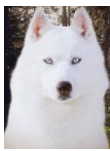


Activities on Chapters One to Six



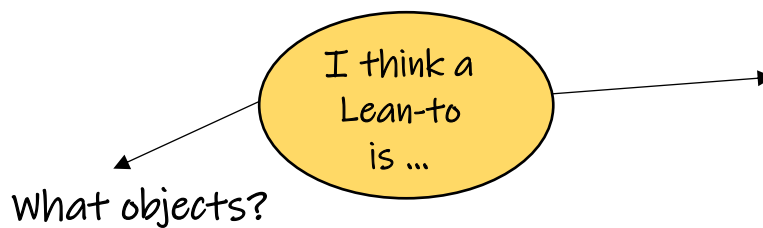
Chapter One: the Old Lean-to

Task One

What is a *lean-to*? What sort of objects would you expect to find inside a lean-to? Where would you expect to find such a thing?



Give yourself some thinking time and then create a *spider gram* in response to these questions.



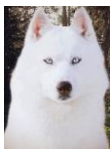
- ✚ When you have finished your *spider gram*, read chapter one. Remember you can access the audio of chapter one at www.khdawson.com
- ✚ After reading chapter one, check your spider gram details. Were you right? Perhaps you could even add in more details now that you have read the first chapter.

Task Two - Word Bank - Context Exercise

You might have encountered some tricky words in chapter one. To help with this, you should try using context skills:



- ✚ When you **come across** an **unfamiliar word**, you should try to work out its meaning from its context, i.e., **look for any clues** in the **sentences above or below** the **unfamiliar word** that **hint at its meaning**.
- ✚ Look at the example at the top of the next page to help you with this. The word “**emanating**” has been taken from chapter two:



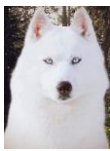
“The Book of Almost Anything” by K H Dawson



Word	What I think it means (context clues)	Definition in the dictionary
<i>Emanating</i> (Paragraph 2)	I think it means to release/ give off a feeling because of, “Christopher felt an unexpected warmth reach out to him.” “Warmth” can be like an emotion/ feeling, and it is “reaching out” – coming from the lavender plants.	To give out or produce a feeling, quality, or sensation.

Now try completing the following table, using context clues from the words taken from chapter one (the words that appear in the first column).

Word	What I think it means (context clues)	Definition in the dictionary
<i>Beckoning</i> (Paragraph 2)		
<i>Mesmerised</i> (Paragraph 2)		
<i>Amethyst</i> (Paragraph 2)		
<i>Husk</i> (Paragraph 3)		
<i>Labyrinths</i> (Paragraph 4)		
<i>Apparition</i> (Paragraph 6)		
<i>Azure</i> (Paragraph 6)		
<i>Zephyr</i> (Second last paragraph)		



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Task Three - Understanding the Story

Now answer the following questions to check your understanding of chapter one:

1. Write down three things that you learn about Christopher from the first two paragraphs.
2. What draws Christopher towards the old lean-to at the bottom of the garden?
3. Although Nana Kathy does not physically appear in this chapter, write down two things that you can work out about her character.
4. What strange thing happens to Christopher at the end of the chapter?

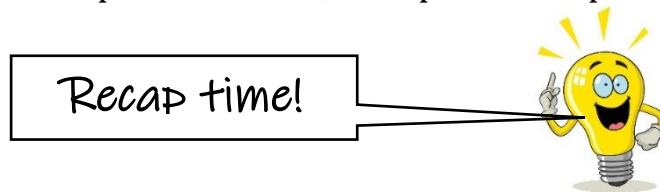
Chapter Two: *the White Horse*



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

Figurative Language

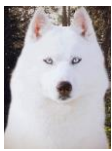
You will find many examples of similes, metaphors and personification in this chapter.



Task One

What are similes, metaphors, and personification? Can you think of any examples?

- ✚ Write down the meanings of these three terms (simile, metaphor, personification).
- ✚ Try to give an example of these three figures of speech (simile, metaphor, personification).



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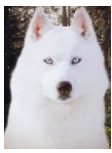


Task Two

- ✚ Now look at the table below. It contains some figurative language taken from Chapter Two.
- ✚ For each example, you should identify whether it is a simile, metaphor or personification and then you should explain its effect (i.e., what picture does it paint in your mind).
- ✚ Again, the first one has been completed for you...



