



The Polar Bear Explorers' Club
Alex Bell
Chapter by Chapter Resources

- Reading Comprehension
 - Writing
 - Drama/Dance
 - History
 - Geography
- Computing/Coding
 - Science
 - Art/DT
 - Music
- Philosophy For Children

Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
Chapter One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think Alex included the rules of the various clubs before this chapter? Why doesn't Stella want to stay with her Aunt Agatha? Where did Stella get her name? Why can't Stella go on the expedition? What present does Felix get for Stella? Why is it so special? How did Stella come to live with Felix? What is Gruff? Why is it peculiar that Stella and Felix have Gruff? What impressions do you get of Stella, Felix and Aunt Agatha, from this chapter? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own explorers' club. Write a set of rules for it in the style of Alex Bell. Write a diary entry, from the perspective of Felix, about when he found Stella. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own model igloo, and fill it with the tiny creatures of your choice. Think about what materials you could use. Write a 'how-to' guide for keeping polar bears. You may need to do some research on what they eat and need to survive.
Chapter Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How old is Stella turning? Why can't they be entirely sure of this? What does Felix keep in the orangery? Why do you think Agatha disapproves of ice cream for breakfast? Why does Felix say that Mildred is in the cereal? What does Felix mean when he says that Stella is his daughter 'in every way that can possibly matter'? Where does Agatha want to send Stella? What does this place sound like? How does Felix say he will make sure that Stella is accompanied while he is on his exploration? Why does Stella want to see an angry gnome? What is the name of Stella's unicorn? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a menu for your ideal birthday breakfast. Make sure Auntie Agatha would absolutely hate it! Write a school prospectus for the finishing school that Agatha proposes to send Stella to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P4C question: Should 12-year-old girls be allowed on dangerous expeditions? Create an explorer's compass, just like the one that Stella describes. Draw an accompanying map for the compass. Make sure the two correlate.
Chapter Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the captain of the ship? Where is the ship going to take them? Why doesn't Felix explore the ship with Stella? Why didn't Stella enjoy school? How did you feel when Stella flew over the side of the ship? Why didn't Stella drown? Why does Shay hug Stella? What impression do you get of Shay? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a diary entry from the perspective of Stella, describing her first day at school. Rewrite the incident where Shay and Stella are stuck on the top deck, from the perspective of Shay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the incident on the deck between Shay and Stella, during the storm. Using musical instruments, soundtrack this scene. Read the incident on the deck between Shay and Stella, during the storm. Recreate this scene using dance. How can you use your bodies? How can you use your facial expressions?

<p>Chapter Four</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What special gift does Shay have? • If Stella could be an animal whisperer, which animal would she be able to talk to? Why do you think this is? • Who is Shay's spirit animal? Why can't Stella stroke it? • What nickname does Shay give to Stella? Why? • What lie does Stella tell to Felix? • Why don't Felix and Stella have time to have breakfast? • Why doesn't the footman want to let Stella in? • What impression do you get of The Polar Bear Explorers' Club from the building in which it is housed? • Who is the president of The Polar Bear Explorers' Club? • Why does Felix make Stella wait outside? • Where does Stella decide to go? Why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the dialogue between Shay and the wolves. • Write the dialogue between Felix and the president of the club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research womens' rights and make a small presentation using Keynote or paper to show your classmates about some key dates in history.
<p>Chapter Five</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Stella end up so lost? • Where does Stella find herself? • What are the names of the four explorers' clubs? • Read up to 'you shouldn't be here'. Predict what will happen next. • Why is it unusual for the boy to be there? • What is the boy's name? • Why does the boy seem taken aback by Stella's name? • What does the boy proclaim himself to be? • How do you think Felix talked the president into letting Stella go on the quest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the Hall of Flags scene from the perspective of Ethan. • Write your own version of the explorers' pledge. What might it say? Why? What can you take from the text already? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw some of the flags described in the Hall of Flags by Alex Bell. Make sure you use her descriptions accurately.
<p>Chapter Six</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why must Stella do everything Felix asks from this point? • Predict why you think Felix wants Stella to be kind to Ethan. • What does Algernon fear the other clubs might do for letting Stella come along? • Why has Algernon agreed to let Stella come along? • Why doesn't the entire oath apply to Stella, even though she is made to say it? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the lady's pledge that Stella talks about. • Write a newsletter amongst the various explorers' clubs, detailing that The Polar Bear Explorers' Club is going to allow a girl to come with them for the very first time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a sheet on paper or fabric with the explorers' club pledge written on it. Record yourself reading it in your most solemn and promising voice.

