

Winner of the Newbery Medal 2009

NEIL GAIMAN

The Graveyard Book

'The best book
Neil Gaiman has
ever written'
Diana Wynne Jones

**Rayner Stephens
High School
Transition Reading
Project**

ILLUSTRATED BY *Chris Riddell*

Your summer reading project is to read along with your new teachers, who will read the first five chapters to you.

After reading each chapter, you should complete all the tasks for that week. Usually this includes a quiz and some other activities!

You will then bring your completed booklet with you on your first day in year 7, so we can celebrate the fantastic work you've been doing over the summer.

There are eight chapters. Please work through them during the summer alongside your copy of *The Graveyard Book*.

Top Tips For Reading.



Turn on your inner TV.

When you are reading, try to picture what you are reading about.



Keep track of what's happening.

If you are confused about what's happening, go back to the part where you last understood and start reading from there again.



Making predictions

At the start, make predictions about what the story might be about or what might happen. As you are reading, see if these predictions were correct.



Summarising and Questioning

Ask questions for anything that you think doesn't make sense. Summarise what has happened in the text you have been reading.

Who's who in the novel?

- **Nobody `Bod` Owens:** Bod is the main character in the novel. His family are killed at the start of the novel, but he manages to escape to the graveyard where he will continue to live and be raised by ghosts.
- **Silas:** Silas is Bod`s guardian as he is a human and can leave the graveyard to get food, supplies and other things that Bod might need.
- **Miss Lupescu:** Miss Lupescu is a replacement when Silas must leave for a while. She is also the character that must help Bod when he gets in to trouble on one of his adventures.
- **Liza Hempstock:** Liza is a witch that is buried just outside of the graveyard and does not have a headstone. She becomes a friend of Bod and they end up helping each other.
- **Scarlett Amber Perkins:** Scarlett is in two chapters of the novel and is a human friend for Bod. She plays a major part in finding out what really happened to Bod`s parents.
- **Jack Frost:** Jack Frost and the other characters called Jack are the villains of the novel. Jack is the character who killed Bod`s family at the beginning of the novel and who come back to haunt Bod.
- **Mr and Mrs Owens:** These characters are the graveyard parents of Bod.

Chapter Summary

One night, a man called Jack murders a mother, a father, and a daughter. His final target is a baby boy whose room is at the top of the family home. When he reaches the baby's crib he finds a stuffed teddy bear in the boy's place. The boy, having escaped his crib earlier that evening, makes his way up the hill and into the graveyard. He is found by two ghosts, Mr. and Mrs. Owens, who wonder how he ended up there. The boy's dead mother appears before them and begs them to protect her child.

Jack enters the graveyard but is taken away by a shadowy stranger named Silas. That evening, the ghosts deliberate what to do with the child. Eventually, the Lady on the Grey, who shows up for every person's death, gives her blessing and the child is given the Freedom of the Graveyard. Mr. and Mrs. Owens name him Nobody Owens.

Chapter One

This chapter was read by:

Neil Gaiman

Remember to log on and listen to Neil Gaiman, the author, reading chapter one and fill in all the activities.

SCAN ME



Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Wisps**- Are thin, delicate strands or strips of something (like hair/ fog/ grass).
- **Twined**- Is to wrap into a sort of knot.
- **Accustomed**- Is where you are used to something and it is normal.
- **Stifled**- Is to try to stop something.
- **Treacherous**- Is similar to dangerous.

Read over these definitions then cover the words.

Activity Two:

Match up the words with their definitions.

Vocabulary	Definition
Twined	Are thin, delicate strands or strips of something (like hair/ fog/ grass).
Treacherous	Is to wrap into a sort of knot.
Accustomed	Is where you are used to something and it is normal.
Wisps	Is to try to stop something.
Stifled	Is similar to dangerous.

