



THE TEN RIDDLES OF EARTHA QUICKSMITH

Loris Owen

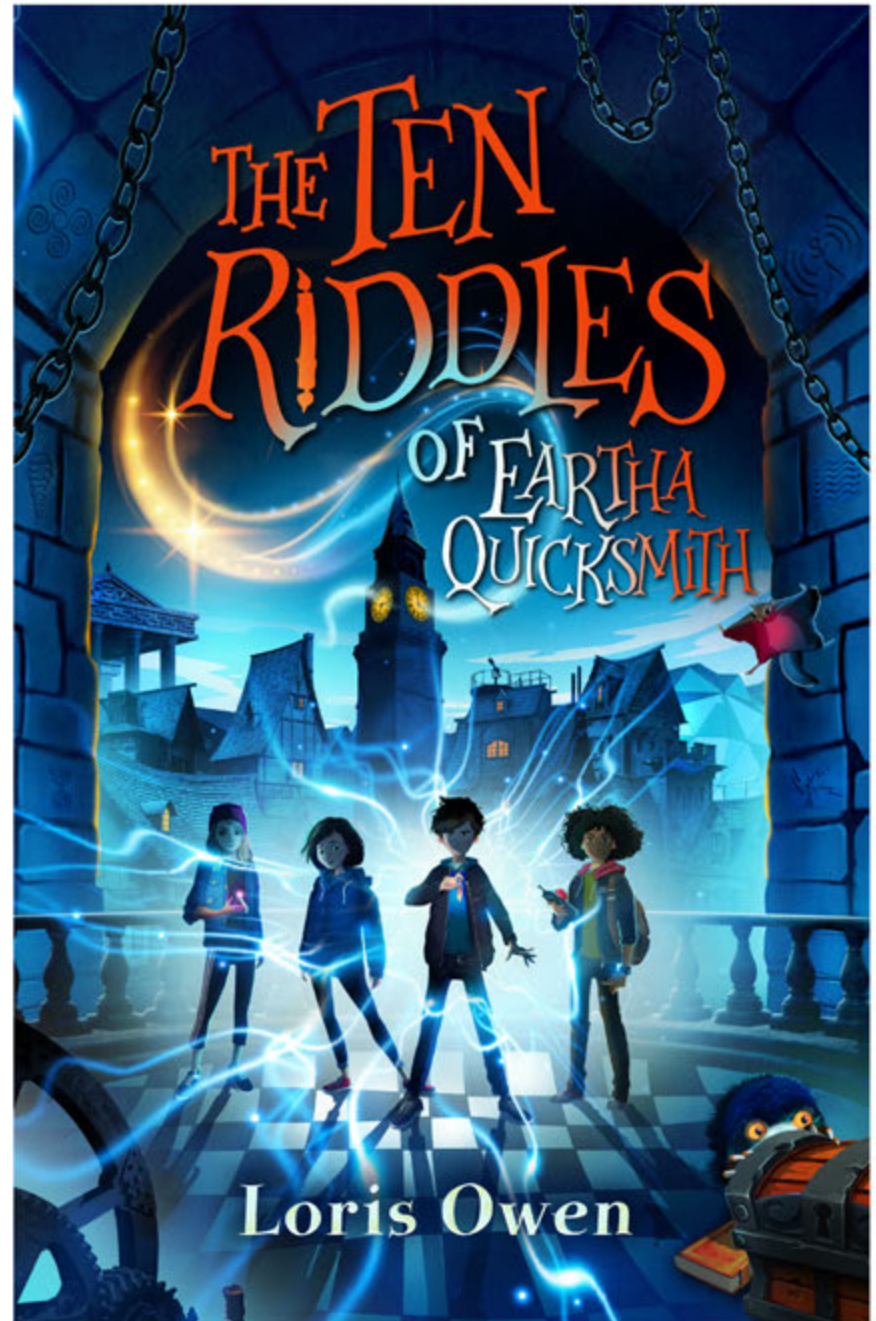
Welcome to the dazzling new world of Quicksmiths, where you will encounter Strange Energy, the Mowl, Wormholes, Dark Forces and the tantalising riddle of the Ark of Ideas.

When Kip Bramley receives a cryptic invitation, delivered by a beetle shaped drone which appears to be breathing, his world will change forever.

Soon he finds himself chasing riddles and solving puzzles on a crazy treasure hunt set 400 years earlier by a mysterious genius. As things get dangerous, it seems much more is at stake for Kip and his family than winning top marks at his strange new school...

'A mind-blowing, puzzle-packed, epic adventure!'
Kieran Larwood, Author of *The Five Realms* series

'Inventive first fantasy novel,' *The Observer* Best Children's Books of the Month



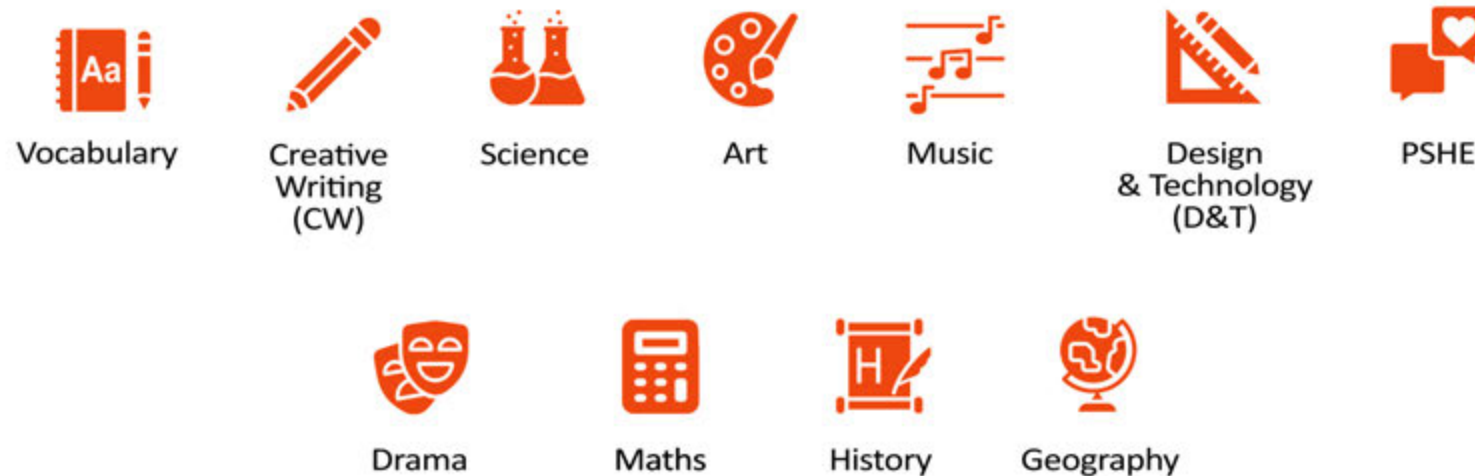
Ten Riddles Classroom Resource



This document provides chapter-by-chapter lesson material, discussion prompts and activity suggestions.

