as Matthew has been off school for so long that the school and council are threatening his parents.
- Matthew does not want to go. His mum tries to come into Matthew's bedroom – this makes him panic. He agrees to go to the doctors' if she moves, but secretly knows he will not go through with it.
- As soon as she leaves Matthew frantically cleans the carpet where she stepped. Mr. Charles rings the doorbell. Matthew answers.
- Mr. Charles offers Matthew the chance to earn some money babysitting Casey and Teddy. Matthew gets anxious and refuses. Mr. Charles seems disappointed. Matthew looks out of the spare room window and sees Mr. Charles throw a bowl full of water over Nigel the cat and attempts to kick him. Mr. Charles turns and glares at Matthew.

Chapter 3 + 4 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Bulging	A rounded part or a section that stands out.	With bulging, just hatched eyes.
Peering	To look searchingly.	Peering under the blanket.
Escalate	To increase in intensity.	Can quickly escalate to a whole infection.
Erupted	To break out, usually in a sudden manner.	Erupted from her ears.
Retreated	To take back or move back.	Then her foot retreated.
Vicious	Immoral, evil	Vicious black beetle.
Frantically	Desperate or wild with excitement.	Frantically kicking the air.
Bracing	Make stronger, prepare for something.	Bracing against the wind.
Rapidly	Quickly.	Blinking rapidly.
Petrified	Scared, extremely worried.	He was utterly petrified.
Feebly	Weak, not strong.	The cat meowed feebly.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 3 + Chapter 4

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 22, how many pairs of gloves are left?
2. On page 24, what did they scratch their face with?
3. On page 29, who pulled Teddy out of the pond?
4. On page 30, what had Teddy poked the bird with?
5. On page 31, what woke Matthew up from his sleep?
6. On page 32, how are the grandchildren of Mr Charles described?
7. On page 35, what is the name of the Dr?
8. On page 37, what do their `promise` on?
9. On page 38, who is Matthew watching?
10. On page 43, what did Mr Charles tuck under his arm?

Chapter 5 Dr Kerr Summary:

- Matthew is in the car with his mum headed to the Doctor's. Matthew is feeling upset with his mum. To make him come to the Doctor's she had sat in the car while Matthew was paralysed on the doorstep dressed in a long-sleeved shirt, jeans, socks, wellington boots and latex gloves to avoid any health risks even though it was hot outside.
- Matthew feels embarrassed in front of the neighbours. In the car, Matthew feels uncomfortable and keeps having the urge to wash his hands. In the waiting room, Matthew still feels uncomfortable.
- Melody Bird is also in the waiting room and comes over to try and talk to Matthew. Matthew passes out in the waiting room. When he wakes up, Matthew and his mum visit Dr Kerr who suggests Matthew goes to therapy. Back at home, Matthew struggles to sleep again believing that Casey is tapping on his window, tormenting him.

Chapter 6 The Goldfish Boy Summary:

- Matthew's family are planning on attending his Auntie Jean's big picnic. Matthew used to look forward to this every year but this year he refuses to attend. Matthew's dad tries to encourage him, but everything his dad does (such as coming into his room, opening his window, and flicking through his things) makes Matthew more and more uncomfortable.
- Matthew's dad reveals that his first therapy session is the coming Tuesday. When his parents have left for the picnic, Matthew disinfects the letter and throws it down the stairs.
- Matthew receives a message from Melody Bird, and they exchange messages. Matthew sees Mr. Charles grab Casey roughly. Casey stops and glares at Matthew, calling him 'goldfish boy in his tank.'

Chapter 5 + 6 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Mirage	Something that is not real – without proof or reality.	A mirage was something you saw in a desert.
Scorching	Burning, very hot.	The scorching sands.
Ventured	To take the risk, brave the dangers.	Ventured too far.
Unnatural	Against what is expected.	Unnatural interest in the cemetery.
Perspiration	Sweat.	Soak up a bit of perspiration.
Verbal	Spoken.	Wave of verbal vomit.
Furrowed	To make wrinkles in the face.	Her brow furrowed.
Rummaging	To search thoroughly.	Rummaging in her bag.
Appetite	A desire for food or drink.	Work up an appetite.
Misshapen	Badly shaped, deformed.	The misshapen wallpaper.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 5 + Chapter 6

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 44, what did he think a mirage was?
2. On page 46, where did Mr Jenkins come back from?
3. On page 51, how was the waiting room described?
4. On page 55, how many drawing pins were on the floor
5. On page 59, what room was Melody called to?
6. On page 65, when did Dad go and see Matthew?
7. On page 69, what was Matthew`s response when asked about how many runs, he got in rounders?
8. On page 73, why did Mum`s jaw drop?
9. On page 76, what was Mr Charles attempting to do?
10. On page 80, what did Teddy gaze towards?