Chapter One

This chapter was read by:

Neil Gaiman

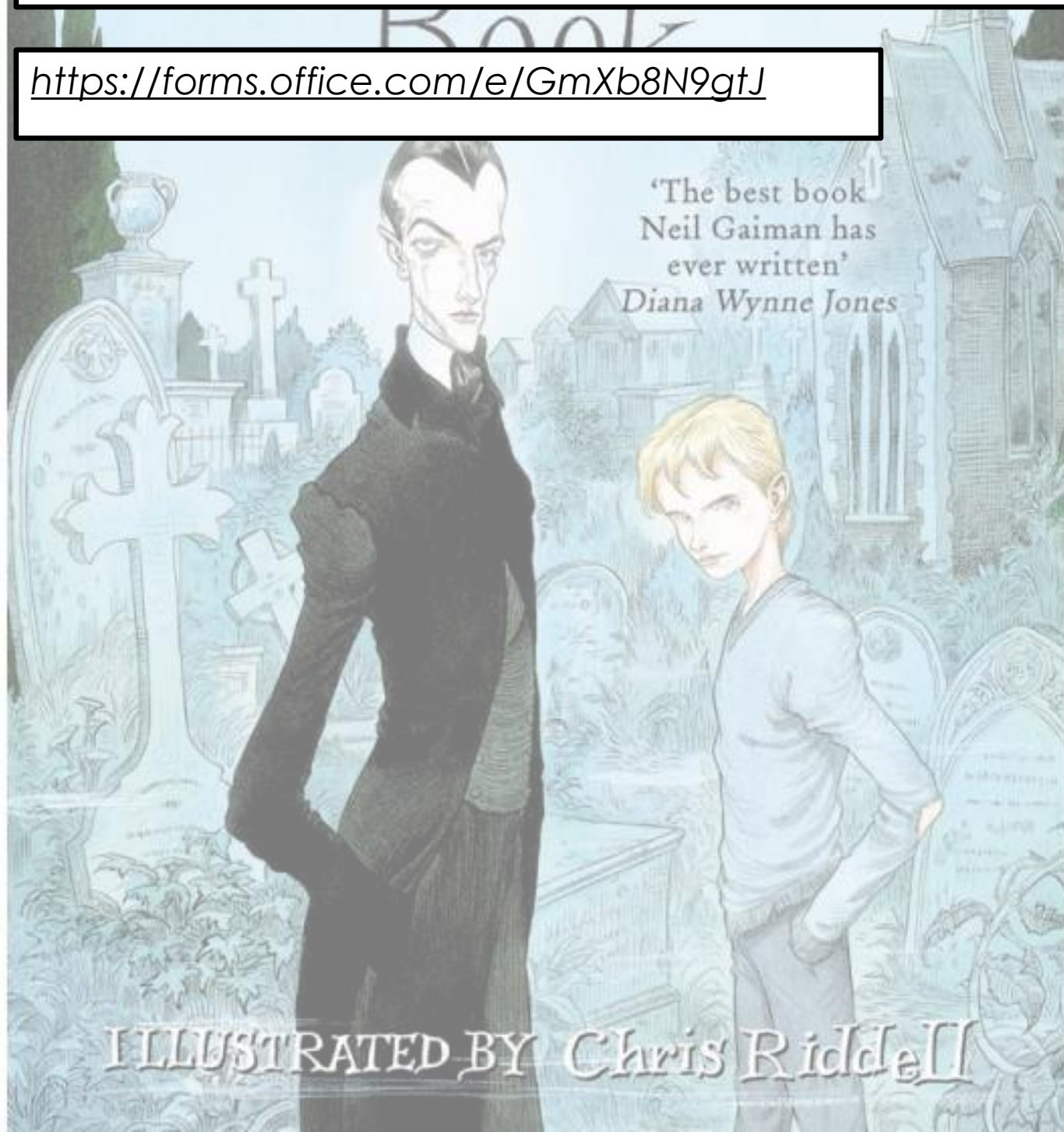
Activity Three: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter one.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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Chapter Summary

Growing up in the graveyard, Nobody (Bod), learns that being given the Freedom of the Graveyard means he can see in the dark, hide himself from the world of the living, and can even learn, (with practice) how to Fade, Slide, and Dreamwalk. Silas teaches him the alphabet by giving Bod the task of tracing all the letters of the alphabet from the tombstones in the graveyard.

One day, Bod befriends a five-year-old girl, Scarlett Amber Perkins. Every weekday afternoon, Bod leads Scarlett through the graveyard telling her about the inhabitants.

