



Room 13

by

Robert

Swindlells

Room 13 by Robert Swindells

Resources

New class set of New Windmill Hardbacks

The Novel

The novel tells the story of a school trip to Whitby. A group of pupils stay at a hotel, explore the town and surrounding area and save one of their party from a Vampire who resides in the hotel in the mysterious Room 13 which only materialises at midnight (it masquerades as a linen cupboard during the day).

- Adults might find it stilted and contrived – every class I've ever read it with has loved it!
- Suitable lower ability.
- Note: The children in the novel were Y8 in the paperback and are now Y7 in the hardback.

Reading

This novel is very successful if you wish to encourage and involve pupils with reading aloud. I have had astounding results by photocopying a chapter, cutting it up into suitable and differentiated highlighted chunks, (numbering them!) and giving them to pupils to rehearse and prepare either in class or at home. The confidence that this gives is heart-warming.

Other ways of reading include:

- teacher reads to class
- read around class
- reading in groups/pairs
- reading in silence
- reading at home

Pre-reading

Activity 1: Nightmares

- Group discussions about nightmares – are there any common ingredients.
- Groups feed findings back to class – ideas put on board
- May include:
 - Falling, running away from someone/thing, being frozen to the spot, being followed etc
- Individual oral activity - describe a (real or imagined) nightmare to the class
- Informal language, friendly audience, peer group assessment
- Need to add pointers – eg varied tones of voice suitable to subject matter



Read Chapters 1 - 4

Activity 2: Lisa's Letter

Lisa's letter of apology to Mr Hepworth (see p.17)

- Need letter layout proforma on worksheet or overhead
- Quick discussion: Is Lisa's letter formal, informal, business or personal?
- How will she lay the letter out?
- What sort of tone/language is she going to use?
- Are there any spellings she needs?
- Writing frame could be made to help lower ability pupils
- Draft letter, check with peers, write in neat.
- Assessment on appropriate layout/content

Extension: write Lisa's letter of apology to her classmates (different audience!)



Read Chapter 5 (pp19-20)

Activity 3: If I had three minutes left to live I'd...

- A fairly impromptu activity
- Give everyone five minutes to think of an answer (suitable for the classroom!)
- Go round the class listening to everyone's ideas.
- Emphasise importance of being able to listen and not interrupt – an important and necessary skill.
- Assess by comment/praise.



Read Chapter 6

Activity 4: Fliss's Feelings/her postcard home

- Discuss how Fliss thinks the view from the window is so lovely but thinks that it is more beautiful at night. Q&A (teacher-led) about how she knows.
- Draft Fliss's *first* postcard to her mother. What is she going to tell her? What information will her mother want to know? Will she hide her feelings?
- Need skill of writing a postcard and the address.
- Play with moon, broom, room, doom – define assonance and rhyme/half-rhyme – a form of word association game/Chinese whispers filler at end of lesson if there's time?

Homework: Use rhymes such as these to write Fliss's nightmare poem.



Read Chapter 7

Activity 5: Longish-term research assignment, Encyclopaedia Entry

- Explain the importance of being able to work on your own and to a set timescale.
- Reiterate that anyone who does not complete the work by the stated date will have to face definite repercussions!
- Pupils have to choose either:
 - Moby Dick
 - Captain Cook
 - Long John Silver
 - Vampires
- Their task is to write an encyclopaedia entry about their chosen subject suitable for primary school children in years 5/6.
- Look at encyclopaedia entries (during your library lesson?)
- Discuss audience, language, layout, presentation
- Make yourself available (perhaps during your library duty?) for help with research.

Extension – either more than one encyclopaedia entry or the same entry for different audiences/age groups.



Read briskly to end of Chapter 13.

Activity 6: Writing Chapter 13.

- Look closely at the first paragraph of Chapter 14. Is there a clue about what could be included in the missing chapter?
- Revise speech marks (I usually use *Companion to English* but any good, basic text book will do. Stress importance of paragraphing.)
- Discuss words to use instead of “said”. Brainstorm useful list for Trot/Baz’s style of talking. Could be done in groups, with feedback to class.
- Draft the conversation.
- Check with a friend.
- Write up in neat.
- Assessment to be based on accurate use of speech marks, words used other than “said” and interesting appropriate vocabulary



Chapter 15

Activity 7: Class Discussion/Group S&L: Author’s Use of Language

- Pages 56 – 57 from Listen.....Here I come.
- Look closely at change in style/viewpoint. What has the author done here? How has he done it?
- Look at style – lots of short sentences etc. Look at viewpoint – personal, inside someone’s thoughts. Focus on listening/talking to oneself.
- In groups, practise reading this section aloud. Present it to the class.