Week 2

Chapter 7 Jake and Melody Summary:

- Matthew is making observation notes from the spare room window, focusing on Jake and his brother Leo.
- We learn that Matthew has a scar just above his right eyebrow and that Matthew's baby brother, Callum, would have been five years old.
- Outside, Jake is purposefully blocking on his bike as Melody tries to cross the road. Melody rings Matthew's doorbell and Jake continually shouts at her. When Matthew does not answer, Melody tries to pass Jake. He refuses to let her pass.
- Matthew rushes downstairs opens the door and calls to Melody. Old Nina appears and scares away Jake. Melody and Matthew discuss who or what Old Nina might be.

Chapter 8 Summary:

- Matthew wakes at 12:45pm. Matthew goes to take notes about the neighbourhood from the spare room window.
- Teddy is playing with some rose petals from the flowerbeds in Mr. Charles' front garden. Teddy cuts himself on a rose and dabs at the cut with his blanket. Mr. Jenkins leaves his house to go on a run. Matthew notes that the time is now 12:55pm. We learn that from some time after 12:55pm, Teddy went missing.

Chapter 7 + 8 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Manga	Comics or graphic novels.	Manga cartoon.
Rectory	Resident of a priest.	The window of the rectory.
Translucent	Allowing light through.	My skin translucent
Flinched	Make a quick or nervous movement.	Melody flinched.
Motionless	No movement	It was motionless.
Disorientated	To lose sense of direction, feel confused.	I felt disorientated
Resemble	To be similar.	It resembled a lion`s face.
Shrivelled	Wrinkled or shrunken.	Dark and shrivelled.
Scowl	To be angry or have a bad-tempered expression.	Crumpled into a scowl.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 7 + Chapter 8

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 81, where was Nina`s lamp?
2. On page 82, who is Leo?
3. On page 83, how old would Callum have been?
4. On page 86, what does Matthew open the door with?
5. On page 89, what was never turned off?
6. On page 91, was woke Matthew
7. On page 92, what did the wallpaper resemble?
8. On page 92, what did Matthew take with him?
9. On page 93, what is Teddy holding in his hand?
10. On page 94, what shined against his tanned skin?

Chapter 9 Teddy is Missing Summary:

- At 2:37pm, Mr. Charles is calling for Teddy. At 3.05pm a police car arrives. The police officers can see no sign of Teddy.
More and more police vehicles arrive, searching for Teddy, including a helicopter. The police ring Matthew's doorbell. He is terrified as his parents are not home yet and can only bring himself to open the door a few centimetres.
- The police ask Matthew questions about Teddy. The police insist on coming through the house to check the garden. When they have finished, the police officers, PC Campen, sits down to ask Matthew more questions. Matthew tells PC Campen what he saw. The police officer wants to see the spare room that Matthew saw Teddy from and notices Matthew's notebook.
- Once PC Campen leaves, Matthew receives an email from Melody, and they exchange messages about Teddy's disappearance while the police question the neighbours outside.
- Matthew's mum arrives home and promptly joins a search party. Men arrive and drain Mr. Charles' pond, much to his annoyance. At 6pm, sniffer dogs arrive at the close. Jake and Matthew exchange emails with Jake accusing Old Nina of kidnapping Teddy.

Chapter 10 Jake's Story Summary:

- We learn that Matthew and Jake used to be best friends; their mums had been pregnant at the same time.
- However, while Matthew was a healthy and happy baby, Jake had lots of allergies and his dad left the family. As a result of his allergies, Jake was often bullied at school and the other children refused to sit next to him.
- Instead of ignoring the other children, Matthew also refused to sit next to Jake, even when he asked him to.
- When they reached secondary school, Jake surrounded himself with horrible friends from the older years and became the school rebel and bully. Matthew makes a list of his neighbours' whereabouts at the time of Teddy's disappearance. He decides he is going to figure out who took Teddy.

Chapter 9 + 10 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Reverberated	(Of a loud noise) be repeated several times as an echo.	It reverberated off the windows.
Hovering	Remain in one place in the air.	Hovering over the gardens.
Skulking	Keep out of sight, typically with a sinister motive.	Nigel skulking around.
Trivial	Of little value or importance.	Something so trivial.
Thrived	(Of a child, animal, or plant) grow or develop well.	I thrived and outgrew Jake.
Beckoning	Summon (someone)	Beckoning me over.
Contagious	(Of a disease) spread from one person to another	Anything contagious about him.
Bustled	Move in an energetic and busy manner.	The police bustled around.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 9 + Chapter 10

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 96, what was Teddy doing whilst Mr Charles napped?
2. On page 97, what was different about the voice of Mr Charles?
3. On page 99, what was left open?
4. On page 101, what had changed in the front garden?
5. On page 109, what was the time of Matthew`s appointment?
6. On page 119, who used to be best friends?
7. On page 121, what was Jake allergic to?
8. On page 123, what did Jake become at school?
9. On page 124, who is unaccounted for?
10. On page 125, what is Matthew going to try and figure out?