Quotation	Technique	Effect
“Like a moth to a flame, he was helplessly pulled.”	Simile	Moths are attracted to light and they cannot help it, therefore Christopher is drawn towards something inside the lean-to.
1. “Christopher tried to say something else, but his mouth was mummified with fear.”		
2. “These surges of panic had been sneaking up on him too much recently.”		
3. “Temptation clutched at Christopher: it grasped his foot, placed it in one of the leather stirrups and helped him onto the trusted steed.”		
4. “The hand of fear scuttled across the floor and scarpered up his spine.”		

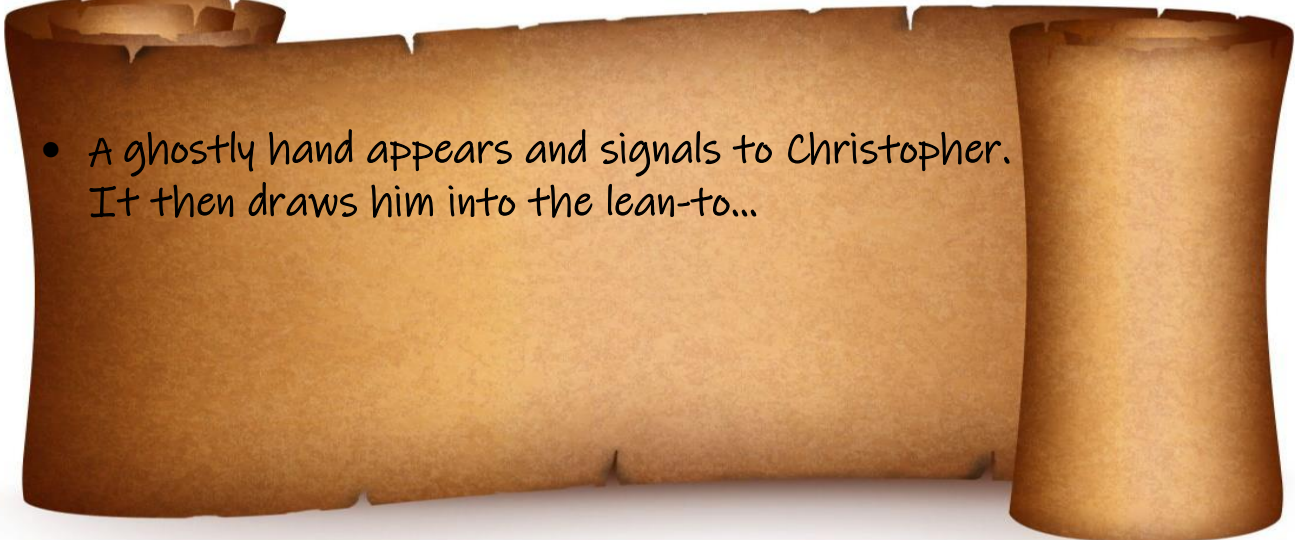


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Task Three - Understanding the Story so Far

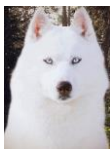
Several strange things happen to Christopher whilst he is inside the old lean-to. Skim back through chapter two and then make a list of all the strange events that occur. The first one has been completed for you...

- 
- *A ghostly hand appears and signals to Christopher. It then draws him into the lean-to...*

Task Four

1. On pages 9 and 10 (of e-Book), the interior of the lean-to is described in some detail. Scan back through these pages and then make a list of what Christopher finds inside. Again, the first detail has been included below...

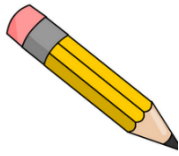
- 
- *Shelf with books, paintings, glass jars and old board games...*
 -



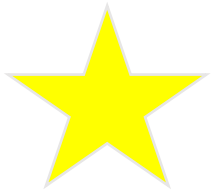
“The Book of Almost Anything” by K H Dawson



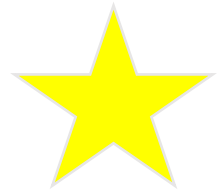
2. By now, you should have a vision in your head as to what the old lean-to looks like.



Using the information you have gathered – and your imagination – draw a picture of what you think the interior of the lean-to looks like.



Take a picture of your drawing when you have finished and upload it to my Twitter account: [@KHDawson1](https://twitter.com/KHDawson1)



The best drawing could be in with a chance to win a signed paperback of my novel.

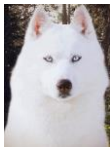
Chapter Three: *Sam the Siberian*

Read chapter three (remember that you can listen to the audio at www.khdawson.com) and then try the tasks below...

