

DAY 1



Violet never wanted to move to Perfect.

Who wants to live in a town where everyone has to wear glasses to stop them going blind? And who wants to be neat and tidy and perfectly behaved all the time?

Violet quickly discovers there's something weird going on in the town – she keeps hearing voices, her mam is acting strange and her dad has disappeared.

When she meets Boy she realizes that her dad is not the only person to have vanished...and that the mysterious Watchers are guarding a perfectly creepy secret!

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. Why do you think everyone goes blind in Perfect?

(1 mark)

3) Do you think that the place called Perfect is perfect? Explain your answer.

(3 marks)

Read the extract of chapter one, 'Boy'.

4) Clarify what the phrase, 'Perfect had been alive with the news...' means.

_____ (1 mark)

5) What do you think the Doctor will help with?

_____ (1 mark)

6) Find a word in the text which is similar in meaning to a risky manoeuvre.

_____ (1 mark)

7) Why do you think the girl could be frightened?

_____ (1 mark)

Grammar focus

8) Find an example of an adverbial phrase in the text.

_____ (1 mark)

9) Find an adverb in the text.

_____ (1 mark)

10) Find an example of parenthesis in the text.

_____ (1 mark)

BOY

He waited. Hidden by dusk and the garden bushes against the bark of an oak tree. Watching. The spot gave him full view of the house and gravel driveway.

Worrying about being seen felt weird.

Perfect had been alive with the news of Doctor Eugene Brown's arrival for weeks. The doctor would help. Boy knew it, more than he'd ever known anything. He just had to get to the man before he changed.

As night closed in, George and Edward Archer strode by and mounted the stone steps to the house. The place lit up and Boy watched them move around inside.

Suddenly light darted across the grass by his feet and Boy pulled back further into the shadows. A silver car crunched along the driveway towards him and stopped. His heartbeat quickened. The engine purred to silence.

The large door of the house opened and the Archer twins stood silhouetted in the light from the hallway. As Boy watched, statue still, a shiver danced down his spine.

A man got out of the driver's seat; a woman from the passenger's side.

He hadn't imagined the doctor would have company. The woman looked nervous, staring across the roof of the car at the man. He smiled awkwardly at her then walked towards the twins, greeting them with a handshake. The woman followed and the four of them disappeared inside.

Boy ventured a little out of the shadows, stopping short as the doctor called, "Violet. Come in from the car, pet, it's chilly out there."

The back door of the car opened a little, then quickly slammed shut as a breeze rustled the leaves above him.

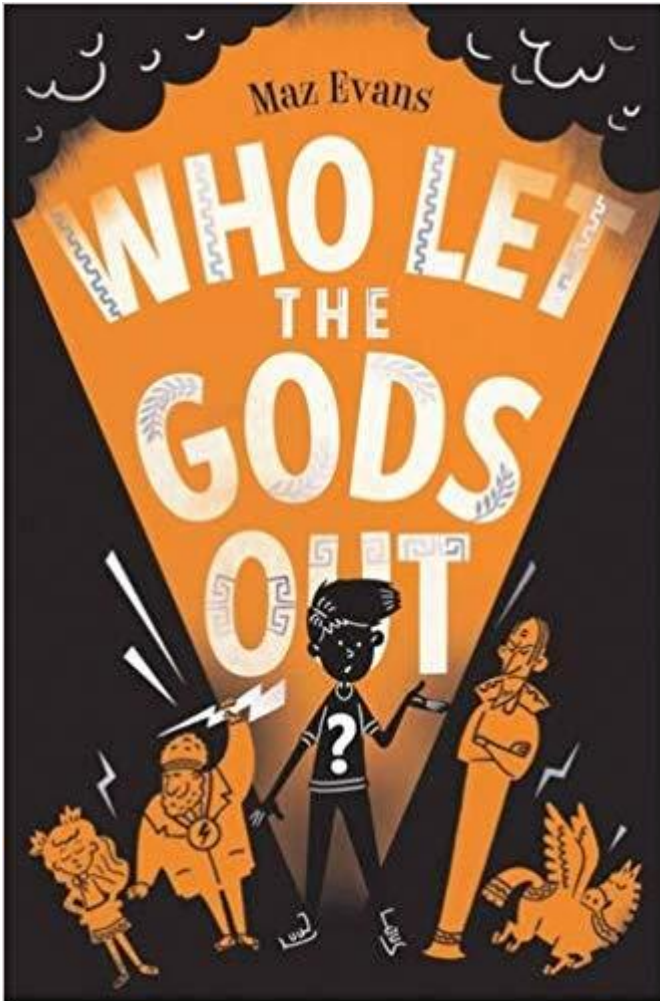
Boy held his breath and pulled back into hiding. The car door swung open again, and this time a small, frightened girl dashed out across the gravel towards the house.

Boy couldn't help laughing. She sped up, jumped the steps and rushed in through the front door, banging it shut behind her and plunging the yard back into darkness.

The car door hung open and Boy pushed it shut as he edged closer to the kitchen window. He just caught sight of the girl sliding into the room.

He sat down by the steps to wait.

Day two



Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. Clarify what a *cushy retirement* is.

(1 mark)

3) What do you think Elliot's problems are?

(2 marks)

Chapter One

A Not Quite Normal Day

It began on a Friday, as strange things often do. This particular Friday had been stranger than most, although it had started normally enough. Elliot Hooper got up at 7.30am as normal, made his Mum breakfast at 8.15am as normal, went to school at 8.55am as normal and was in the Headmaster's office by 9.30am, which was in fact, slightly later than normal.

'Oh Elliot,' sighed Graham Sopweed, headmaster of Brysmore Grammar School. 'What are we going to do with you?'