Week 3:

Chapter 11 The Search Party Summary:

- With all the distraction from Teddy's disappearance, Matthew has not washed his hands in hours and the thought makes him feel sick. He washes his hands until they are raw and painful. Matthew begins making notes about Teddy's disappearance.
- There are search parties and police still out on the street at about 7pm. Matthew's mum returns and says that they found absolutely nothing. Matthew's mum wants a hug from Matthew, but Matthew cannot bring himself to do it. At 7:30 pm, a news reporter arrives outside Mr. Charles' house.
- Once the news reporter leaves, the police tape off the end of the road. More search parties arrive back.
- Melody comes to the door and Matthew's mum send her upstairs to Matthew's bedroom. Matthew must tell Melody that his little brother died. We learn that all he wants to say is that it was all his fault. Melody reads the notes in Matthew's notebook and gets upset when she sees that Matthew has written her down as a potential suspect.

Chapter 12 TV Debut Summary:

- Matthew and his family watch the evening news and see that Matthew has made it onto the news, pictured in the spare bedroom window while the news reporter gives details about Teddy's disappearance.
- After going downstairs, Matthew must clean himself vigorously again.
- We learn that Mr. Jenkins was Matthew's PE teacher at school who was incredibly cruel to Matthew when he would not take part in an athletics lesson. Matthew receives an email from Melody, and she insists that he will need her help to find Teddy. They exchange messages, discussing suspects.

Chapter 11 + 12 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Wide-brimmed	(Of a hat) having a wide (large) brim.	Wide-brimmed hat.
Envelop	Wrap up, cover, or surround completely.	She`d envelop me.
Hurtled	Move or cause to move at high speed	Hurtled around and around.
Blissful	Extremely happy; full of joy	A few blissful moments.
Glistened	Shine with a sparkling light	Pale, blue eyes glistened.
Ornithology	A branch of zoology that concerns the study of birds	Bird watching. Ornithology?
Glanced	Take a brief or hurried look.	Glanced at my window.
Soaring	To rise or fly upwards	Soaring temperatures.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 11 + Chapter 12

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 126, what did Matthew think he was in danger of becoming?
2. On page 131, how did they march?
3. On page 133, what was Mr Jenkins eating?
4. On page 136, what does Melody like to do a lot?
5. On page 137, what did Melody do?
6. On page 141, what did Mum ask Matthew to do?
7. On page 142, what is the subject of the emails?
8. On page 144, how is Matthew typing?
9. On page 147, what is Melody holding?
10. On page 148, how does Melody sign off the email?

Chapter 13 The Sleepover Summary:

- Matthew's doorbell rings at 11:13pm. It is Mr. Charles who is feeling unwell and needs to go to the hospital. He asks if Casey can stay with Matthew's family for the night. Matthew is uncomfortable with Casey in the house.
- He wants her to sleep downstairs and not in the spare room. As soon as Matthew's parents leave the two children alone, Casey begins to mock Matthew. She pretends to be a fish and asks: "Is that your tank, Goldfish Boy?" In anger, Matthew grabs her doll from her arms and accuses Casey of hurting or hiding Teddy.
- Matthew rips the head off the doll and slams the door to his bedroom shut. Matthew awakes at 2:18am and feels the need to clean himself after the incident with the doll. On his way to the bathroom, Casey says in her sleep that the old lady is the one who took Teddy. Matthew looks out of the window and notices that the lamp that usually burns all day and night in Old Nina's house has been switched off.

Chapter 14 Dr Rhodes Summary:

- Matthew has a therapy appointment with Dr Rhodes. While he is at his appointment, Matthew has told Melody to find out as much as she can about Old Nina.
- At Dr Rhodes' office, Matthew makes mental notes about the waiting room. Dr Rhodes asks Matthew and his parent questions in her office. Matthew's parents argue about his mum providing him with latex gloves. Dr Rhodes says that she believes Matthew has OCD. Matthew's parents continue to argue. Matthew's dad begins to cry.
- Dr Rhodes asks Matthew's mum and dad to leave so that she and Matthew can have a proper chat and they can calm down. Dr Rhodes asks Matthew questions and he feels uncomfortable. We learn that Matthew's hand washing obsession started a few years ago. When Dr Rhodes asks why it has gotten worse recently, we see Matthew's thought flit to Hannah Jenkins and her pregnant stomach.
- Matthew completes a form and Dr Rhodes concludes that he does have OCD and explains what that means. At Dr Rhodes' office, Matthew washes himself again with scalding water. The family returns to Chestnut Close and learns that there has been no progress with the investigation. Outside Melissa Dawson, Casey and Teddy's mum who had returned from America, is told something, and collapses to the floor. In his room, Matthew covers himself in anti-bacterial spray.

Chapter 15 Melody Bird Summary:

- Melody and Matthew exchange emails about Old Nina. Melody has found out that she has a cellar. Matthew asks Melody to get him some latex gloves.
- Matthew watches Jake outside the Old Rectory. Old Nina watches Jake from the Old Rectory too. Matthew recalls some of his previous friendship with Melody and describes how hard he found school.
- He watches Melody leave her house and get cornered by Jake. Later, a policewoman comes to ask Matthew more questions. Matthew receives an email from Jake telling him to stay away from Melody. Outside, Claudia runs towards the police. She exclaims that her dog has found Teddy's blue blanket in her garden.