Bod and Scarlett decide to investigate the Frobisher's mausoleum where the oldest occupant of the graveyard is rumoured to reside. Bod can see in the dark, so he guides Scarlett as they go down and describes to her what he sees. At the end of the room, a purple-skinned figure named the Indigo Man approaches and warns them to leave. Because Scarlett (who can't see dead people) can see the Indigo Man, Bod realizes it's imaginary. Scarlett and Bod ignore his death threats and Bod tells him that his attempts to scare them won't work. Afterward, the Indigo Man disappears.

Scarlett and Bod then hear something slithering around the room. Bod hears voices that pronounce themselves as the Sleer, claiming they protect the place for their master and guard its treasures: a brooch, a goblet, and a knife. Bod suggests they leave and guides Scarlett back upstairs. When they exit the mausoleum, Scarlett and Bod find Scarlett's parents, along with a police officer, searching for her.

When Scarlett finally returns to the graveyard, she tells Bod that her family is moving to Scotland. Before she leaves, she tells Bod that he is a very courageous boy and should explore the outside world sometime.

Chapter Two

This chapter was read by:

Mr Drummond- English Teacher

Remember to log on and listen to Mr Drummond reading chapter two and fill in all the activities.

SCAN ME



Activity One: Vocabulary Recap

Can you recall the definitions to these words without looking in your booklet?

- Wisps-
- Twined-
- Accustomed-
- Stifled-
- Treacherous-

Activity Two:

Read over the definitions for these words.

Vocabulary	Definition
Attain	Is where you achieve something you have worked for.
Acquire	Means to get something.
Baffled	Is where you are very confused by something.
Drab	Is similar to plain or dull.
Rare	Is where something hardly ever happens or you don't see it very often.

Chapter Two

This chapter was read by:

*Mr Drummond- English
Teacher*

Activity Three:

- The important thing in life is to have a great aim, and the determination to **attain** it. What do you aim to **attain** in your life?
- A)
 1. It **baffled** me that he rejected my offer.
 2. One of the exam questions **baffled** me completely.
 3. She was completely **baffled** by his strange behaviour. What has baffled you in the past?
- A)

Activity Four:

This is a mausoleum, it is built as a memorial to a person who has died instead of a normal tombstone. What does it show about this person if they have a mausoleum instead of a normal tombstone for their grave?



Ideas

Chapter Two

This chapter was read by:

Mr Drummond- English
Teacher

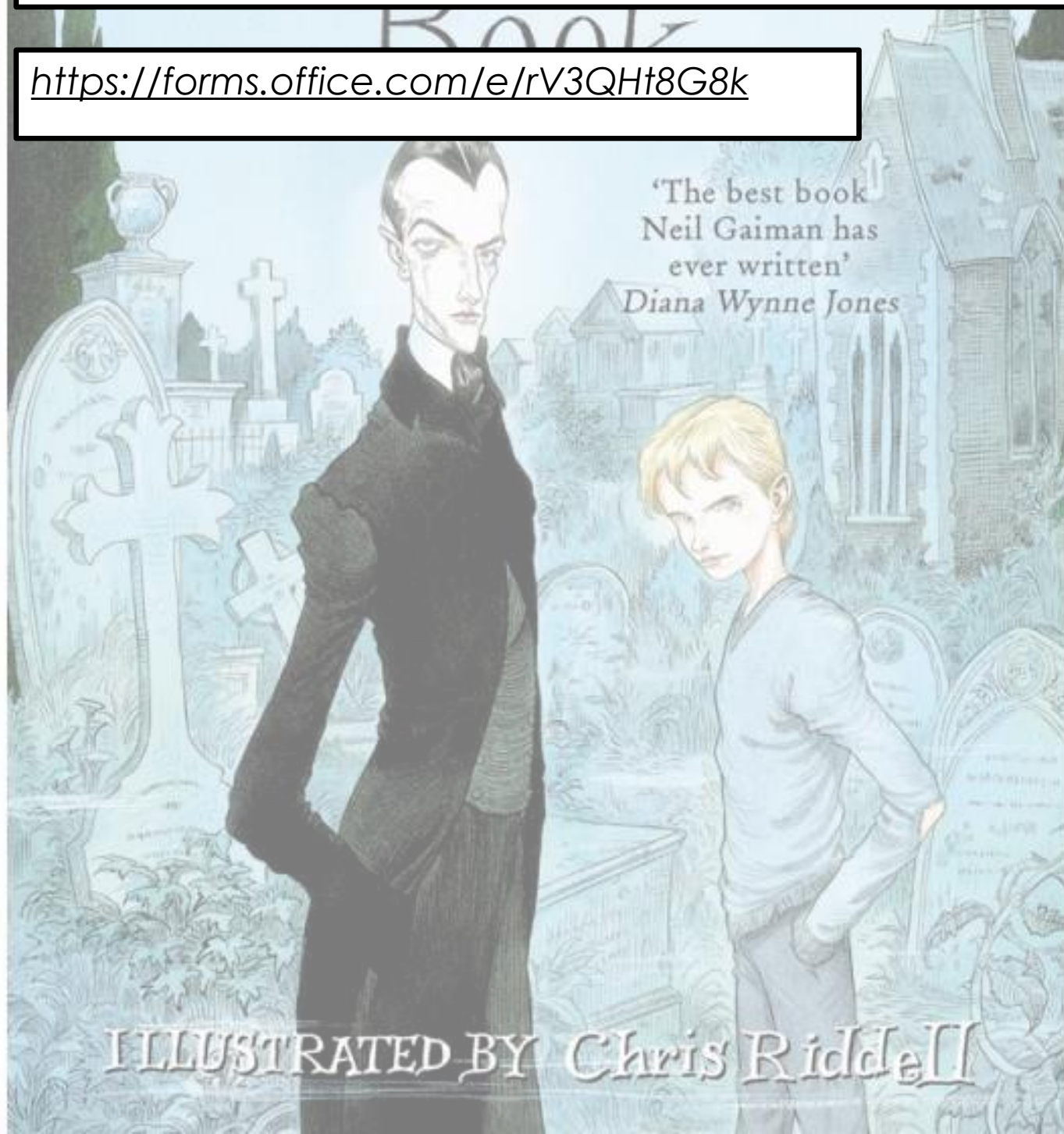
Activity Five: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter two.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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Chapter Summary

Six-year-old Bod is upset when Silas says that he will be leaving the graveyard for an investigation and leaves Bod in the care of Miss Lupescu who gives Bod strange food that he has difficulty eating. For a week Miss Lupescu gives Bod boring lectures.

Later, Bod is woken up by three ghouls: the Duke of Westminster, the Honorable Archibald Fitzhugh, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The ghouls invite Bod to join them on an adventure to a place where Bod can have fun and eat the most amazing food. Bod agrees and they proceed through a hole in the grave, traveling through darkness before ending up in a world with an angry red sky.

Bod learns that the name of the ghouls' city is Ghûlheim, and thinks it's a dreadful place. On their journey, Bod notices creatures flying above them called night-gaunts. Remembering Miss Lupescu's lessons about the sounds night-gaunts make, Bod tries to call out to them for help, only to be silenced by one of the ghouls. That evening, the ghouls try to convince Bod to become one even though Bod says he just wants to go home.

Later that night, the ghouls hastily pack up camp and proceed on their journey. Bod notices the ghouls are acting less enthusiastic, when they are suddenly attacked by the night-gaunts. Bod is thrown into a bag as they swiftly escape the night-gaunts. Bod pokes a hole in the bag to peer outside and make an escape plan.

Bod is saved by Miss Lupescu. She informs Bod that this is the third time he has unknowingly been saved by night-gaunts. Miss Lupescu notices that Bod has hurt his ankle, tells him to get on her back, and explains to Bod that as a Hound of God she can move easily in and out of Hell. Miss Lupescu transforms back into a woman and returns Bod to the Owensens. By the time Silas returns at the end of the month, Bod has warmed up to Miss Lupescu, and agrees that he'd like for her to come back next summer for more lessons.

Chapter Three

This chapter was read by:

*Mrs Lund- Assistant
Headteacher*

Remember to log on and listen to Mrs Lund reading chapter three and fill in all the activities.