Task One - Understanding the Story

Answer the following questions in sentences:

1. Look at paragraph one in Chapter 3.
 - 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.
 - 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.
2. Look at the bottom of page 10. In your own words, explain the “odd” thing that Christopher discovers.
3. Look at the first half of page 11. In your own words, describe what happens.
4. In this chapter, Nana Kathy physically enters the story. What piece of information do we find out about her?
5. What does Christopher take with him? Why does he decide to do this?
6. What unbelievable event happens at the end of the chapter?



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Task Two – What Happens Next?

Considering all the events and the characters, what do you think will happen next in “The Book of Almost Anything”?

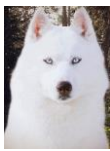
Again, you could upload your ideas to **my Twitter account:**
[@KHDawson1](https://twitter.com/KHDawson1)

I would be delighted to hear your ideas! 😊

Task Three – Word Search

Look for the following words in the word search on the next page:

Nana Kathy	Lean-to	Lavender	Sam	Christopher
Sinatra		Milaw House		Gramophone
	White Horse		Ferncross	



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T	K	F	L	M	I	T	T	H	N	W	R	S	O
M	E	T	L	S	R	N	H	T	S	H	T	H	A
C	W	A	W	I	A	A	R	E	E	H	I	E	F
R	N	O	I	S	A	M	S	I	N	A	T	R	A
L	E	A	N	T	O	A	E	W	E	R	K	T	S
O	O	R	A	Y	H	T	A	K	A	N	A	N	I
L	A	R	A	D	N	E	V	A	L	N	D	N	U
S	H	T	R	A	S	S	T	M	L	I	A	A	S
S	T	H	E	W	H	I	T	E	H	O	R	S	E
A	S	H	R	E	S	L	A	N	H	M	R	N	O
N	C	H	R	I	S	T	O	P	H	E	R	E	A
L	N	M	G	R	A	M	O	P	H	O	N	E	N
F	E	R	N	C	R	O	S	S	O	H	S	K	R
O	O	T	I	E	S	U	O	H	W	A	L	I	M



Chapter Four: Incaendium

Task One



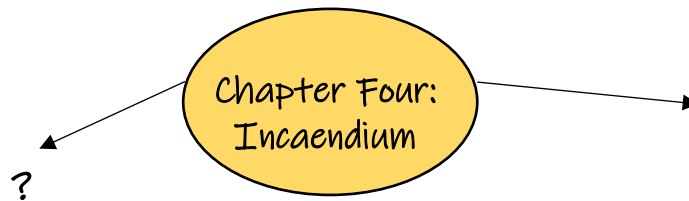
Incaendium is **Latin** for fire.



- (i) But what is Latin? Take a few moments to search/ ask someone what Latin is. If you are unsure, [click here](#) for an answer.
- (ii) Now that you know what the translation of *Incaendium* is, what do you think will happen in this chapter?

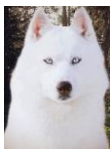


Give yourself some thinking time and then create a *spider gram* with your ideas.



- ✚ When you have finished your *spider gram*, read Chapter Four. Remember you can access the audio of Chapter Four at www.khdawson.com
- ✚ After reading Chapter Four, check your spider gram details. Were you right? Perhaps you could even add in some more information now that you have read the first chapter.





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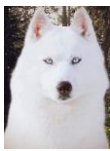


Task Two – Understanding the Story

This chapter is quite long. To check your understanding of its events, answer the following questions in sentences:

1. Why did Christopher not feel like eating his dinner? (Page14).
2. Skim and scan the details on page 15, then write down three things that we learn about Aiden Brenton.
3. Look at page 16.
 - a. How would you describe Christopher’s relationship with his father?
 - b. Quote an expression to back up your answer to (a).
4. What “gift” does Christopher receive from his father? (Page 16).
5. Look at page 17.
 - a. How does Sam feel about Aiden Brenton?
 - b. Quote an expression from page 17 to back up your answer to (a).
6. Look at page 17.
 - a. What does Christopher’s father ask him to do?
 - b. In your own words, explain how Nana Kathy reacts to this.
7. What strange thing happens to Christopher when his father explains what he has to do with the mobile phone (pages16-17).
8. Look at page 19. What three things make Christopher feel better?
9. Look at page 19 – 21.
 - a. Who is Kerry Robinson?
 - b. What can we work out about how Christopher feels about her? Quote an expression from pages 19-21 to back up your answer to (a).