Chapter 13 – 15 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Gasp	A short quick breath of air	Woke with a gasp.
Bedraggled	Untidy	The bedraggled doll
Suffocate	To die or cause to die from lack of air or inability to breathe.	She was going to suffocate her.
Cocooned	Envelop in a protective or comforting way.	Cocooned in a protective layer.
Enveloped	To wrap up, cover, or surround completely.	Enveloped in the sofa.
Globules	A small round particle of a substance; a drop	Globules of saliva.
Neutralized	To make (something) ineffective by applying an opposite force or effect.	Neutralized his power.
Filthy	Dirty	Filthy and ripped.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 13 - Chapter 15

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 150, what woke Matthew?
2. On page 154, who calls Matthew a Goldfish Boy?
3. On page 158, where was the car?
4. On page 163, what did Dad not know?
5. On page 166, how did Dad`s hand make Matthew feel?
6. On page 180, how does Matthew describe his heart?
7. On page 186, what is described as beautiful?
8. On page 188, what did Matthew copy?
9. On page 192, what did Matthew get from the bathroom?
10. On page 193, what was Claudia dragging behind her?

Week 4:

Chapter 16 The Graveyard Summary:

- Matthew and Melody meet at the graveyard so he can collect the latex gloves from her. Matthew feels panicky at the thought of leaving the house but knows he must. In the graveyard, Matthew feels calmer.
- He finally admits to Melody that he has a problem with germs and numbers. They laugh and joke, but then, he spots the tip of Callum's memorial angel's wing and begins to feel that coming to the graveyard was a bad idea.
- Melody manages to convince Matthew to stay for a few minutes so she can show him something. She shows Matthew a beautiful carved mermaid on one of the abandoned gravestones. Melody says that she knows that Matthew watches her from the window. Matthew also discovers that Melody 'collects' memorial cards from the graves.
- Matthew grows angry knowing that Melody may have picked up the card he left on Callum's grave, apologising. As Matthew runs home, he passes Old Nina trying to get something made of white fabric out of her tree.

Chapter 17 The Rectory Summary:

- Jake is waiting for Matthew at the end of the alleyway. He accuses Matthew of knowing something about Teddy's disappearance but not telling anyone. Jake insists that is Matthew wants a partner to investigate with, it should be him and not Melody. When he gets home, Matthew feels that he is crawling with germs and is desperate to wash himself. Matthew receives messages from both Melody and Jake.
- In his message, Jake reminds Matthew of Halloween three years ago when they had been trick or treating and knocked on Old Nina's door, despite their mums telling them not to.
- Old Nina had invited them in. They see pictures of a boy who they assume is Old Nina's son. Jake turned and ran before Old Nina could offer him a little navy coat, leaving Matthew with Old Nina. Old Nina offered Matthew freshly baked cake.
- Matthew and his family watch a press conference on TV about Teddy's disappearance. Matthew feels the urge to wash his hands, but it does not make him feel better. He ends up washes his hands 27 times.

Chapter 18 Traces of Blood Summary:

- Matthew's mum tells him that traces of Teddy's blood were found in the blanket that Claudia found. Matthew makes notes about Mr. Charles mowing his lawn. Mr. Charles catches Matthew's eye, goes inside, collects two glasses of lemonade and beckons for Matthew to join him.
- When Matthew shakes his head to decline, Mr. Charles' face twists into a scary, sinister scowl. Matthew receives an email from his best friend Tom, inviting him to a birthday barbecue. Matthew replies, declining the offer.
- Suddenly, Matthew remembers that Teddy cut himself on the roses and that is why there was blood on the blanket. Matthew shouts out the window to PC Campen. PC Campen comes to the front door accompanied by a plain clothes detective to ask Matthew some more questions. Matthew tells the police about the time Casey pushed Teddy in the pond. Matthew tells the police that it is a little odd that Mr. Charles has not told them about that himself and that he was mowing the lawn quite happily considering everything that is going on.

Chapter 19 Summary:

- Matthew cleans his room and talks to Wallpaper Lion about Melody thinking he is lonely. He worries she may have worked out that he is to blame for Callum.
- Matthew watches outside as Penny and Mr Charles talk. Mr Charles takes a phone call and Penny comforts him as he tearfully explains it was his daughter, who blames him for Teddy's disappearance.
- Matthew explains that Penny and Gordon came to look after him when mum went into hospital. Mum always thought of Penny as a mother, as her own parents were not around, but Dad has never really liked them.
- Matthew remembers asking Penny lots of questions – including about her children who live in New Zealand – and she gets fed up and shouts at him.
- He remembers his parents returning from the hospital with the bad news that Callum had died. Matthew blames himself for Callum's death and realises that this is when his obsession with germs begins.