Many sections have multiple options for story starters, research assignments, votes and classroom games from which teachers can choose their favourites. The activities cover opportunities for group, solo and partner work.

Subject and cross-curricular checklist: Vocabulary, Creative Writing (CW), Science, Art, Music, Design & Technology (D&T), PSHE, Drama, Maths, History, Geography.



Ages: 8+



Introduction for Teachers

The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith is Book 1 of the Quicksmiths series.

Summary: When puzzle-loving Kip Bramley receives a cryptic invitation, delivered by a beetle-shaped drone that appears to be breathing, he has no idea that his world is about to change forever. Very soon he finds himself at Quicksmiths College of Strange Energy, hunting for riddles set 400 years earlier by a mysterious genius. But this isn't any ordinary treasure hunt: as the clock counts down, Kip will need all the help he can get from his loyal new friends and his faithful pet flying squirrel, Pinky. With danger mounting it seems much more is at stake for Kip and his family than he could ever have imagined.

Themes: friendship, family, diversity, puzzles & riddles, science, adventure & fantasy

Puzzles: Thirteen puzzles and riddles are woven into the adventure. These can be enjoyed simply as part of the story, or readers can try to solve them as they progress through the book. All these puzzles are fun to try individually or in teams (for those who find the riddles challenging, remember that very few of them are solved single-handedly in the book!)

There are two bonus interactive riddles hidden in the book's pages: Find the Quickets and Get the Picture. Additional puzzles and riddles can also be found at quicksmiths.com. Find more details in the Quicksmiths Puzzle Challenge section at the end of this document.

Loris especially believes in:

- encouraging **imaginative problem-solving** in the form of Sideways Thinking (i.e. looking at puzzles differently)
- **creative learning** that breaks down the walls between science and the arts
- giving children the **freedom of thought** that allows them to change their world for the better

Where possible, the activities in these worksheets reflect these pursuits.



Book Cover Discussion



What does the book cover make you think of?

Where do you think the characters are?

Do you think the characters are friends?

What do you think the strange animals are?

What do you think about the colours of the cover? Do they give you a particular feeling?

How would you describe the style of the artist?

Complete these sentences:

I would like to meet the characters on this book cover because...

I think the most interesting thing on the book cover is [your answer] because ...

I am looking forward to finding out about the...



Chapter 1

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
What's Kip's surname?	Do you like the name Bramley? Guess what it means and then use the Internet to see if you were close.		
What's on the menu at Kip's house in Chapter 1?	CR; Drama You're going to Kip and Theo's house for dinner. a) Theo's asked you to think of a theme. b) What are the meals for Sunday breakfast, lunch (main course and dessert) and dinner (starter, main course and dessert)? c) act out the different faces you might make for each of the different courses in Theo's menu!		
What's the name of Kip's special tree?		Tell the tale of your favourite tree. - Where is the tree? - What kind of tree is it? - Why is it special? - Why is the tree your favourite, perhaps you climb it, or see it from your window? - What animals or magical creatures live in the tree? - Has the tree seen something exciting or secret?	
How does Kip find the gold coin?		Next time you are in the park, a drone delivers a coin to you.	



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe what you are doing. - What does the drone look like? - How does it give you the coin? - Does the coin look special, or do something surprising? - What do you think the coin might be for? 	
The coin is described as a heptagon. How many sides does a heptagon have?	<p>Maths; Art</p> <p>a) Name all the geometric objects that come before heptagon, starting with a three-sided object.</p> <p>b) Draw the gold coin.</p>		
When Kip shows his dad Theo the strange gold coin, he flips the coin. Can you remember what he says for heads and what he says for tails?	<p>CW; Drama</p> <p>Coin storytelling time!</p> <p>With a partner, write down two options for these four questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where did your coin come from? 2. How did you find it? 3. Where do you spend it? 4. What do you buy? <p>Make the two options for each question heads or tails.</p> <p>Once you have flipped your coin and got your results, read your mini-story to the class.</p> <p>Drama alternative: act out your story for the class to guess.</p> <p>(Example: This coin came from a pirate's treasure chest. I found it in a wishing fountain in Rome. I went to the giant candy shop and I bought a life-sized sherbet flying saucer.)</p>		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects



<p>a) What does Kip keep with him always that reminds him of his mum?</p> <p>b) Why isn't Kip's mum at home with him and his dad?</p>			<p>Science</p> <p>Find out all you can about quartz.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is it common? - is it an element? - where can it be found? - what colour is it usually? - is it used in any everyday objects?
<p>What's the name of Kip's drawing book?</p>	<p>Explore squirrels with a partner.</p> <p>a) Rub your eyes gently - you might see shapes and colours. With your eyes still closed, describe them to your partner, who will write this down.</p> <p>b) Swap over and write down what they see.</p> <p>c) Now draw your squirrels!</p> <p>d) Create a Squirrel Wall on the classroom wall (including teachers).</p>		
<p>What's the word for jumbling up letters to make a new word?</p>	<p>Anagrams!</p> <p>Use the activity download from the Quicksmiths website.</p>		
<p>When do you see nocturnal creatures?</p>			<p>Science</p> <p>Create a fun fact file that includes five nocturnal creatures from around the world. List two or more different facts for each one.</p>
<p>What's the name of Kip's pet flying squirrel?</p>	<p>What would you call your pet flying squirrel and why?</p>		<p>Science</p> <p>Find out all you can about Northern Flying Squirrels.</p> <p>Using a box and other items from around your home, create a temporary nest and write some helpful notes for someone who's</p>

Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

			looking after a flying squirrel with a broken paw.
	<p>Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they? (Note: there is a reminder at the end of every chapter to count up your Quickets. Find more details under the Quicksmiths Puzzle Challenge heading at the end of this document.)</p>		