SCAN ME



Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Ghoul-** Is another word for a ghost.
- **Approve-** Is to say that you like or support something.
- **Dependable-** Is someone you can rely on.
- **Inhabitant-** Is someone who lives somewhere.
- **Ignorant-** Is a way to describe someone who doesn't know something that we assume they should.

Read over these definitions then cover the words.

Activity Two:

Match up the words with their definitions.

Vocabulary	Definition
Ghoul	Is someone who lives somewhere.
Approve	Is someone you can rely on.
Dependable	Is a way to describe someone who doesn't know something that we assume they should.
Inhabitant	Is to say that you like or support something.
Ignorant	Is another word for a ghost.

Chapter Three

This chapter was read by:

*Mrs Lund- Assistant
Headteacher*

Activity Three: Your job is to try and hear and use these words. You might hear them on the telly/ radio/ in a conversation. Tick them off when you have heard and used them.

Heard

Used

- Approve
- Dependable
- Inhabitant
- Ignorant
- Acquire
- Baffled
- Drab
- Rare

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ILLUSTRATED BY Chris Riddell

Chapter Three

This chapter was read by:

*Mrs Lund- Assistant
Headteacher*

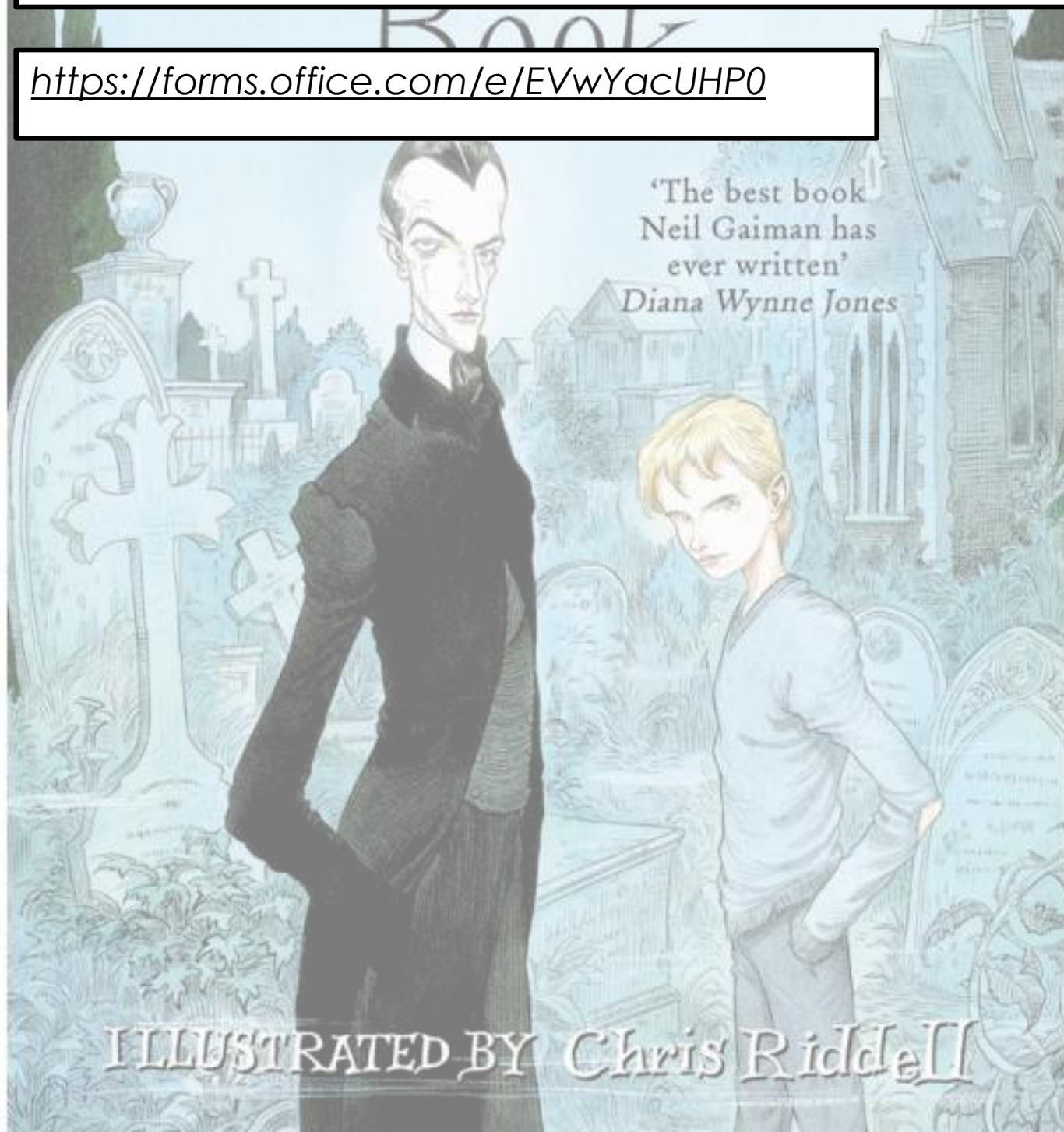
Activity Four: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter three.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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Chapter Summary