Chapter 16 - 19 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Mortified	To cause (someone) to feel very embarrassed or ashamed.	Mortified to find.
Glistened	Shine with a sparkling light.	Glistened with tears.
Rummaged	Search unsystematically and untidily through something.	Rummaged around the sweet bowl.
Bouffant	(Of a person's hair) styled to stand out from the head	Bouffant hairstyle.
Posture	The position in which someone holds their body when standing or sitting.	Her posture slumped.
Beckoned	Called over/to summon.	Beckoned for me to join him.
Interfering	(Of a person) tending to meddle in other people's affairs.	Interfering old bag.
Gawped	Stare openly in a stupid or rude manner	Gawped at her.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 16 – Chapter 19

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 195, what is the name of the chapter?
2. On page 202, how does Matthew feel?
3. On page 207, what does Melody collect?
4. On page 210, who was waiting at the end of the alleyway?
5. On page 216, what did Jake keep doing?
6. On page 223, who stopped in front of Matthew?
7. On page 228, what is Melissa's last name?
8. On page 231, what did Mr Chares turn off?
9. On page 244, what had Matthew not noticed before?
10. On page 247, who wasn't Dad a fan of?

Week 4 Tasks:

Task:

Write a newspaper article about the disappearance of Teddy. Include all the information you know so far. Remember to set it out like a newspaper with a headline, strapline, and columns.

You can do this on a separate piece of paper.

Extension Task:

Create your own news interview using your newspaper article. You could include an interview with a witness.

Week 5:

Chapter 20 Summary:

- Matthew and his parents gather in the living room to watch the news – there is an announcement about a sighting of a woman boarding a ferry to Holland with a child that looks like Teddy.
- The doorbell rings and Matthew recognises Melody through the window. He runs upstairs to avoid the door, but his mum lets Melody in.
- Melody comes up to Matthew's room to clear the air after what happened in the graveyard. She is carrying a photo album.
- Matthew tries to get her to leave but she starts to explain why she took the memorial cards from the graveyard. She shows him some examples that she is kept in the photo album and Matthew spots a card for Callum – he does not tell Melody it is his brother.
- Matthew says that he although he finds it strange, he understands why she does it. Agreeing to be friends, they share updates on the investigation.

Chapter 21 Summary:

- Matthew's dad tells him that the sighting of Teddy in Holland was fake.
- Matthew asks his dad why Old Nina always has her lamp on.
- Dad explains that when Old Nina was younger, her eleven-year-old son went swimming during a holiday and never came home. No one knows what happened to him.
- Dad explains Old Nina leaves her light on as a way for her son to find his way home. Matthew dreams of Nina's son returning.

Chapter 22 Summary:

- Matthew finds an old pair of binoculars and sits in the office using them to watch Old Nina's house.
- He spots something moving at the curtains and runs to Mr Charles' house to tell him he thinks Old Nina has taken Teddy.
- Mr Charles does not believe Matthew's evidence. Matthew hears the phone ringing in the background and becomes agitated when he hears thirteen rings.
- When Matthew returns home, his parents are shocked he has been out but do not believe Old Nina has Teddy either.
- Alone in his room, Matthew realises that Old Nina is not going shopping on her usual days. He is suspicious and emails Melody to follow her. He worries that Melody has not seen the email and decides to investigate himself.

Chapter 23 Summary:

- Matthew runs after Old Nina – he thinks she is heading into town.
- He feels anxious being outside, especially when he sees posters of Teddy around town but is pleased to be investigating.
- Matthew spots Old Nina buying blue wool. He is suspicious but so lost in his thoughts that he bumps into an old man, whose clothes are covered in dirt.
- Matthew needs to get home immediately to wash after touching the man, but before he heads home, he thinks he spots Old Nina buying nappies in the pharmacy

Chapter 20 - 23 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Lunatic	A person who is mentally ill	Lunatic.
Perched	To be situated above or on the edge of something.	He perched himself on the edge.
Numb	Without feeling.	My arms were so numb.
Obscured	To keep from being seen; conceal.	Obscured by a tree.
Deafening	(Of a noise) so loud as to make it impossible to hear anything else.	The traffic was deafening.
Jostle	To push, elbow, or bump against	Everyone began to jostle around.
Throbbing	Beating with a strong, regular rhythm; pulsating.	My ears were throbbing.
Wispy	Thin	Brushed away her wispy hair.
Rehearsed	To practise something (e.g. a dance or speech) before a performance.	The speech had clearly been rehearsed.
Coincidence	A situation in which two very similar things happen at the same time but there is no reason for it.	Is it just a coincidence?
Sodden	Extremely wet.	Sodden swimming shorts.
Neglected	To not give enough care or attention to something.	Why had she neglected them?
Exhausted	Extremely tired.	I was exhausted.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 20 – Chapter 23

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 255, what was the breaking news?
2. On page 261, where did Matthew not realise his Mum went?
3. On page 267, what did Nina think the light would show?
4. On page 272, where did Matthew march?
5. On page 278, where did Dad appear?
6. On page 280, what time would Nina leave?
7. On page 284, where was Matthew`s face burning?
8. On page 284, how does Matthew describe his eardrums?
9. On page 285, where does Matthew walk?
10. On page 285, what was on the window?