Read briskly to Chapter 27.

(List of possible interim activities at end of scheme).

Activity 8: Close Reading/Missing Words.

This is the most important and exciting chapter in the book and I don't want you to miss a word of it.

- Explain that pupils are going to read this chapter on a worksheet which has some words missing and that they must try to work out what the missing words are.
- Tell them that you want them to work in pairs and that you want to hear lots of exciting and interesting discussion about the words.
- See differentiated Appendices – these are based on a photocopy of this chapter with words tippexed out. I can't reproduce it here for copyright reasons – but this is such a good activity that you could put it together yourself from my worksheets!

NB This chapter also makes an excellent short play



Read to end of novel.

Activity 9: Mr and Mrs Wilkinson's Letter

- Explain the meaning of marketing (putting your produce in the right place, at the right time and at the right price).
 - Pupils are going to be the Wilkinson's marketing the Crow's Nest guest house specifically for school parties.
 - They are to design a letterhead and compose a formal letter to their own headteacher with interesting, attractive and enticing information.
 - They are to carry out their own research about Whitby if at all possible. Some excellent resources at www.yorkshirenet.co.uk/visinfo/ymwc/whitby.html (makes useful double-sided worksheet).
 - Differentiated worksheets in Appendices 8, 9, 10, 11
- Extension: Design the glossy brochure to accompany the letter.

Display – this novel lends itself really well to display work.

Other ideas for activities

- The letter from the school about the preparations/instructions for the trip.
- Diary entries at particular stages in the novel – pupils and teachers?
- Menus for the children's meals.
- Send off to N Yorkshire Tourist Board for useful information and design own material, eg ghost walks, rural walks, information leaflets, brochures.
- Draw a map of Whitby using all the real places mentioned in the novel.
- Board Game based on important incidents in the novel/collecting implements to destroy vampire.
- How to recognise/destroy a vampire – essential information leaflet for tourists!
- My Best Outfit – for the end of trip disco. Nice end of term activity involving lots of Next/Freeman's type catalogues.

Room 13

Chapter 27

Read Chapter 27 very carefully, using the worksheet version.

Some words are missing and have been replaced with numbers.

Work out what you think they are and write them on your answer sheet, next to the appropriate number.

Help is available if you want it.

1. You could look at a jumbled list of the missing words on the back of the answer sheet.
2. You could ask for a peek at an answer sheet with the first letter of each word given.
3. You could quickly look up a word in your copy of the novel, trying hard not to look at any other words at the same time!

Don't give in and ask for help too quickly, try your best to work out what the missing word could be from your own knowledge of the novel and its subject matter.

Good luck!

Room 13

Chapter 27

Read Chapter 27 very carefully, using the worksheet version.

Some words are missing and have been replaced with numbers.

Work out what you think they are and write them on your answer sheet, next to the appropriate number.

Help is available if you want it.

1. You could look at a jumbled list of the missing words on the back of the answer sheet.
2. You could ask for a peek at an answer sheet with the first letter of each word given.
3. You could quickly look up a word in your copy of the novel, trying hard not to look at any other words at the same time!

Don't give in and ask for help too quickly, try your best to work out what the missing word could be from your own knowledge of the novel and its subject matter.

Good luck!

Room 13

Chapter 27

My Answer Sheet

1. t
2. l
3. c
4. v
5. c
6. d
7. c
8. c
9. h
10. p
11. d
12. c
13. t
14. c
15. c
16. h
17. e
18. w
19. f
20. s
21. e
22. o
23. f
24. f
25. s
26. s
27. p
28. s
29. s
30. g
31. m
32. a
33. l
34. s
35. h
36. c
37. t
38. c
39. l

air
ceased
chest
children
chime
coffin
coffin
coffin
cross
cross
dazzle
dead
eyelids
eyes
fangs
fear
fingernails
grip
hands
head
heart
life
light
locked
mouth
open
pebble
point
scream
skull
smell
spike
stinking
stopped
teachers
thirteen
twelve
vampire
white

Room 13

Chapter 27

My Answer Sheet

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.

Room 13

The Crow's Nest

The vampire is now dead and the Crow's Nest is a safe place for children once again.

Mr and Mrs Wilkinson need to attract more school trips to stay at their hotel, so they decide to write a letter to all headteachers in the United Kingdom to tell them about the attractions of Whitby and the services they offer.