Chapter Five: *the Pen is Mightier than the Sword*



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

Task One

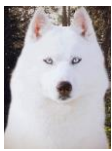
The pen is mightier than the sword is a proverb - a short, well-known saying, stating a general truth or piece of advice.

What do you think the proverb *the pen is mightier than the sword* means? Considering everything that has happened so far, why do you think this chapter is called this?



Give yourself some thinking time and then create a list of the reasons why you think this chapter is called *the Pen is Mightier than the Sword*.





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Task Two – Christopher’s Diary

Although this chapter is short, a lot of things happen to Christopher. What must he be feeling at this point? Imagine he kept a diary where he recorded all his thoughts and feelings on everything that had happened in this chapter.

Step One:

List the main events that affect Christopher in Chapter Five. Try to add in what he would be feeling.

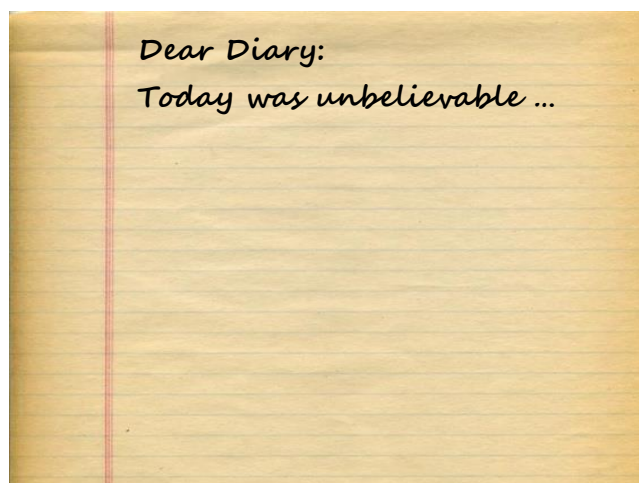
Step Two:

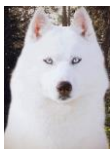
Using your information from step one, write a diary entry – as if you are Christopher Muir, recording all the events that occur in Chapter Six.

Use the *success criteria* below to help you with this:

*******SUCCESS CRITERIA*******

- + Write in first person – as if you are Christopher Muir.
- + Include the main events that occur in chapter – and how they affect “you” (Christopher Muir).
- + You should try to include thoughts and feelings.
- + Use the correct punctuation – remembering to use capital letters at the start of sentences and the beginning of proper names.
- + Write in paragraphs.
- + Try to write at least two paragraphs. There is no upper limit to this – let your imagination take you on Christopher’s journey...





Chapter Six: the Grandfather Clock



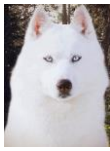
Read **Chapter Six** and then try the tasks below. You can also listen to Chapter Six at www.khdawson.com

Task One – Understanding the Story

To check your understanding of the events in this chapter, answer the following questions in sentences:

1. Look at page 29.
 - a. What causes Christopher to awake so abruptly?
 - b. What makes him feel so “uneasy”?
 - c. What makes us think that Sam might just be a “figment of Christopher’s imagination”?
2. Look at page 30. Explain what Christopher discovers in the hallway of Milaw House?
3. The handwritten note reads: *key ad alterum orbem terrarium in bibliotheca mendacium*. Using Google Translate {[click here for the link to Google Translate](#)} work out what the note says. What do you think it means?
4. Look at page 31. Do you think that Nana Kathy knew what Christopher was doing up so early? Explain your answer.
5. Why does Christopher not use his father’s surname? (page 32)
6. Look at the bottom of page 32 and the top of p33. What strange thing happens to Christopher?





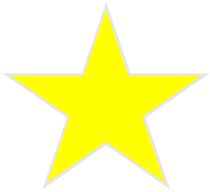
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Task Two – Your Favourite Character so Far

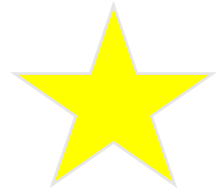
So far, you have encountered several different characters in “The Book of Almost Anything.” Choose your favourite character and design a poster all about them. You should include the following:

- ✚ Their title at the top of the poster.
- ✚ A drawing of what you think they look like.
- ✚ Some reasons as to why they are your favourite character.
- ✚ Some dialogue – memorable things that they say from chapters one to six.



Take a picture of your drawing when you have finished and upload it to my Twitter account:

[@KHDawson1](https://twitter.com/KHDawson1)



The best drawing could be in with a chance to win a signed paperback of my novel.

The story continues...

Look out for more activities and more audio of my novel. Remember that the e-Book of my novel is still only 77p.