Chapter 24 Summary:

- As Matthew returns home, he is followed by Jake who shouts unkind things about his gloves and the fact he is out of the house.
- Jake asks if Matthew thinks that Old Nina is behind the disappearance – he has spotted Melody and Matthew investigating her.
- He cruelly says that Teddy is probably dead and that ‘Goldfish Boy’ (Matthew) was the last person to see him alive.
- They argue and Jake says that Matthew is not a real friend, as he never stood up for him.
- As Matthew finally gets home, Gordon is over delivering catalogues and Matthew’s dad tries to talk to him about his room. Matthew runs past them to get to the shower.

Chapter 25 Summary:

- Matthew emails Jake asking for help – Jake agrees to sneak into Old Nina’s garden that night. Melody is not happy that Jake is now involved.
- That night Matthew dreams about Teddy. He wakes up in the middle of the night and goes to the office to check if Jake is in Old Nina’s garden.
- Matthew spots Mr Jenkins smoking and sneaking around the street – he adds his name to the list of suspects.
- Melody and Jake argue about the fact Jake only found a tea towel in Old Nina’s tree.
- Matthew feels anxious all morning and cleaning does not help. He spots his parents talking to Hannah and Mr Jenkins in the garden and suspects they are talking about him.
- Matthew thinks back to a time at school when Mr Jenkins forced Jake to go swimming even though his eczema will be sore. He calls Matthew and Jake losers, but Matthew says nothing in reply.

Chapter 26 Summary:

- In the office, Matthew notices Melissa’s car and a possible police car outside Mr Charles’ house.
- Nigel the cat comes into his room and ruins all his cleaning. He is too embarrassed to ask anyone to come and move him, so emails Melody desperately.
- When Melody does not answer, Matthew runs over to her house to ask for help but Melody is about to go out with her mum. She tells Matthew that her mum has read their emails and is taking her to the police to report their suspicions of Old Nina.
- Matthew walks past the graveyard and sees Callum’s angel statue. He cries and says that he did not mean for Callum to die.

Chapter 24- 26 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Darted	To move quickly.	Darted around him.
Drifted	To be carried slowly by a current of air or water.	He drifted off.
Tackled	To make determined efforts to deal with	Tackled the legs.
Momentum	The quantity of motion of a moving body,	To gain momentum.
Waffled	To speak or write at length in a vague manner.	Waffled to mom and dad.
Condensation	Condensation is the change of water from its gas form	Condensation glistened.
Mound	A large pile or quantity of something.	Mound of paper.
Fragment	Piece of.	Picked up the fragment.
Catalogue	A book with a list of all the goods you can buy from a shop.	I threw the catalogue onto the stairs.
Ridiculous	Very silly.	It looked completely ridiculous now.
Migraine	A very bad pain in the head, which can often make you sick.	I had a migraine.
Scurrying	To walk or run quickly.	Like a scurrying animal.
Fluorescent	Very bright colours that can be seen in the dark.	He was dressed in a fluorescent running vest.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 24 – Chapter 26

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page, 287, how did Jake make himself bleed?
2. On page 293, what is the subject of the email?
3. On page 297, what showed he had not been out of bed for long?
4. On page 299, what did Matthew do for most of the morning?
5. On page 302, what did Mr Jenkins throw at Jake?

Week 6:

Chapter 27 Summary:

- When Matthew arrives home, he is horrified to realise that his dad is redecorating his room.
- His dad removes the Wallpaper Lion as he strips the walls of paper. Matthew tried to grab the wallpaper fragment as it falls to the floor, but it falls apart in his hand.
- After shouting at his dad, Matthew locks himself in the bathroom and washes his hands more than he ever has before.
- He ignores his parents as they ask him to come out and pretends, he has an upset stomach. Instead, he tries to dry a small part of the Wallpaper Lion.

Chapter 28 Summary:

- When Matthew comes out of the bathroom, his mum has made up a bed for him in the office. She tells him they are going to start being harder on him: he must go and see Dr Rhodes, eat his meals downstairs, and stop wearing gloves.
- Matthew notices his mum has scribbled out all the cleaning supplies in the new catalogue and feels guilty that she must be upset.
- Police arrive at the Rectory to talk to Old Nina. Matthew is convinced that they will leave with Teddy.
- When they leave, however, Matthew is disappointed to see that they have not arrested Nina and they do not have Teddy.
- Instead, he sees that Old Nina has a kitten in her arms. That night, the lamp is switched on.

Chapter 29 Summary:

- Matthew's dad is shouting at him across the dinner table – asking him why he does not want to go somewhere (we do not know where yet).
- Matthew explains that the meal started off well, as they talk about his room, different names for paint and that Melissa is now staying with Mr Charles.
- Matthew explains that he does not want to go back to Dr Rhodes as he finds it difficult.
- His dad is furious and walks out. His mum tells Matthew he is ruining things for the family and goes out to speak to his dad. Matthew feels alone.