He looked into the blue-green eyes of the 13-year-old boy before him, as Elliot scratched his shaggy blonde head for an answer. Two years earlier, Graham Sopweed had watched as Elliot was proudly escorted through Brysmore's gates by his Mum, Nan and Grandad. The reports from his primary school had been glowing. "Elliot Hooper is a

previous headmistress promised. There was no doubt that s Elliot was a bright boy, but after a promising start, the past year had seen a big change in this young man and not for

the better. Elliot Hooper hadn't set Brysmore alight. But Mr Sopweed was more than a little concerned that he might set the school on fire.

'It's a tricky one, Sir,' Elliot replied after a lengthy pause. 'It's really a question of everyone's best interests. And the simple fact is that I don't want to be at this school, the teachers don't want me to be at this school, the pupils don't want me or the teachers to be at this school, so perhaps it's time we admitted defeat and everyone got home in time for *Deal or No Deal*.'

Read the extract of chapter one, 'A Not Quite Normal Day.'

4) Why has the author repeated the word 'normal' in the first paragraph?

_____ (1 mark)

5) Find a word that is a synonym for guided.

_____ (1 mark)

6) What is Mr Sopweed worried that Elliot might do to the school?

_____ (1 mark)

7) Find evidence that Elliot doesn't want to stay at school.

_____ (1 mark)

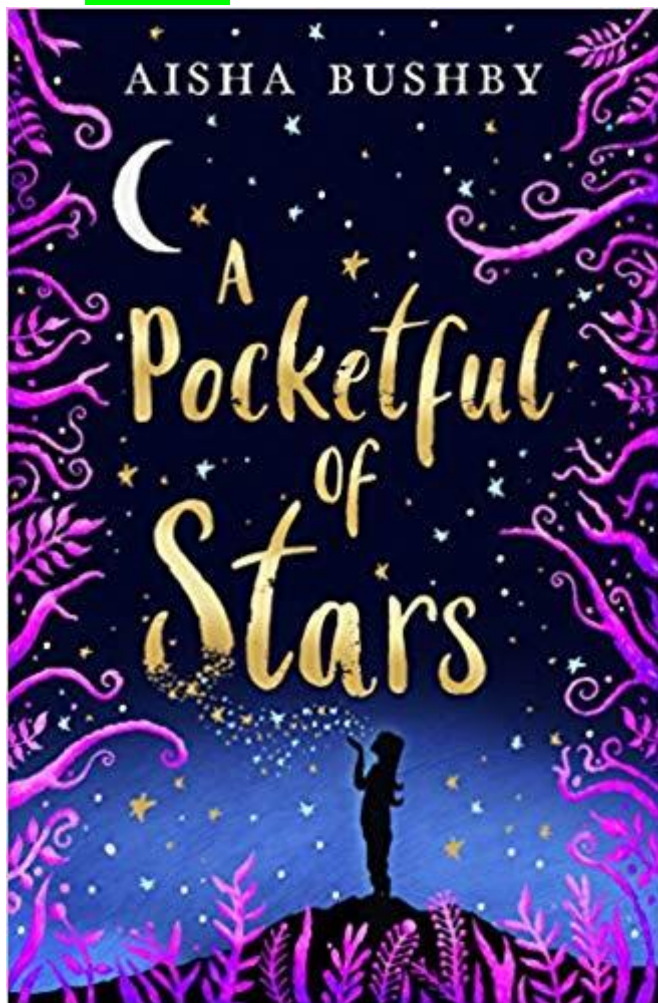
Grammar focus

8) Find an example of an apostrophe for contraction. _____ (1 mark)

9) Find 3 adjectives from the text. _____ (1 mark)

10) Find a hyphenated word in the text. _____ (1 mark)

DAY 3



Safiya and her mum have never seen eye to eye. Her mum doesn't understand Safiya's love of gaming and Safiya doesn't think they have anything in common. As Safiya struggles to fit in at school she wonders if her mum wishes she was more like her confident best friend Elle. But then her mum falls into a coma and, when Safiya waits by her bedside, she finds herself in a strange alternative world that looks a bit like one of her games. And there's a rebellious teenage girl, with a secret, who looks suspiciously familiar . . .

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. What does, '**had never seen eye to eye**' mean?

(1 mark)

3) What does it mean to **fall in to a coma**?

(1 mark)

4) What impression do you get of the character Safiya?

(1 mark)

Chapter 1



Mum always turns into a game. Even boring days out to the theatre.

‘When the play starts,’ Mum says, ‘count the number of times the cast say Rapunzel’s name. Apparently they say it seven times in the first seven minutes!’ She pauses, looking between me and my best friend Elle. We glance at each other and frown. ‘Seven!’ Mum repeats, like this should mean something to us. ‘The witching number?’ She looks disappointed. ‘Oh, never mind.’

I can’t help but laugh. Mum’s games don’t always make sense, because her brain works in mysterious ways.

We’re at a coffee shop next door to the theatre, having cake and hot chocolate while we wait to watch an afternoon performance of *Rapunzel*.

‘Fine, you think of a better game to play while we watch,’

Read the extract of chapter one, ‘**Chapter 1.**’

4) What impression do you get of the character, ‘Mum?’

(1 mark)

5) What does mum think the number 7 means?

(1 mark)

6) Find the word which means to pull a miserable face.

_____ (1 mark)

7) Find the synonym for look.

_____ (1 mark)

Grammar focus

8) **Expand the noun phrase, ‘a coffee shop.’**

_____ (1 mark)

9) **Find and copy an example of a subordinate clause.**

_____ (1 mark)

10) **Expand the contraction ‘we’re.’**

_____ (1 mark)