Chapter 2

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
Where does Kip go to school? Where does he live?			
Do you think Kip is happy at Ledhill Academy? Why do you think this?	How do you feel when the bell goes for end of school on a Friday?		
What's the name of Kip's teacher at Ledhill? What's the name he gives her and why? Do you think she's a good teacher?	Art Draw the Snibbug		
What does <i>disrupted</i> mean (page 28)			
What two things does Kip imagine would get him out of school?		Pick one of these and write about it from Kip's perspective as if it actually happens.	
In Kip's class at school there are three main groups. What are they?	a) Do you belong in one of these groups? b) If not, which group do you think you do belong in?		
What are Kip's five favourite things?	Drama a) On your own, write out your five favourite things. b) Group charades! Act out a favourite thing from your list for the group.		
What's the spelling mistake in the chess puzzle printout?			
What do you think <i>circuitous</i> means? (page 33)	Vocabulary Do you think the word <i>circuitous</i> has three syllables or four?	A butterfly flies in the window of your bedroom and lands on your arm. You look closer ... there's something strange about it and	Science Choose one type of moth or butterfly for your research project.



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

		<p>then it does something you really weren't expecting!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does the butterfly look like? - What's strange about it? - What does it do that's so unexpected? 	<p>Create an article for Butterfly Magazine Monthly, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - common name - scientific name - habitat - life cycle - fun facts - drawing
<p>What do you think a Chess Grandmaster is?</p>			
<p>What's the name of the aquarium shop on Helix Avenue?</p>		<p>You go inside the aquarium. A little bell tings. There are rows and rows of fish tanks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe the fish you see. - Some of them have weird and wonderful names – what are they? - You find something at the bottom of one of the fish tanks - What is it and what do you do with it? 	<p>Science</p> <p>You work at Underwater Emporium and a new fish has come into the shop for sale. Design a label on A4 paper for the tank, and include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - common name - scientific name - description - fun facts - drawing
<p>What do you think <i>emporium</i> means? (page 36)</p>	<p>Vocabulary</p> <p>If you had an emporium, what would you call it, and what would you sell there?</p> <p>Is it just one thing, or lots of different things?</p>		
<p>Why do you think the subchapter is called Getting Warmer?</p>			
<p>What clues does Kip see that make him think he's in the right place?</p>			



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

How does Kip solve the chess puzzle?			
How does the Candle badge tell Kip he's "getting warmer"?			
How does Kip solve the emoji puzzle?	Drama While your teacher reads from the book, act out what Kip does inside the photo booth.		
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		



Chapter 3

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
How does Kip describe the way he feels when he travels through a wormhole?	Drama Spread out in the classroom and while your teacher reads from the end of Chapter 2 and the beginning of Chapter 3, act out Kip's journey and his expressions as he steps through the door in the side of the photo booth and finds himself at Quicksmiths.		
What's the name of the wormhole hub at Quicksmiths? Why are the paths in the Garden of Giant Leapfrogs unusual?	Art Draw the Garden of Giant Leapfrogs.	You arrive at the Garden of Giant Leapfrogs, and follow a path from the iron gate. - What does the path look like? - Where does it go? - What do you see in the garden as you pass? - You stop at the end of the path and feel sneezesickness! You've travelled through a wormhole! Where do you end up?	
What two things does Kip notice about Professor Mo? Where do you think Professor Mo might come from? Maoris are from New Zealand.	PSHE a) Listen to the audio track of Professor Mo's full name (this can also be found on the quicksmiths.com All Downloads page). Now you try and say it. b) Professor Mo's name means 'wandering whispering island' in Maori. Find out what your name		PSHE Learn more about the Maori culture. - Create an imaginary family tree for Professor Mo. - Where in New Zealand might his family come from? - Do Maoris have a traditional food?



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	means. What about your teacher's name?		- What do traditional face tattoos mean to Maoris? - Name two famous Maori people, and why they are famous
What does the Candle Badge do?			
What do you think <i>nitty-gritty</i> means? (page 50)			
What does GENI stand for?	With a partner a) How do you think you pronounce GENI? Why? b) What would you call your Strange Supercomputer?		
What's the name of the specialised cells that allow people to interact with Strange Energy? What other thing do quixars make you good at?	Science A neuron is a type of specialised cell. Do you know where in your body you might find a neuron?		
What's the name of the two courtyards Kip visits on the Open Day?		Art Draw the Clock Tower	History, PSHE Find out as much as you can about Confucius. - Where did he live and when - Why was he famous? - Write down your top five wise Confucian sayings and explain why you chose them.
What does the Scrambleguard do?			
What is a <i>plinth</i> ? (page 55)			
What's Leela's last name?			
What are the names on the tents that Kip walks past at the Open Day? (There are four).		You arrive at the Quicksmiths Open Day. Professor Mo and Leela show you around. - Which tent do you go in?	



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

		- What's the name of the professor inside the tent? - What do you see there?	
a) Who is the Head of Strange Invention, and teaches First Year Wormhole Technology? b) What's unusual about him?	Art Draw Professor Steampunk		
Professor Steampunk says one of the wormholes has 'gone rogue'. What do you think that means?			
What's the name of the Professor-in-Charge?			
What's the motto of Quicksmiths?	PSHE How would you change your world? Is changing <u>your</u> world the same as changing <u>the</u> world? What's your school motto? Do you think it's a good one, or would you change it? If so, what would you change it to?		History, PSHE Research someone you admire who changed their world. It might be an athlete, or a writer, someone who stood up for what's right, or even someone from your family. Write an entry from their diary on the Day they Changed their World.
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		



Chapter 4

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
How do you spell the word <i>limousine</i> ? (page 73)			
The stretch limousine that picks Kip up is a self-driving car. What else is special about it?	Art Draw the Timestretch Limo	The Timestretch Limo comes to collect you for school. - What do your friends think when they see you getting in? - What conversation do you have with GENI? - Is there anyone else in the car with you? - Do you take a detour on the way to Quicksmiths?	Geography Time zones - What time zone do you live in - Research which countries are in the same time zone as your country of residence. - Make drawings of clocks showing the time in three countries when it is midday in your country of residence. - You have to set up a video call between Albert in Dublin, Professor Mo in Auckland and Albert's aunt in Harare. What's the best time of the day to arrange the call?
What's the name of the glowing sphere that guides Kip around Quicksmiths?			
a) What's Albert's last name? b) Where is he from?			Geography Find out all you can about either a) Zimbabwe or b) Ireland. Create an entry for a kid's encyclopaedia. - country flag - population - national flower - national bird - three interesting geographical features



Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - languages spoken - name two famous people and why they are famous - find out a piece of folklore from your chosen country
What's special about Pinky?	PSHE Pinky is Kip's best goodguyometer. How do <i>you</i> decide whether you might like to be friends with someone you just met?		Science Find out more about animals which absorb and re-emit light. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which continents do you find them on? - What sort of animals are they? - How does this skill help them?
What Strange Energy is Albert particularly good at?		You turn up on the school roof just as Albert finishes building his time loop detector. What happens next?	
What is Thag short for?			History, Science Find out more about the ancient mathematician Pythagoras. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where did he come from and when did he live? - What did he believe? - What did he discover and why is he famous? - Include a drawing of him at his work
What's the name of Thag's girlfriend? Why is she called that?			
What's the name of Thag's invention that clamps itself to Kip's shin?	Science; Drama What are the first four states of matter? As a class, act out how particles behave when they are solid, liquid, gas and plasma.		Science Find out all you can about plasma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where does it occur naturally? - What inventions is it used in? - Create a fun fact file about plasma.



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

<p>a) What does the word <i>perspective</i> mean? (page 93) b) What does Professor Steampunk mean by 'your perspective has changed'?</p>	<p>Rewrite the incident in the corridor from the Plasma Slug's perspective.</p>		
	<p>Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?</p>		



Chapter 5

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
What are the five animals Albert says got smooshed together to make a mowl?	Art With a partner, create a drawing together. As your teacher reads out the description of the mowl from the book, take it in turns to draw each new addition to the body until you have a completed mowl!	You are in the Quicksmiths Museum one night, working with a Time Tagger. There's an electromagnetic blizzard and you are knocked off your feet. When you get up something strange has happened. - What or who do you see? - What happens next?	Create your own smooshed-together animal. - Include a drawing with labels - List the different qualities of your smooshed-up animal - List the different behaviours of your smooshed-up animal
What does the word <i>blizzard</i> mean? (page 97)	Vocabulary Can you think of some synonyms for <i>blizzard</i> ?		
What's Timmi's full name? (page 98)			
How did Eartha Quicksmith get her name?			
Can you be a Doctor of Music? What about a Doctor of Philosophy?	What would you like to be a Doctor of?		
What are the flying discs called?		It's your first day at Quicksmiths. You get to go on a tour around the college on a Skimmi. - What's it like flying above the rooftops? - What do you see? - Who do you meet? - What happens?	
How does Eartha's Futurescope work?	Art Draw your version of a Futurescope, and what you see		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	inside it.		
a) What is the Ark of Ideas? b) What does <i>Ark</i> mean?	Name another famous Ark. Do you think the Ark of Ideas might be a boat or a chest or something else?		
How many days do they have to solve the 10 riddles?	PSHE Think of a deadline you have had to stick to outside of school. How do deadlines make you feel and why are they important?		
Who reads out Eartha's letter? What's unusual about the reading?	Summarise the letter in a short sentence.		
	Vote; Drama Would you rather have a moustache made of fingers, or a voice that says everything twice, everything twice? Come up with your own funny Would you Rather statement and act it out for the class to guess.		
What's the name of the classroom building?			
What's Quixology and who is Kip and Albert's Quixology teacher?			
a) What are the Big Five Energies? b) What's the sixth, ultra-mysterious Strange Energy	Vote If you went to Quicksmiths, what do you think would be your favourite Strange Energy class?		
As well as connecting to the wormholes in the Garden of Giant Leapfrogs, what other things can			



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

Candle badges do?			
How do you earn Quickets at Quicksmiths?	Do you think Maya is used to getting her own way? What makes you think so?		
In what six locations do Kip and Albert find their 6 Quickets?			<p>History; Science</p> <p>Pick one of the names mentioned in the Portrait Gallery and find out all you can about them.</p> <p>Write a letter of introduction from this person to the headmistress of Quicksmiths, explaining why they think they should come to the college.</p>
	<p>Quicket Count:</p> <p>How many Quickets did you find?</p> <p>Where are they?</p>		



Chapter 6

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
What does <i>recurring</i> mean? (page 123)			
What does <i>eavesdropped</i> mean? (page 123)			
Who is Kip's Slipstream teacher and what's unusual about her?	Art What kind of tail would you get? Draw yourself with your new tail.		
a) How does Professor <u>Kvörk</u> describe Strange Energy? b) What words does she use that make you think of water?			
Why has no one alive seen the Egg Flower blooming?			Science; History Research one plant that lives for at least one hundred years (there are many that live longer). Write from the plant's perspective, describing everything you have seen in your lifetime and how things have changed.
Why is the Egg Flower so called?			
Where is the First Riddle found?			
What is an <i>enigma</i> ? (page 129)	Vocabulary Think of or find some synonyms for <i>enigma</i> .		
Professor Steampunk talks about four revolutions that have shaped our history. What are they?			
Professor Steampunk lists out some inventions for the class. Can you	Art Choose one invention and draw it		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

name one?	on A4 paper for the classroom Imaginary Inventions wall.		
What does <i>prototype</i> mean? (page 134)			
What are the names of Professor Steampunk's four rats?	Vocabulary Can you think of any other words with a silent first letter? If you are stuck, try words that start with W, P, G, and K.		
a) Thag reminds Kip of an animal, what is it? b) And what about Gorvak?		Chose a character from a book you've read or film you've seen recently, who reminds you of an animal. - What do they look like? - How do they move? - What do they sound like? - How do they smell? - What are they doing?	
What are Thag and Sharktooth Girl doing at the bottom of the library steps?	PSHE What does this tell you about their personalities?		
What does <i>atrium</i> mean? (page 141)			
What is a <i>ziggurat</i> ? (page 146)	Art Draw the picture of Eartha Quicksmith described in <i>100 Ways to Wonder</i> .		
Why is Kip so interested in finding the Ark of Ideas?			
What are some of the suggestions made in Professor Mo's class for solving the First Riddle?	Sideways Thinking, riddle focus: What do <i>you</i> think Eartha meant by 'look around me'?		
	Quicket Count:		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		
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Chapter 7

Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

<p>a) What is a Heartsichord?</p> <p>b) What's special about the music it makes?</p>	<p>Art; Music</p> <p>a) Draw a Heartsichord</p> <p>b) Find some music clips that make you think of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mowl - Pinky - Professor Steampunk - Theo Bramley - Miss Twiss 	<p>Leela plays her Heartsichord for you at your birthday party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What notes float out? - What shape and colour are they? - What do they sound like? - What would they look like if you didn't get any presents, or if it rained all day? - Does she play the Heartischord for anyone else? 	
<p>What sounds does the mowl make?</p>	<p>Drama; Vote</p> <p>Practise your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wurbles - Lirrips - Freeps - Ch-charks <p>Split into groups and perform for the class. Take a vote for the best one.</p>		
<p>How is Gorvak related to Eartha Quicksmith?</p>		<p>History</p> <p>Write the fictional story of your fifteenth great-grandmother, who lived 400 years ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did she do for a living? - Where did she live? - What were her achievements? 	
<p>What is an <i>audiophonic memory</i>? (page 159)</p>	<p>If you had an audiophonic memory, how would you use it?</p>		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

What is a <i>stereogram</i> ? (page 160)			
Where do Kip and Albert go to solve the First Riddle?	Art Draw the portrait of Eartha Quicksmith that's hanging in the Portrait Gallery.	You visit the Portrait Gallery at Quicksmiths and you're looking at one of the portraits. You see a little wooden lever on the side of the picture frame and when you pull it down you find yourself inside the painting! - Who or what is in the painting? - What do they say to you? - Are you in danger, or is it fun? - How do you get out of the painting?	
Who do Kip and Albert see in the mirror above the birdbath?			
a) Where is Ptolemy Courtyard? b) What's in the courtyard? c) What's the statue of Eartha doing?		You're walking through the gardens of Quicksmiths and you come across a statue. Something about it catches your eye. - Who or what is it of? - What's unusual about it? - Is there a Strange Energy coming from the statue? - What happens next?	PSHE; Art If your headteacher decided to put up a statue in your school playground, who do you think it should be a statue of? Why? What material/s do you think it should be made of? Why? Design a statue for your school.
Kip and Albert hide away from Thag behind the statue. What words make you think Thag is an angry person?			
Why do Kip and Albert decide to look at the statue later?			
a) What's the name of the porter Kip and Albert meet in the Porterhouse?			



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

b) Why is he so grumpy?			
Where do Kip and Albert find the Second Riddle?	Sideways Thinking, riddle focus: What do you think the solution to the Second Riddle might be?		
Why does Kip find it hard to warm to Timmi?			
What two Strange Energies do Skimmies use?	Leela has the words <i>Eat my Dust</i> on the underside of her Skimmi. What would you write on your Skimmi?		
	Vote; Drama Would you rather have ticklish teeth or creaky eyelids? Come up with your own funny Would you Rather statement and act it out for the class to guess.		
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		



Chapter 8

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
<p>a) What's the name of the hall where the Great Globe can be found?</p> <p>b) What does the Great Globe do?</p>		<p>You go into the Hall of Maps, to find it's completely empty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe what you see - Do you stop to look at anything. - You need to use the Great Globe to find a location, so that you can use the Wormhole Positioning System to go there. - Why is it so important that you go there? 	
<p>What does the word <i>cartographer</i> mean (page 184)?</p>			<p>History; CW</p> <p>Choose one famous cartographer and write an entry from their ship's log, on one of their voyages of exploration.</p>
<p>When do you think the Renaissance was? And what was it? (page 184)</p>	<p>PSHE</p> <p>Do you think being good at art, music and writing would make you a good scientist too? Why?</p>		<p>History; Science; CW</p> <p>Choose any famous scientist or artist from the Renaissance and write a diary entry as if you were their assistant. Pay particular attention to what makes them a good Renaissance scientist.</p>
<p>How do Kip and Albert solve the Second Riddle?</p>			
<p>Kip and Albert shout out some funny placenames. Which of them do you think are real?</p>	<p>With a partner make up a funny placename for a fictional village, with a sentence describing what the village is famous for.</p>		
<p>What does the word <i>surreptitious</i> mean (page 186)?</p>	<p>Vocabulary</p>		



Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
Why do you think Kip is being surreptitious?	Can you think of any synonyms for <i>surreptitious</i> ?		
Where do Kip and Albert find the Third Riddle?	Drama Act out Albert and Kip finding the riddle on the statue's marble tongue and doing a victory silent disco.		
What sort of coats do Kip and Albert discuss when they are trying to solve the Third Riddle?	Sideways Thinking, riddle focus: What sort of coat do you think Eartha is talking about in the Third Riddle?		
Why is Timmi always looking uncomfortable and being restless?			
Why is it forbidden to use Skimmies around Skycrackle Tower?	Art Draw the fight between Kip and Thag at Skycrackle Tower		
Who saves Kip when he falls from Skycrackle Tower? How does she do it?		Describe a way in which you save the day using a Frogflash on an ordinary day at school.	
Why does Kip think that Timmi must be feeling terrible?			
What gifts does Timmi give to Albert and Kip to say thank you for standing up for her?		Describe a way in which you fix a problem by using a Human Remote on an ordinary weekend at home.	
Why do Kip and Albert decide not to tell a grown-up about Scaleface?	PSHE Do you think that was the right thing to do? What would you do?		
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		