Chapter Seven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why won't Shay let Stella use the boomerang? • Where did Beanie get his nickname? • What impression do you get of Professor Smith? • What special power does Beanie have? Why does he have it? • Why would Beanie hate a pat on the back? Why do you think he hates getting his hair cut? • What happened to Beanie's dad? • What does Stella do to Ethan? • Why doesn't Ethan report Stella to the captain? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a diary entry, from the perspective of Ethan, about the events on the deck. • Write a newspaper report about the discovery of the empty tents at the Black Ice Bridge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a variety of materials, create sets of 'snow' penguins. Collect trays of ice and water and see which of your families can survive the elements. Make predictions first. What did you discover?
Chapter Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does everyone on the boat have a feast on the last day? • Why is there rivalry between the two explorers' clubs? • Why do you think Felix asked for the fairy cabinet to be removed from The Polar Bear Explorers' Club? • Why is it so hot in the room? • Why was Felix's reaction to Ethan unusual? • Why do you think no one has ever caught a yeti? • Predict what will happen next. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write your own version of The Snow Shark Expedition. Use what you know from the text. • Rewrite the dinner scene, from the perspective of one of the Ocean Squid Explorers' Club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Yetis and create a keynote presentation on them, to show to your class.
Chapter Nine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did Stella pack? • Why wouldn't dresses be good clothing? • What will the ship be doing during the exploration? • Why is Ethan complaining? • Why will the two clubs eventually separate? • Why did Stella's sled end up being pulled away? • What happens to the ice bridge? • What were the various children's emotions during the events? • Predict what will happen next. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrite the events of the sled being pulled away, from the perspective of one of the other children. • Write a plan of action to rescue the children. Write it as though you are Felix. • Write some dialogue that would come next in the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research some famous explorers that have been to either the North or the South Pole. Create a fact file about them. • Research what you would need to survive in the icy conditions. Make a how-to-survive-the-Iceland kit.
Chapter Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it strange that the wolves don't listen to Shay? • How do Shay and Stella stop the wolves? • How do Shay and Stella prove the wolves belong to the Ocean Squid Explorers' Club? • Why didn't Beanie realise the bridge had collapsed? • Why doesn't Ethan want to be with the other explorers? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the dialogue between Shay and the wolves. • Write a dream sequence for Stella, once she has fallen asleep. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to tie an arm sling and an elevation sling, like you might need to do if you were Beanie.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Shay get angry with Ethan? • Why does Ethan change the colours of the flag? • What impressions do you get of Ethan? • Why do the crew settle down for the night? 		
Chapter Eleven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did Stella dream of? • Why were the majority of the maps useless? • Why was most of the Icelandic map blank? • Where do the children head? What do they use for directions? • Why does Shay stop everyone? • Predict who will be in the tiny igloos. • Why does Shay have an explorers' guide? • What was living in the igloos? How were they different to fairies? • Predict what happens next. • What impression do you get of the frosties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write about the large explorers stumbling into your home, from the perspective of one of the frosties. • Write the next few paragraphs of the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use drama to re-enact Stella's dream sequence. How can you make it suitably scary?
Chapter Twelve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens after they've been going downstairs for a long time? • Why does Ethan leave the door open? • What is magnificent about the geese? • How does Stella get Beanie to embarrass Ethan? • Why can't the spotted geese fly? • Why does Ethan think it's preposterous that this cutlery has been provided? • What do the geese eggs do? • Why don't the explorers want to sleep? • Why do you think Kao starts to growl? • What do the frosties threaten to do? • How do Shay and Ethan combat the frosties? • How does Shay save the day? • What impression did you get off Ethan when he sacrificed his finger to save Shay? Why do you think he did this? • What does Stella steal from the frosties? Why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine you were part of the expedition. Describe the scene where you are presented with a magical golden egg, then what you wish for, and the thrill of eating it. • Write a diary entry from the perspective of one of the crew, detailing the meeting and battle with the frosties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P4C question: Was Stella right to steal the goose?
Chapter Thirteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the wolves need to slow down? • Predict what will happen to Ethan's hand. • What might be at the end of the rainbow? Why might it not actually be there? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a Tripadvisor review for the Yak and Yeti. • Rewrite the Yak and Yeti events from the perspective of Redbeard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and write a report about what a rainbow is and how it is caused. • Research and write a report about what frostbite is and how it is caused. Can it be cured?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you tell about Beanie's character, when he offers his favourite hat to Ethan? • Why don't the residents of the Yak and Yeti want them there? • Why does Ethan faint? • Why doesn't Redbeard want the children to mention the Yak and Yeti? • How does Redbeard cure the frostbite? How did he discover it was a cure? • What did the children discover on Ethan? Predict how this happened. • What did the frosties want with the children? • How did Ethan survive the squid attack? • What has Skullface stolen? • Predict what 'waking up the cabbages' might mean. 		
Chapter Fourteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was the ship dangerous? • How did Beanie and Ethan fall? • How do you think Beanie felt when Ethan threw the narwhal off the ship? • What happened to Ethan's brother? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write Shay's dream as a narrative sequence. • Write a diary entry from the perspective of Beanie, detailing how you felt when Ethan threw the narwhal off the ship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-enact the ladder scene, using dance. You might also use some music to soundtrack your performance. Think about how you can make it dramatic. You could add in the part where Ethan throws the narwhal off the ship.
