

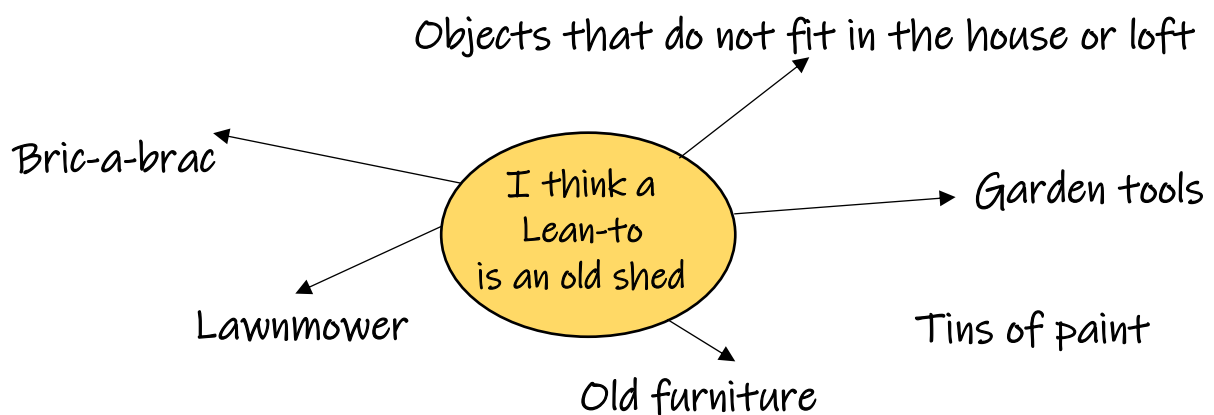
Answer Booklet



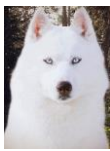
Chapter One: the Old Lean-to

Task One

- A lean-to is a type of shed. It is a building that usually shares one wall with a larger building and having a roof that leans against that wall. One would normally find such a construction in the garden. The old leant-to in this novel is particularly important!
- Inside a leant-to, one would normally find objects associated with the garden etc., such as:



- ✚ Remember you can access the audio of chapter one at www.khdawson.com

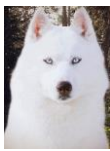


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Task Two - Word Bank - Context Exercise - Answers

Word	What I think it means (context clues)	Definition in the dictionary
Beckoning (Paragraph 2)	Pupils are likely to comment on the word “ begging ” – next to “ beckoning ”. They should explain something about a want/ command. They could also comment on “ come closer ” – a few lines after. This suggests the plants want Christopher to move towards them.	“ Beckoning ” means to make a gesture with the hand, arm, or head to encourage or instruct someone to approach or follow.
Mesmerised (Paragraph 2)	Pupils will probably comment on “ With his finger, he traced the outline of the violet petals. ” This action suggests that Christopher is in a daydream, as if he is drawing the shape of the lavender buds in the air.	“ Mesmerised ” means to have someone's attention completely so that they cannot think of anything else
Amethyst (Paragraph 2)	Pupils will probably comment on “ Lilac ” and “ lavender ”.	“ Amethyst ” is a purple colour or a purple stone.
Husk (Paragraph 3)	Pupils might comment on the word “ ancient ” and the phrase “ That was hard to believe looking at it now: one more gust of wind and surely it would be no more ” – all suggesting that is hollow and fragile building.	A “ husk ” is a dry outer covering of something –an emptied shell or remnant of something fragile.



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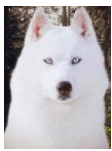


<p><i>Labyrinths</i> (Paragraph 4)</p>	<p>Pupils should comment on the act of the “spiders” making webs and that they “decorated” the shed’s window with their “silken labyrinths”.</p>	<p>A “labyrinth” is a maze (usually in a garden) formed by an intricate structure, usually separated by high hedges. In this case, the spider’s webs are so complex, they look like an intricate maze.</p>
<p><i>Apparition</i> (Paragraph 6)</p>	<p>Pupils should pick up on the word “ghostly” and the fact that only “two azure eyes” were staring at him.</p>	<p>An “apparition” is a ghost or an unusual sight.</p>
<p><i>Azure</i> (Paragraph 6)</p>	<p>Pupils might struggle with this, but they might use association of the adjective “piercing” and how it usually describes the colour blue in someone’s “eyes”.</p>	<p>“Azure” is a blue colour.</p>
<p><i>Zephyr</i> (Second last paragraph)</p>	<p>Pupils should pick up on the words “autumnal” and the action of “exhaled” – which hints that the wind blew strongly enough to open the lean-to door.</p>	<p>A “zephyr” is a breeze/ wind.</p>