Chapter 9

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
What do you think <i>away with the fairies</i> means? (page 212)	Which country do you think the saying comes from?		
What is a <i>coincidence</i> ? (page 212)			
Where is Eartha's statue located?	Vocabulary Do you say the <i>P</i> at the start of Ptolemy or is it silent?		History; Science Create a table showing the differences between Ptolemy and one other famous astronomer. - Where did they live? - When did they live? - Were they men or women? - How long did they live? - Were they just astronomers or were they experts in other things too? - Why were they famous? - Were their theories correct?
What does a Timestitch do?	Can you complete the proverb 'A stitch in time...'		
Why is Kip upset when Dimbleby the Porter says that the Clock Tower is closed for repairs?			D&T Design and build your own Clock Tower at home.
How do we know that Dimbleby is looking out of the peephole in the Clock Tower door when they go to visit at night time?			
What kind of animal is Bagsworth trying to catch and where?	Vocabulary Bagsworth calls the voles <i>broccoli bandits</i> . Earlier in the book he calls them <i>beetroot burglars</i> and <i>radish robbers</i> .		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	What do you call this structure when an adjective and a noun start with the same letter?		
What's the name of Kip's invention? Who does it help and how does it work?	PSHE Kip bristles all over with <i>helper's happiness</i> when his invention makes Bagsworth happy. Have you ever felt helper's happiness?	CW; Art; D&T Describe in words and model or draw your own prototype invention. - What's it called? - What does it do? - What Strange Energy does it use? - Who does it help?	
Kip says the Voler Hat is cruelty-free. Do you agree and why?			PSHE Choose one product in your local supermarket and explain why it is cruelty-free. - What words does the manufacturer use to show the product is cruelty-free? - Does it have special ingredients? - Is the company that produces it cruelty-free, or is it just the product? - Would you buy this product with your own money? Why?
Why do you think the last sub-chapter is called The Room that Wasn't There?			
What's special about the Clock Tower mechanism? What one word describes all the machinery inside the tower (whimsical).	Drama Act out the scene where Kip and Albert go up the spiral staircase. Half the class are clock parts – spinning wheels and squeaky cogs and ticking levers.		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	Half the class are Oddjob Drones – winding, fastening and listening to the parts.		
What does the word <i>belfry</i> mean? (page 223)			
Why does Albert think it's important that the bricks in the wall are a different colour?			
Why does Albert think it's important that one of the bricks is smooth?			
How does Kip feel at the beginning of the chapter? What about the end?	Draw a colour mood graph to show how Kip's feelings change throughout the chapter.		
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		

Chapter 10

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
Why does Kip ask if he can get detention?	Does it seem like the weather is reflecting Kip's emotions?	Write about the time you got detention at Quicksmiths and why. Use the weather and other natural elements around you to help describe how you felt when you got to detention, and how you felt when you got out.	
What's the College Vote for? Who gets to vote?	Do you have votes at your school? If so, what for? If not, would you like to have votes at your school? Why, and for what?		
Why does Kip feel worse after the phone call with his dad?	PSHE Have you ever told a lie and regretted it?		
What is a jacuzzi? (page 232)			
How do we know Leela is angry when they tell her about the College Vote?			
How does Kip feel when Leela says Thag always gets away with it?			
Why does Albert say <i>two heads are better than one</i> ?			
What two things show that Kip planned to get up in the middle of the night?	Can you complete the proverb 'A friend in need...'		
Why do you think Kip whispers <i>change your world</i> to himself in the mirror?			



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

<p>What do you think <i>sleepdrift</i> mean? (page 235)</p>	<p>Vocabulary Look <i>sleepdrift</i> up in the dictionary. Why do you think Loris used a word that isn't in the dictionary? Can you list some other made-up words that are used in the book?</p>		<p>Vocabulary As you read the book, make a list of made-up words; when the book is finished, create your own dictionary with definitions. Add three made-up words of your own.</p>
<p>What does <i>inventory</i> mean? (page 235)</p>			<p>You are going on a day out doing an activity of your choice and you are responsible for your own equipment and anything you might need during the day. List out the inventory of things you take along – you can add as many items as you like, but they must all fit in your rucksack.</p>
<p>What does <i>impishness</i> mean? (page 236)</p>	<p>Vocabulary Think of or find some synonyms for <i>impish</i>.</p>		
<p>Why is Leela sneaking around at night too? How do they get Professor Mo's glasses back from the mowl?</p>	<p>Why does Leela call the mowl a magpie? Why does she call him a free-range mowl?</p>		
<p>What does it mean when the mowl <i>ch-charks</i>?</p>	<p>Write down some animal noises that are used to warn other animals of danger.</p>	<p>You are on an expedition to the rainforest and you discover an entirely new species! - What does it look like? - What does it do? - What does it eat and drink? - Does it have a family or a pack?</p>	



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

		- This creature makes a very strange noise. What is it? What does it remind you of?	
What does <i>irrelevant</i> mean? (page 239)			
What is Thag referring to when he says <i>it's all irrelevant</i> ?			
What do you think the Grittleshank Collective might be?			
What is a loophole? (page 239)			
How do Kip and Leela open the way in to the Clock Tower's secret circular room?			
How do we know Leela is afraid of Scaleface?			
What does Leela mistake for giant teeth inside the circular room?			
How do Kip and Leela solve the third riddle?			
Why is there a white line around the circular room?			
What happens when Leela tries to throw something at the lever in the middle of the circular room?			
Is it a bad thing that Albert's eyebrows get singed? (page 248)	Vocabulary Think of or find some synonyms for <i>singe</i> .		
What does <i>perimeter</i> mean? (page 249)			Maths Can you estimate the perimeter of your desk? Now measure it with a tape measure or metre ruler to see if your estimate was correct.



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

Why does Albert need Timmi's hand mirror to solve the Fourth Riddle?			
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		



Chapter 11

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
What does <i>flurry</i> mean? (page 254)			
How does Team Glowflyer get the Fifth Riddle out of the small tunnel?	Sideways Thinking, riddle focus: What do you think the Fifth Riddle means, and why is it drawn on a map?		
Why do they think that they've already beaten Thag now?	Art Draw the map they find, including all the strange symbols.		
What does <i>obstacle</i> mean?	Art Draw the mountain trail that Kip imagines he is on, along with the obstacles and goals. Include: - Thag - Scaleface - The College Vote - Kip's mum - His friends		
What does <i>stifle a yawn</i> mean?	Drama Act out stifling a yawn, a laugh, a sneeze, and a hiccup.		Science; PSHE Create a fact file on why sleep is important for the mind and body and present it to the class. Finish by saying why a good night's sleep is important to you.
Name the six members of Team Glowflyer		Write a job advert for a seventh member of Team Glowflyer.	
	Vote; Drama Would you rather have an army of one T-Rex sized mowl, or a thousand teacup mini-mowls?		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	Come up with your own funny <i>Would you Rather</i> statement and act it out for the class to guess.		
How do the Ballmoths deliver the message about the College Vote?		You are sat in the Buttery having your breakfast. Suddenly the Ballmoths all rise to the air and spell out an important message for everyone. - What does it say? - What must everyone do? - How do people react? - Does everything go according to plan, or is there a problem?	
Why does Kip think of The Snibbug's <i>I-told-you-so</i> face when he thinks about the College Vote?	Drama Act out an <i>I-told-you-so</i> face and vote on the best in class.	You discover a turn-back-time machine in a cupboard in the Porterhouse. What do you use it for and what happens next?	
What is a well-wisher?	PSHE With a partner, discuss a time you had a well-wisher (or when you were a well-wisher yourself). How did it make you feel?		
Why do you think Thag is described as a parasite inside a willing host?			
Why does he say he's giving away Quickets? What's the real reason?			
Why is Gorkvak reciting Eartha's letter from memory?			
Why does Gorkvak turn down the offer to join up with Team Glowflyer? And why does he change his mind?			
What does <i>underestimated</i> mean?	Vocabulary		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	Can you think of other words that start with <i>under</i> ?		
Why do you think Pinky has been throwing seeds through her cage?			
What words tell us that the College Vote is a serious matter?			
Where is the vote held?	Vocabulary What is an <i>amphitheatre</i> ?		
What four words does Miss Twiss use to describe the behaviour she expects from students? What words does she use to describe the behaviour she won't allow?			
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		