Chapter 30 Summary:

- Melody emails Matthew to ask what to do now that Old Nina is not a suspect.
- Matthew notices Penny driving towards her house and realises that he has not seen Penny and Gordon spend any time together recently.
- Matthew looks back through his notebook and thinks about what Casey said to him. He realises that the scribbles in the new catalogue were not done by his mum because they look too childish.
- Matthew starts to email his suspicions to Melody but stops. He goes to ask his mum if she has noticed anything about Penny and Gordon recently and is alarmed when she tells him Penny and Gordon are planning to go away soon.
- Matthew sneaks over to their house and looks through the curtains. He also looks in their car but accidentally sets off the alarm and is caught by Penny.
- After making an excuse, Matthew runs home and thinks about calling Detective Inspector Bradley. Worried about not having evidence, he decides not to call.

Chapter 31 Summary:

- Matthew realises he has lost the Wallpaper Lion's eye and does not sleep well because he is worried.
- He wakes up in the very early morning and hears a gate click and a child crying.
- He looks out the window and sees Teddy crying. Teddy spots him and shouts "Fishy".
- Matthew shouts to wake his parents and runs outside to Teddy, who has been crying but seems ok.
- Matthew shouts as loud as he can to wake up all the neighbours and tries to ask Teddy who took him.

Chapter 27 - 31 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Intently	Eager attention	Nodding intently
Evicted	Expel (someone) from a property, especially with the support of the law.	She would not be evicted.
Sterile	Free from bacteria or other living microorganisms; totally clean.	My sterile microwave meal.
Gnawing	Persistently worrying or distressing	Gnawing away at my insides
Blaring	Make or cause to make a loud, harsh sound.	Blaring loudly.
Annoyance	The feeling or state of being annoyed; irritation	Annoyance at having me there.
Infected	To be affected with a disease-causing organism	Dirty and infected
Murmuring	To speak quietly.	I heard them murmuring.
Eliminate	To remove something from something else.	It promised to eliminate dirt.
Threshold	The floor of an entrance e.g. a doorway.	She stood at the threshold.
Haphazard	Not planned or controlled.	Crazy haphazard scrawls.
Distressing	To make someone feel very upset or worried.	It has been really distressing for him.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 27 – Chapter 31

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 318, what has Mom said she won't do anymore?
2. On page 320, what did Dad announce?
3. On page 322, what was the companion?
4. On page 324, what did Matthew eat?
5. On page 327, what does Matthew announce?
6. On page 331, where did Matthew return?
7. On page 332, what did Gordon drop off?
8. On page 334, what was rocketed?
9. On page 336, what was the bulldozer made of?
10. On page 338, what was stuck to the fridge?

Chapter 32 Summary:

- Melissa, Mr Charles, and Casey are overjoyed to be reunited with Teddy. Melissa sobs and hugs him.
- Matthew returns to the office to watch. He sees a police car arrive and the neighbours come out in the street, including his parents and Melody.
- Old Nina gives Melissa a blue blanket she has knitted for Teddy.
- Matthew notices that Penny and Gordon's house is still dark and hopes that Teddy will explain they took him. Instead, Teddy says "Fishy!".

Chapter 33 Summary

- Detective Inspector Bradley questions Matthew about whether he is "Fishy" after Teddy's outburst. He also questions him about his accusations against Old Nina.
- Matthew denies taking Teddy, but Detective Inspector Bradley is suspicious of Matthew's latex gloves and that he was the last person to see Teddy before he disappeared. Matthew's dad defends him.
- Finally convinced of Matthew's innocence, Detective Inspector Bradley asks Matthew if he knows who did take Teddy. Unsure of his evidence against Penny, Matthew says no.
- Pleased with his new room, Matthew goes to the office to watch the street with his binoculars.
- He spots the Wallpaper Lion's eye on the pavement and runs down to find it. Jake helps him run after it as it blows towards Gordon's house.
- Matthew spots something on the window of Gordon's house and sneakily shows Jake without letting Gordon (who is also outside) notice what he has spotted.
- Gordon grabs hold of Matthew and unkindly says that he is not normal and does not know anything. Meanwhile, Jake runs to tell Detective Inspector Bradley what they have seen.
- Matthew returns to the office to watch what happens next: Detective Inspector Bradley walks over to Gordon and Penny's house and spots a child's handprint on the window. Matthew is relieved – this is the evidence they took Teddy.

Chapter 34 Summary:

- The neighbours have all come outside to see what is happening. All of them, including Matthew's parents, are in shock that Penny and Gordon could be guilty.
- Melody comes over to Matthew just as Gordon is escorted from his house by the police in handcuffs, followed by Penny a few moments later. Neither of them seems upset to be arrested, and Penny claims she was trying to be a good mother to Teddy.
- Matthew's mum is confused that Penny hints that Casey knew she had Teddy.
- Old Nina comes out of her house holding the kitten. She tells Matthew she knows he has been watching her, but she does not mind. She tells him something rather strange – that he must learn to dance in the rain, and not wait for storms to pass.