Task Three – Understanding the Story - Answers

1. Write down three things that you learn about Christopher from the first two paragraphs.

- ✚ Christopher appears to be sad/ something is bothering him (in particular, something from the past few months).
- ✚ Christopher feels trapped – he feels the need to escape into the garden.
- ✚ Christopher was not always sad/ troubled; he was happy at some point (taken from “**the memory of happier times**”.)
- ✚ He liked the freshness of Milaw House garden – it made him feel better.



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- ✚ He loved his mother dearly and still recall her caring nature. It appears that he has lost his mother, given the way he reminisces about her in the garden of Milaw House a few months prior.

2. **What draws Christopher towards the old lean-to at the bottom of the garden?**

There are a number of possible answers to this question:

- ✚ The lavender plants attracted Christopher to the lean-to.
- ✚ A strange feeling (“something”) drew him closer
- ✚ A strange – ghostly – figure/ two blue (“azure”) eyes appeared at the shed’s window and drew him further in.
- ✚ A strange figure/ blue eyes appeared to be looking at him.

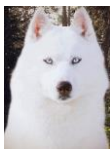
3. **Although Nana Kathy does not physically appear in this chapter, write down two things that you can work out about her character.**

There are a number of possible answers to this question:

- ✚ Nana Kathy is overprotective of her Grandson (she warns him not to go near the lean-to).
- ✚ She has quite a strong personality/ very maternal towards her grandson and she will not let anything get in her way.
- ✚ She has quite an influence on her grandson Christopher (taken from **“Christopher knew that his Nana Kathy would be furious”.**)

4. **What strange thing happens to Christopher at the end of the chapter?**

- ✚ Christopher had tried to open the door to the lean-to, but he could not (despite pushing his whole weight against it). Then, without warning, the gentle breeze blew through the garden and opened the door with ease.



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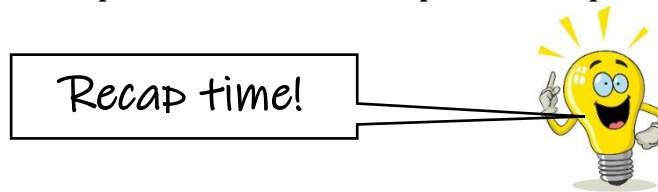


Chapter Two: *the White Horse*

Read **chapter two** and then try the tasks below. You can also listen to chapter two at www.khdawson.com

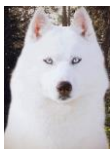
Figurative Language

You will find many examples of similes, metaphors and personification in this chapter.



Task One

- ✚ Simile: a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more clear or vivid. For example, *the soldier was as brave as a lion*.
- ✚ Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable/ a contracted comparison that gives more detail. For example, *your room is a pigsty!*
- ✚ Personification: the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form. For example, *the car complained as the key was roughly turned in its ignition*.

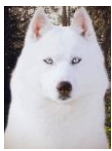


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Task Two

Quotation	Technique	Effect
“Like a moth to a flame, he was helplessly pulled.”	Simile	<i>Moths are attracted to light and they cannot help it, therefore Christopher is drawn towards something inside the lean-to.</i>
1. “Christopher tried to say something else, but his mouth was mummified with fear.”	Metaphor	Just as mummification is a process that involves embalming so that the object dries and shrivels, so too is Christopher’s mouth dry. It suggests that his fear has made his mouth so dry, he cannot speak.
2. “These surges of panic had been sneaking up on him too much recently.”	Personification	“Sneaking” is an action that one would normally associate with a human action. Just as it means to move in a quick and underhand way, it suggests that Christopher’s panic catches him off guard in an unpleasant way.
3. “Temptation clutched at Christopher: it grasped his foot, placed it in one of the leather stirrups and helped him onto the trusted steed.”	Personification	Here, “temptation” is compared to a human in that it “clutched” at Christopher’s foot and encouraged him onto the horse. “Clutched” means to grab, so Christopher had no option because the power of temptation was too much.
4. “The hand of fear scuttled across the floor and scarpered up his spine.”	Metaphor	Here, the emotion of fear is compared to a creepy hand that has the ability to attack at any moment – as if it is a creature that attacks Christopher’s back and cause him to feel uneasy.