Chapter 12

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
Why is Kip wishing away the time?			
What do they discover when they go to room Q10 after classes?			
What does <i>listlessly</i> mean?	Drama In groups of four, act out the reactions of Kip, Timmi, Leela and Albert to the bad news. Swap over until you have acted each different character.		
Do you think Gorvak is polite? Why?			
What does Kip regret not doing with the map?			
What's Albert's invention called?			
Do you think Kip has a positive attitude? Why?	PSHE Discuss the importance of a positive attitude and how this can affect your day.		
What does Professor Mo teach in the next Quixology class?	In your own words, describe what <i>Sideways Thinking</i> is.		
Why does Professor Mo have so many pairs of glasses?			
What are crannies? (page 280)			
What happens to Kip while he's lying in bed?		Write this part of the story from Albert's perspective as if he were awake on the lower bunk, and then following Kip to the Hall of Maps.	



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects



What does Kip do to solve the Fifth Riddle?			
What are tendrils?	Art Draw the Great Globe, with the open Africa door and the squirrels.		
What alliterations are used to describe Eartha's secret study?			
Why does Kip sit down when he opens the book of Aeon Light?			
What instruction does Eartha give Kip at the end of her letter?	Light isn't something you can ordinarily listen to. What do you think Eartha means by this?		
Why does Albert think that Kip is the truthseer that Eartha mentioned in her first letter?			
Who finds the Sixth Riddle? What are the spheres within spheres that Team Glowflyer think of?	Sideways thinking, riddle focus: What do you think the solution to the Sixth Riddle might be?		
What is an abacus?			
Does Eartha have a tidy desk?	Art Draw the things Kip sees on Eartha's desk.	You are in Eartha's secret study one night admiring the trinkets and contraptions. Then one of them does something unusual. It could be one of the objects described in the book or something different. What does it do? What happens next?	
Does Kip find an ordinary Grandfather Clock on Eartha's desk?	Write a list of the differences between a real Grandfather Clock and the one Kip finds.		

Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	Use a picture of a real Grandfather Clock if necessary.		
Why does Kip think Eartha's Grandfather Clock must be important?			
What is an engraving? (page 293)			
What does the engraving on the Grandfather Clock say?	Think of some other signs that you might put on inventions you find at Quicksmiths.		
Why does the Great Globe start to creak?			
What do you think a gyroscope is?			
	Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?		

Chapter 13

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
Why does Kip think the great Globe is moving?	Who do you think was outside the Great Globe? Vote; Drama Would you rather have chopsticks instead of hands or mousetraps instead of feet? Come up with your own funny Would you Rather statement and act it out for the class to guess.		
What is different about the desk globe?	Art Draw and colour in your own imaginary globe with different shaped continents – give all the continents and oceans names.		
What do they find inside the desk globe? What is Eartha doing?			
Why doesn't Timmi think they're trapped inside the study when the door doesn't open?			
Is there a Sea of Silence on the moon?	Sideways thinking, riddle focus: What do you think 'Find the Sea of Silence' means?	You're on a Quicksmiths mission to the moon to set up a moon base. - What Strange Energy gets you there? - Where do you land? - What do you call the base? - What do you see on the moon?	Science; CW You live on the moon. Write a letter to your penpal on Earth. - Explain how seas on the moon are different from seas on Earth - Give an explanation for why they are both called seas



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

			- Tell your penpal all about a recent day out at the seaside with your family on the moon
What's strange about the titles of the books on Eartha's bookshelf? How are they different from something you might find on your bookshelf?		Take one of the titles from Eartha's bookshelf and write the first few pages (or use your own suitably strange title!)	
Why does Leela tell Albert's stomach to stop whispering when it's grumbling really loudly	Is Leela being sarcastic?		
Is the mowl behaving well in this chapter? What makes you think so?			
What does Bagsworth call Scaleface?	Who do you think dropped the Plasma Slug?	From Kip's point of view, describe your plan to Bagsworth in detail, and how you want Bagsworth to help. Start with the sentence: <i>'Just in case...' I said, and a plan spilled out.</i>	
What is effervescence? (page 307)			
Why does Leela call the mowl a magpie?			
Who solves the Seventh Riddle, and how?			
Where does the wooden cube come from?	Sideways Thinking, riddle Focus: What do you think the Eighth Riddle means?		
What does <i>ominous</i> mean? (page 313)	Vocabulary Do you think the skull is <i>ominous</i> ?		
What does <i>emblem</i> means (page 315)	Think of an emblem for: Peace Love		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	<p>Recycling A king A professor A library</p>		
<p>Why does Albert say <i>goody</i> when the ship's cannons swivel to follow him? Does he really mean <i>goody</i>?</p>	<p>Sideways thinking, riddle focus: What do you think the Ninth Riddle means?</p>		
<p>What happens when Albert touches the gemstones on the ship's compass?</p>	<p>Vocabulary (Acrostics) Can you spell out any more words using gemstones? (try ruby, diamond, sapphire, emerald, gold, pearl, opal, amethyst, tourmaline)</p>	<p>You find yourself trapped in a pirate's treasure den! Explain how you got here, and describe who the den belongs to. What sort of treasure is in the den? How do you escape?</p>	
<p>What does Leela mean when she says she loves Albert <i>in a mowly way</i>?</p>			
<p>What does the crank handle do?</p>	<p>Sideways thinking, riddle Focus: What do you think the Tenth Riddle means?</p>		
<p>What verbs in the text make you think that everyone is feeling angry?</p> <p>What's making them feel this way?</p>			
<p>Who solves the Ninth Riddle and how?</p>			
	<p>Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?</p>		