Mr Wilkinson makes a list:



He gives it to Mrs Wilkinson so that she can draft a formal letter. They start the letter and make some notes.

The Crow's Nest
Clifftop
Whitby
North Yorkshire

Need to design a logo

Tel ephone: 00947 612674

date

Name of Headteacher
Name of School
School Road
School Town
School County
School Postcode

Need to find out these details

Dear (name of Headteacher)

I am writing to tell you about our hotel, The Crow's Nest. It is ideal for accommodating school trips.

We offer a warm welcome. . .

Need to write about what we offer.

Whitby is the ideal location for your next school trip. Pupils could

Please do not hesitate to telephone us for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

John Wilkinson

John and Anne Wilkinson

Need to get some ideas from a tourist information leaflet.

(Anne, do you think we need a glossy brochure to send to schools?)

Your task is to write the letter to your own headteacher, filling in lots of details about The Crow's Nest and the town of Whitby.
(Some pupils may be asked to design the glossy brochure for schools.)

The Crow's Nest
Clifftop
Whitby
North Yorkshire

Telephone: 00947 612674

date

Mr J L M _____
Astley H _____ S _____
Y _____ T _____ L _____
Dukinfield
Ch _____
SK16 5BT

Dear Mr M _____

I am writing to tell you about our hotel, The Crow's Nest. It is ideal for accommodating school trips.

We offer a warm welcome to your _____ who can share nicely decorated _____ with their friends. We serve tasty home cooked _____ and can always provide a packed _____ for your day trips. Pupils usually enjoy the farewell _____ and _____ that we put on for them.

Whitby is the ideal location for your next school trip. Pupils could learn about the history of Captain _____ or find out about the connection with _____ the author of the famous _____ story called "_____". The _____ steps up to St Mary's Church are a famous landmark, along with the arch made out of a whales _____. A favourite walk is along the cliff top to _____.

We do hope that you will consider a trip to Whitby and a stay at our hotel, _____'s _____.

Please do not hesitate to telephone us for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

John Wilkinson

John and Anne Wilkinson

The Crow's Nest
Clifftop
Whitby
North Yorkshire

Telephone: 00947 612674

date

Mr J L M _____
Astley H _____ S _____
Y _____ T _____ L _____
Dukinfield
Ch _____
SK16 5BT

Dear Mr M _____

I am writing to tell you about our hotel, The Crow's Nest. It is ideal for accommodating school trips.

We offer a warm welcome to your p _____ who can share nicely decorated b _____ with their friends. We serve tasty home cooked m _____ and can always provide a packed l _____ for your day trips. Pupils usually enjoy the farewell d _____ and p _____ that we put on for them.

Whitby is the ideal location for your next school trip. Pupils could learn about the history of Captain C _____ or find out about the connection with B _____ S _____ the author of the famous v _____ story called "D _____". The _____ steps up to St Mary's Church are a famous landmark, along with the arch made out of a whales j _____ . A favourite walk is along the cliff top to R _____ B _____ .

We do hope that you will consider a trip to Whitby and a stay at our hotel, T _____ C _____ 's N _____ .

Please do not hesitate to telephone us for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

John Wilkinson

John and Anne Wilkinson

The Crow's Nest
Clifftop
Whitby
North Yorkshire

Telephone: 00947 612674

date

Mr J L M _____
Astley H _____ S _____
Y _____ T _____ L _____
Dukinfield
Ch _____
SK16 5BT

Dear Mr M _____

I am writing to tell you about our hotel, The Crow's Nest. It is ideal for accommodating school trips.

We offer a warm welcome to your p _____ who can share nicely decorated b _____ with their friends. We serve tasty home cooked m _____ and can always provide a packed l _____ for your day trips. Pupils usually enjoy the farewell d _____ and p _____ that we put on for them.

Whitby is the ideal location for your next school trip. Pupils could learn about the history of Captain C _____ or find out about the connection with B _____ S _____ the author of the famous v _____ story called "D _____". The _____ steps up to St Mary's Church are a famous landmark, along with the arch made out of a whales j _____. A favourite walk is along the clifftop to R _____ B _____.

We do hope that you will consider a trip to Whitby and a stay at our hotel, T _____ C _____'s N _____.

Please do not hesitate to telephone us for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

John Wilkinson

John and Anne Wilkinson

party vampire Cook Mayes The Crow's Nest Dracula Yew Tree Lane meals Cheshire	High School disco pupils Runswick Bay Bram Stoker 199 jawbone bedrooms lunch
---	--