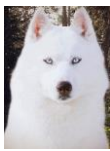


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Task Three - Understanding the Story so Far

- + A ghostly hand appeared and signalled to Christopher. It then drew him into the lean-to.
- + The objects in the lean-to appeared to float in the air – inexplicably.
- + The old rocking horse was moving, as if someone had just leapt off its saddle.
- + The rocking horse appeared to be smiling at Christopher.
- + When Christopher placed his hands on its saddle, it felt warm and it comforted him, making him forget all about the horrors of starting a new school.
- + He felt like someone was trying to communicate with him.
- + The horse looked perfect, even though it was clearly made a long time ago.
- + Christopher noticed strange writing on the horse: Decemuir sacrorum libri. However, it there was something familiar about it.
- + When Christopher touched the writing, he was thrown from the horse onto the ground. However, it did not hurt him; instead, it made him laugh.
- + When he started laughing, it caused the contents of the old leant-to to float magically in the air again. The horse started to move again – it muzzle pointed towards a box.
- + Christopher opened the box to find a strange wooden bound book and pen. The pen appeared to be his Papa Tommy’s.
- + Inside the book lay a story about Tom and his dog – Siberian Husky called Sam. Christopher was compelled to write his ow story – and he did. He wrote about Sam, but this time he wrote about how the Siberian was Christopher’s dog.
- + Christopher was interrupted by scratching at the door. He was terrified.
- + When Christopher opened the door, a beautiful white Siberian – like the dog from his own story appeared and leapt towards him – slobbering him with doggy kisses.



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Task Four - answers

1. *Christopher found the following items in the lean-to:*

- Shelf with books, paintings, glass jars and old board games.
- Bric-a-brac (i.e., old bits and bobs)
- An old gramophone with its records propped at the side.
- A white rocking horse.
- A wooden box, on the shelf just below the window. Inside the wooden box was a golden nibbed pen and a wooden bound manuscript.

Chapter Three: Sam the Siberian

Task One - Understanding the Story - Answers

1. Look at paragraph one (p9).

- a. Find a word or phrase that reveals more information about Christopher. Write the word/ phrase down and then explain what it suggests about him.

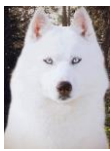
✚ “daydreaming” and “overactive imagination” suggests that Christopher’s mind wanders – he is always drifting off into another world.

- b. Find a word or phrase that reveals more information about Nana Kathy. Write the word/ phrase down and then explain what it suggests about her.

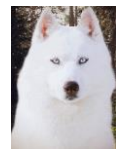
✚ “eagle eyes of Nana Kathy” – Nana Kathy has vision like an eagle – she can see things from far away. In other words, she knows everything that is going on.

2. Look at the bottom of page 10. In your own words, explain the “odd” thing that Christopher discovers.

✚ The old record disc has no dust or no scratches. It looks brand new as if someone has just placed it there.



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3. Look at the first half of page 11. In your own words, describe what happens.

✚ Christopher and Sam begin dancing to the music coming from the old gramophone – Frank Sinatra’s “If I Could Write a Book”.

4. In this chapter, Nana Kathy physically enters the story. What piece of information do we find out about her?

✚ We discover that Nana Kathy comes from Scotland – because of her accent.



5. Look at the top of page 9. What does Christopher take with him? Why does he decide to do this?

✚ **Christopher takes his Papa’s pen – and Sam.** He wants to make sure that he was not daydreaming.

6. What unbelievable event happens at the end of the chapter?

✚ Nana Kathy greets with a dog dish in her hands. The name on the bowl is Sam – as if he is a real dog.