

Year 4 Reading

All children

Date: Monday 29th June 2020

LO: To read and summarise a piece of text

Task:

Read or share chapter 21 of 'Demon Dentist' (The text is below the task).

What is Alfie's plan? What is Raj's part in the plan? Does Raj agree willingly (easily) to be part of it?

Your task today is to read and make some notes as you go so you can summarise what this chapter is all about.

Demon Dentist by David Walliams chapter 21

Flying Tooth

"One of MY teeth...?" protested Raj.

"Yes," replied Alfie firmly. "I would offer one of my mine, but I don't have any left."

Raj was not convinced. "But why do you need one of my teeth?"

Alfie paced up and down the penny chew aisle to compose his thoughts.

"OK. This much we know... Someone or something is taking the children of the town's teeth from under their pillows and leaving something despicable behind, right?"

"Yes," agreed the newsagent.

"So tonight I am going to leave a tooth under my pillow when I go to bed, then pretend to be asleep."

"Coffee Revels will keep you awake! I can separate them out from the other more palatable flavours."



“Good plan. Then I will lay in bed with half an eye open, to catch sight of whoever or whatever...” the boy gulped in fear, “...is responsible for this evil...”

Raj nodded, and then looked away so as not to catch Alfie’s eye. The newsagent pretended to straighten some packets of pastilles. “Well, best of luck, young man. I won’t keep you any longer. Good day!”

Alfie watched the newsagent for a while. Eventually he said, “Raj...?”

“Yes?”

“Aren’t you forgetting something...?”

“No, I don’t think so,” replied Raj a little too quickly. “I don’t want to keep you, so...”

“Your tooth...”

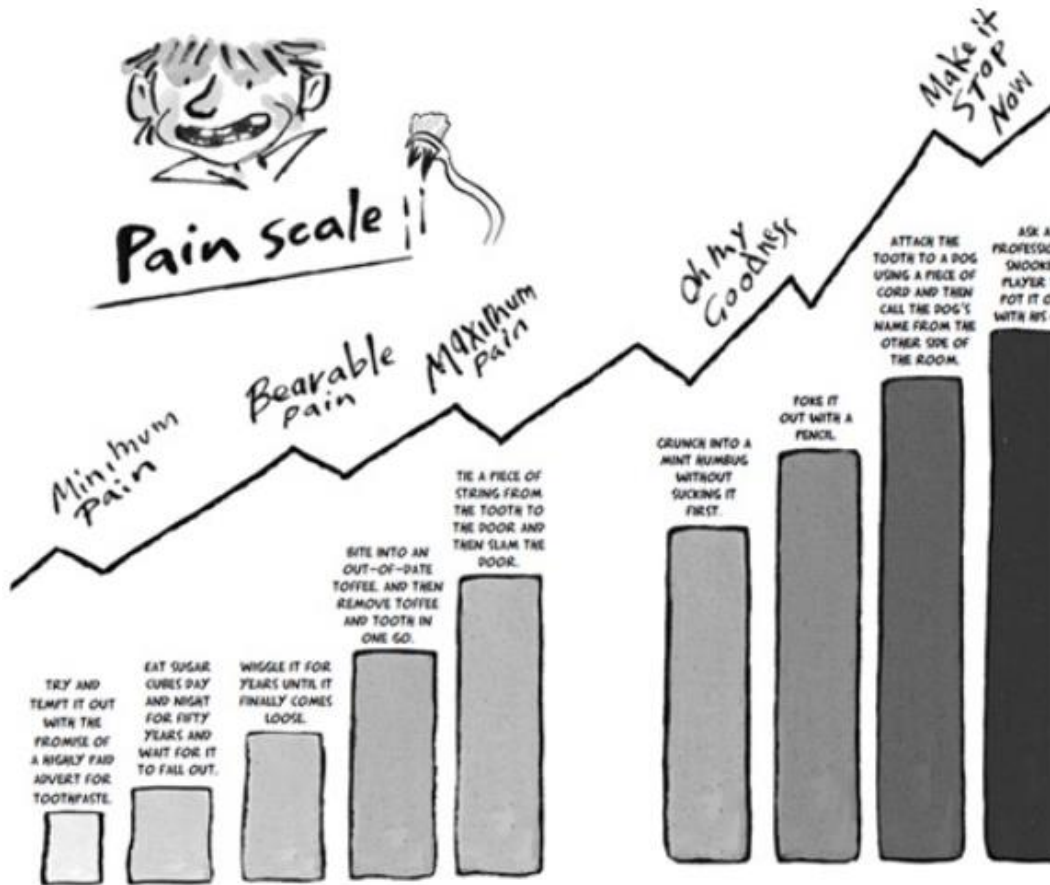
Raj looked more than a little panicked, and slowly approached Alfie.

“I would love to lend you one of my teeth; well, I suppose it would be more of a gift,” said the shopkeeper. “But...”

“But...?” prompted the boy.

“I am scared taking it out is going to hurt.”

Alfie’s brain had been processing different ways they could remove one of Raj’s teeth. There seemed to be a sliding scale of pain:



Tying the tooth to a door and slamming it seemed by far the best option. Not least because it would be over in a second. What's more, Raj sold string in his shop. It was of course kept just underneath the body-building magazines.

Reluctantly, Raj went along with the plan.

First, Alfie tied one end of the string to the newsagent's tooth.

Next, he carefully measured out the distance from Raj, who he had stand behind his counter, to the open door.

Then, with just a tiny bit of slack, he tied the other end of the string to the open door's handle.



“Are you all right?” he asked.

“Yes, I think so, dear. I only came in for a scratchcard and a bag of bonbons...”

“Ah, Mrs Morrissey, my favourite customer...” Raj gathered himself, and approached the lady with the items. “Here we are! And don’t worry, madam, there is no extra charge for being hit in the head by my flying tooth...”

The befuddled old lady reached into her purse and handed him the money, before the newsagent gently guided her out of his shop.

Meanwhile, Alfie gathered up the string and smiled at discovering Raj’s tooth was still at the end of it. He briefly examined its chips and stains before popping it in his pocket. “Thanks, Raj. This will be the bait...”



“Well, best of luck, young Alfred. And I expect you to come here to the shop first thing tomorrow morning to tell me if you saw anything in the night.”

“I will.”

Raj rushed back to his counter. Quickly he sorted through a dozen or so packs of Revels, putting all the coffee ones in one bag. Then he carefully resealed them all with a glue stick.

“Nearly forgot! Here’s a bag of coffee-only Revels to keep you awake. There might be the odd raisin one in there as they are a very similar shape...”

The newsagent placed the bag in the boy’s hand, and held it tight for a moment. He looked straight into Alfie’s eyes and whispered, “For goodness’ sake, boy, be careful...”

“I will, Raj.”

DING!

The boy opened the door to leave.

“One last thing...” whispered Raj.

“Yes?”

“Don’t tell anyone I have tampered with these bags of Revels...”