Chapter 32 - 34 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Narrowed	To become or make less wide.	Narrowed his eyes
Justified	Having, done for, or marked by a good or legitimate reason	A justified reason.
Inconceivable	Not capable of being imagined or grasped mentally; unbelievable.	It seemed inconceivable to think.
Custody	The protective care or guardianship of someone or something	Held in custody
Smothered	To give someone too much love and attention/to cover something.	She smothered him with kisses.
Accused	To say that someone has done something – usually something bad.	You are not being accused of anything.
Forensic	A scientific method of solving crimes.	He mentioned forensic tests.
Emerging	Starting to develop.	They were gradually emerging.
Immaculate	Perfectly clean and tidy.	She looked immaculate.
Beckoning	To move your hand to show someone to come nearer.	She was beckoning me over.
Furrowed	To make deep lines appear on your forehead – usually showing someone is worried or angry.	Her forehead was furrowed.
Shrivelled	Becoming smaller and drier and wrinkled.	My body shrivelled with coldness.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 32 – Chapter 34

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 343, who hugged Teddy?
2. On page 345, what is that last word to be said?
3. On page 347, where are the police?
4. On page 351, when did the story of Teddy stop being reported?
5. One page 356, who gripped Matthew?

Week 7:

Chapter 35 Summary:

- Matthew's mum has been out talking to the neighbours about the latest news.
- Penny has said that she saw Teddy playing alone in the front garden and decided to take him home to keep him safe. She claims that she waved through the window to Casey, who was playing in there as Mr Charles slept.
- Matthew's dad thinks this means Casey knew all along where Teddy was and believes that Penny is always interfering with other people's business.
- Matthew's mum thinks that Penny is just trying to get herself out of trouble and reminds the family that Mr Charles does not always look after the children very well. She reminds them about Matthew seeing Casey push Teddy into the pond.
- Matthew does not believe Casey's story.

Chapter 36 Summary:

- Matthew feels very anxious on his way to see Dr Rhodes and tries to think of a reason for mum to take him home. He woke up early in the morning hearing Melissa, Casey and Teddy driving to the airport to return to New York.
- Dr Rhodes and Matthew talk about his fears and feelings. They work out that Matthew is worried that if he is not clean, someone could become ill and die.
- Matthew thinks back to when his mum was pregnant and he was sick in the middle of the night, splashing her.
- The next morning, he wakes up with chickenpox and mum spends a few days looking after him. She is already had chickenpox, so is not worried even though the baby is due next week.
- Matthew hears mum on the phone talking about bleeding and realises that something is wrong with the baby. She rushes to the hospital.
- Back in Dr Rhodes' office, she reassures Matthew that it was not his fault the baby died. They talk about some exercises Matthew can do to make himself feel better and she tells him a funny story to cheer him up.

Chapter 37 Summary:

- At home, Matthew nervously tells his parents everything he talked about with Dr Rhodes.
- Mum and Dad comfort him and remind him that it was not his fault that baby Callum died.
- Matthew says he will have to work hard to get better and his parents promise they will help him. Dad says he is proud of him and they manage to laugh together.
- Matthew throws away the Wallpaper Lion's eye and instead writes a list of all his hopes for the future.

Chapter 38 Summary:

- Matthew watches all his neighbours at Sue's celebratory barbeque but cannot bring himself to go with his parents.
- He sees Hannah with her new baby, Maxwell, Melody, and her mum walk to the party and Old Nina dancing in her garden with some flowers.
- Later, Matthew decides to go to the party to say hello to Melody and Jake. Matthew is happy that everyone is pleased to see him, but no one makes a big fuss about him being outside.
- Matthew does not stay long but reassures Melody that he will be ok with the support of his family, friends, and neighbours.
- He finally understands what Old Nina meant about dancing in the rain – he must enjoy his life even if things are difficult.

Chapter 35 - 38 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
Uncontrollably	Cannot control.	Jiggled up and down uncontrollably.
Beaming	Smiling broadly; grinning.	With a beaming smile.
Torment	A torment is something that causes extreme suffering	He wanted to torment me.
Petrifying	Extreme fear; scared.	It was utterly petrifying.
Exceptionally	To a greater degree than normal; unusually.	It was an exceptionally dull geography lesson.
Hysterical	Affected by or deriving from wildly uncontrolled emotion.	They fell with hysterical laughter.
Sitcom	A comedy.	A sitcom was on.
Screech	(Of a person or animal) give a loud, harsh, piercing cry.	A screech of delight.
Interfere	Trying to control or be involved with something (usually in an annoying way).	Trying to interfere with their lives.
Agitated	Very anxious or upset.	She was too agitated to eat.
Immune	If you are immune to a disease, you will not get it.	I was probably immune anyway.
Ambition	Something you want to achieve in your life.	That is my ambition.

Comprehension Questions – Chapter 35 – Chapter 38

Using the vocabulary from the table above answer the following questions:

1. On page 370, what was Matthew`s skin crawling with?
2. On page 373, why is Matthew scared of germs?
3. On page 375, where was Matthew sick?
4. On page 377, how did Matthew`s mom look after him?
5. On page 381, what was the name of the nasty girl?
6. On page 381, who were they waiting for a response from?
7. On page 382, what was on the TV?
8. On page 384, what does Matthew blame himself for?
9. On page 389, what could Matthew hear from his bedroom?
10. On page 393, who did Matthew turn and face?