Chapter Fifteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the nightmare that Stella keeps having. • What happens to the dreamsnatcher? • What has appeared in the room? What happens to it? • Where has Ethan been? • What impression do you get of Ethan when he gives the narwhal back? • Why was Stella taken aback by Beanie touching Ethan? • What did they have for breakfast? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a small narrative from the perspective of Ethan, detailing when he got off the ship and searched for the narwhale. • Write 'The Adventure Of The Little Wooden Narwhal' about a small narwhal that finds himself lost in the cold. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research narwhals and make a fact file about them.
Chapter Sixteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why might they need weapons? • What was different about the two ships? Why was this strange? • What did Stella want to see? • Why did they open the door? • Predict what's behind the door. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the chapter, and write about what is behind the door. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P4C – would you open the door?
Chapter Seventeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was in the room? • Why would the baby volcano be useful? • Why didn't they take the diamond? • Why might Beanie want Moira to come to his party? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrite this chapter, or a section of this chapter, from the perspective of Shay. • Write the story of how the cabbages came to be in the room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P4C – would it be stealing to take anything from the room? • Draw this scene or turn it into a comic book. You could use an app for the latter.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Beanie offer Ethan the slippers? • What do they worry the plant might be? • What warning of Redbeard's do they remember? • Read up to 'do something now!' Predict what happens next. • How do they free Shay? • Why can't Koa help? • How do they escape? • Read to the end of the chapter and predict what happens next. 		
Chapter Eighteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Ethan say it was so obviously going to be him that was bitten? • Why do they want to keep the cabbage? • Why does Ethan insist on being handed Beanie's narwhal? • Why doesn't Stella like the sight of the blood? • What sort of plaster does Beanie put on Ethan? • Why do they use the Cold setting on Stella's compass? • How has the character of Ethan changed? • Why does the goose try to bite Ethan? • How did Julian die? • What impression do you get of Ethan's father? • What was the whispering? Why do you think only Stella could hear it? • How do they keep the cold spirits out of the cave? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write Julian's death scene, but as a narrative recount. • Write a discussion piece about Ethan's character when we first met him, compared with now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use drama to recreate Julian's death scene. Pause and discuss at key moments.
Chapter Nineteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is their night 'restless'? • Why would it be worrying to find yeti footprints? • How far away from the Icelands are they? • Why doesn't Ethan want to approach the castle? • How did they know they'd reached the coldest part of the Icelands? • What was strange about the snowflakes? • Why did they keep some of the starflakes? • What makes Stella think the castle is abandoned? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the scene where Stella enters the castle, but from the perspective of Ethan. • Rewrite the bit where Stella enters the castle, but end the chapter differently, in your own way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. On one half draw the castle before Stella entered, and on the other half draw it after she had entered. Think about how you can use colour and shading for each side.
Chapter Twenty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who does the mirror say Stella is? • Why does Stella wrinkle her nose at the name Morwenna? • Who shows Stella around the castle? • What does the mirror say happened to Stella's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a narrative of the parents' wedding where the witch refuses to dance. • Write what happens next in the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint the portrait of Stella's parents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mother? Why does Stella feel sad about her parents? What magical power does the mirror say Stella has? Why is Ethan wary of Stella using her new power? What happened to the witch? Why doesn't Stella want to be an ice princess? 		
Chapter Twenty-One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long has it been since Stella saw the others? Where are they? Why didn't the magic work on the trolls? Why does Kao visit Stella? Why are there spinning wheels and shiny red apples in the armoury? How did Stella find the secret passage? Why does Stella avoid corridors with magic mirrors? Why do the three boys agree to leave Stella? Predict what happens at the end of the chapter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine you are Beanie. Write a rescue plan for Stella. Write the dialogue between the three boys on the sled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the part where Stella freezes the goblins and sneaks through the castle. Using musical instruments, soundtrack this scene.
Chapter Twenty-Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why can't Stella just run away from the castle? Why don't the trolls find Stella? What does Stella suspect that the sled might be? What is Ethan trying to do? How do they all escape? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a short narrative from the perspective of the 'boss troll', about trying to find Stella. Write the rescue scene from Ethan's perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research a famous castle in your area, or as close by as possible, and design a leaflet encouraging people to come.
Chapter Twenty-Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do they find their way back to The Bold Adventurer? What did Ethan use to conjure up by accident at sea? Why did they lock the tiara away? Read up to where the yeti appears. Predict what will happen next. How does Stella fix the bridge? What might this mean? Why does Stella consider letting Ethan drop? Why does Felix want the wolves? Why does Felix punch the man? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewrite the yeti/bridge/dangling incident, from Ethan's perspective. Write a diary entry from Stella, detailing the feelings she had when she was reunited with Phoenix. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research, learn and perform a sea shanty.
Chapter Twenty-Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much time has passed? What items did they display at the club? Why won't Stella allow Dora to be displayed? Where might they go next? Why does Ethan conjure up a scorpion? Summarise the book in two paragraphs or less. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write the Flag Report for the expedition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a scrapbook of the various adventures the crew went on.