Chapter 14

Questions	Activities/Further Discussion	Story Prompts	Projects
Why does Timmi think the book feels light?			
What are jazz hands, and what does it mean when you do them?			
What does Kip see out of the corner of his eye before he goes into the wormhole book?			
What do you think a <i>summerhouse</i> is?			
What big surprise does Gorvak have in the box?			
What's unusual about the parrot? How is it still alive after 400 years?			
Who stole the map with the Fifth Riddle?			
What does <i>baiting</i> mean?	PSHE How did Gorvak bait Thag? Why did he bait him?		
How did Gorvak try to kill Kip?			
How did he try to stop the riddle trail?			
What two things does Gorvak say create a good distraction?			
How has Gorvak adapted the Human Remote?			
What two things happen when Gorvak uses the Human Remote on Leela?			



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

What does Kip do? What does he do when the squirrels stop?			
What happens to Gorvak when the Grandfather Clock falls out of Kip's hand?			
Why doesn't the Human Remote work on Gorvak?	Who do you think helps Gorvak to escape?		
	Drama As your teacher reads out the scene, act out what happens to Kip as he slowly begins to wind down, as the Human Remote takes effect.		
What does <i>asymmetric</i> mean?	Vocabulary; Art; Maths Draw an object from your classroom that is asymmetric.		
What does <i>whorl</i> mean?	Art Draw the vision Kip sees while he is paused.		
What was Kip's plan?	Compare this with your creative writing exercise from the previous chapter. How similar was the one in the book to the one you wrote?		
Why does Professor Mo want to borrow Kip's Book of Squirrels?			
What do you think Kip means when he thinks that the squirrels are too big for the book now?			
What three words does The Ark of Ideas say over and over when they turn it on?			
What is The Crazy Paving?			
	Vote; Drama		



Questions

Activities/Further Discussion

Story Prompts

Projects

	<p>Would you rather go fishing inside a fly or flying inside a fish?</p> <p>Come up with your own funny Would you Rather statement and act it out for the class to guess.</p>		
<p>Why do you think the crystal around Kip's neck is important?</p>			
<p>What does <i>inkling</i> mean?</p>		<p>Write the first few pages of the next Quicksmiths book.</p>	
	<p>Quicket Count: How many Quickets did you find? Where are they?</p>		



Wrap-up Discussion & Votes

Vote for your favourite riddle. Write down a sentence to explain why.

Vote for your favourite character. Write down a sentence to explain why.

Vote for your least favourite character. Write down a sentence to explain why.

Vote for your favourite Strange Energy. Write down a sentence to explain why.

Vote for your favourite picture in the book. Write down a sentence to explain why.

Did you work out any of the riddles individually or as a group? Recap on how you did this. Were there any clues in the story that helped you?

Do you think you are better at Sideways Thinking now? Why?

What do you think happens next after the book ends?

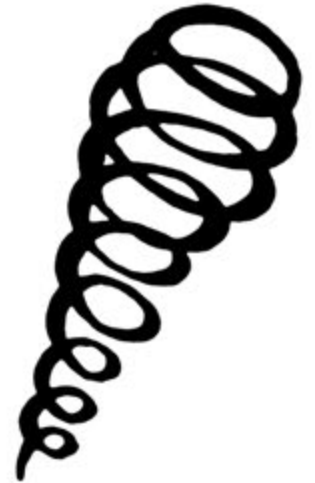
Mini-Dictionary (Vocabulary Project Chapter 9)

Take the list of made-up words you have collected while reading the book.

Now create your own mini-dictionary with definitions.

Remember to add the parts of speech (e.g. is the word a noun, a verb, an adverb etc.)

Add at least three made-up words of your own.



Ten Riddles Quiz



1. What's the name Kip gives the book he draws in?
2. What does Kip carry with him to remind him of his mum?
3. What are the Big Five Strange Energies?
4. What's the name of the specialised cells that allow some people to interact with Strange Energy, and also make them good at solving puzzles?
5. Name three buildings or places at Quicksmiths.
6. Name two teachers from Quicksmiths.
7. What are the names of the six members of Team Glowflyer?
8. Name three inventions from Quicksmiths.
9. Name one of Eartha's inventions.
10. What era of history did Eartha come from?
11. What relation is Gorvak to Eartha?
12. Where is Eartha's secret study? For one extra point, which building is it located in?
13. What does Bagsworth call Scaleface?
14. What is the ultra Strange Energy called that Kip sees?



Quicksmiths Puzzle Challenge

There's no such thing as too many puzzles! Can you complete the Quicksmiths Puzzle Challenge by solving all the crosswords, word searches, riddles and anagrams from quicksmiths.com?

Puzzle Badge 1: Complete the Quicksmiths crossword/s, on your own or as a team.

Puzzle Badge 2: Complete the Quicksmiths word search/es, on your own or as a team.

Puzzle Badge 3: Complete the Quicksmiths riddle downloads, on your own or as a team.

Puzzle Badge 4: Complete the Quicksmiths anagrams, on your own or as a team (if not already done in Chapter 1).

Finished already? There are two bonus puzzles hidden inside *The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith*.

Bonus Puzzle #1: Find the Quickets

The first bonus puzzle is a hidden-object game. Count up all the Quickets scattered throughout the book – you'll need to be eagle-eyed to spot every single one, they're extremely good at hiding.

How many did you find?

(Visit the Quicksmiths website for hints)

Bonus Puzzle #2: Get the Picture

The second bonus puzzle requires observational and logic skills. Clues are hidden among the ten black-and-white illustrations inside the book and lead to a ten-word sentence from nearby pages.

For experienced puzzle hounds only!

(Visit the Quicksmiths website for hints)



Book Cover Redesign

Design your own book cover for The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith.

Explain how you think your book cover represents the story well. Which characters have you chosen, and which items? Why?



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The Ten Riddles
of Eartha Quicksmith