Eight-year-old Bod attends his lessons with Mr. Pennyworth where he practices Fading. After his lesson, a hungry Bod climbs an apple tree that hangs over Potter's Field. As he reaches for an apple, the branch breaks and Bod falls to the ground.

When Bod comes to after his fall, one of the occupants of Potter's Field approaches him. She says she isn't a thief and didn't commit suicide, so Bod asserts that she must be a witch. The girl tells Bod about the villagers who drowned and burned her because they thought she was a witch, and how she cursed them with the plague as she died. She tells Bod her name: Liza Hempstock. Bod tasks himself with finding Liza Hempstock a headstone. With only two pounds and fifty three cents to his name, Bod learns from Miss Borrows that a headstone would cost much more. Bod decides to return to the Indigo Man's tomb and takes the brooch, one of the three treasures protected by the Sleer. Bod then returns to Liza who tells Bod what she would like on her headstone.

Bod takes the brooch to a shop in Old Town owned by Abanazer Bolger. Bod tells him he found the brooch in a grave. Abanazer locks Bod in a room, telling him that he won't let him out until Bod tells him everything about where he found the brooch.

Bod searches for an escape. Liza Hempstock appears in the room with Bod. Liza eavesdrops on Abanazer and watches him take out a black card with the name "Jack" on it. Tom Hustings arrives at the shop and explains that there is a group of people looking for a certain boy, whom Abanazer believes could be Bod.

Bored with Abanazer and Tom's conversation, Liza returns to Bod, and finds him trying to Fade. Liza helps Bod Fade and disappear by casting a spell on him.

Bod hurries out of the shop and up the hill toward the graveyard when he is intercepted by an angry Silas, who had sensed Bod was in danger.

Chapter Four

This chapter was read by:

Mrs Cowling Assistant
SENDCO

Remember to log on and listen to Mrs Cowling reading chapter four and fill in all the activities.

SCAN ME



Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Consecrated**- Means holy or sacred.
- **Hasty**- Is to move quickly like you are in a hurry.
- **Suspicion**- Is to have a bad feeling about something where you don't trust it or them.
- **Precious**- Is something very important or valuable that needs to be protected.
- **Insignificant**- Is something that isn't very important or doesn't matter.

Read over these definitions.

Activity Two:

Think of examples of where you might use or hear these words.

Vocabulary	Examples
Consecrated	EG: In a church.
Hasty	
Precious	
Insignificant	

Chapter Four

This chapter was read by:

Mrs Cowling Assistant
SENDCO

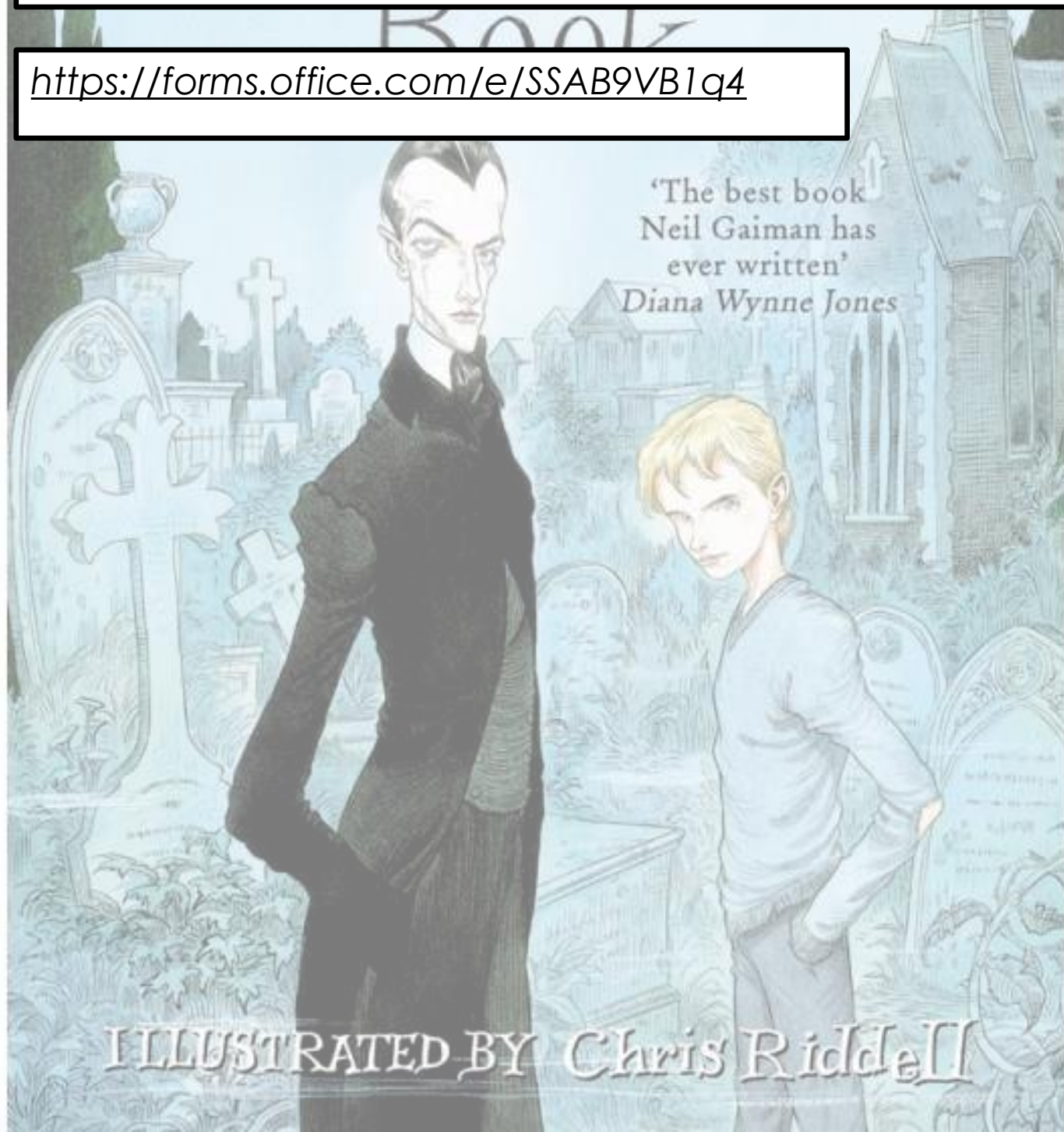
Activity Three: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter four.

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Chapter Summary

One winter morning, Bod notices the residents of the graveyard acting strange. His mother shoos him out of their crypt, claiming that she needs to get ready for tomorrow, and begins singing a song he has never heard. Bod passes by Mother Slaughter, only to find her also singing the same tune. Before he can ask her what the “Macabray” in her song is, she disappears.

Bod finds Silas in his crypt later that day and Silas gifts Bod with new “nomal” clothes and shoes. Silas explains to Bod that the Macabray is a dance for the living and the dead. Because Silas is neither living nor dead, he has never danced it. Bod wakes up early the following day and follows a strange scent to discover three men and a woman, all living, picking white blossoms. Apparently, this is the first time in 80 years that the winter blossoms have bloomed.

Later that evening, Bod wanders around the graveyard looking for someone to talk to, but no one is around. Hearing music coming from the town, Bod squeezes past the gates and heads to the source. Bod follows the music toward the town square, receiving a white flower from a man who instructs him to pin the flower to his coat. Bod, along with the rest of the townspeople, stand in the town square, completely entranced by the music. The music ends and a clock begins to chime. Suddenly, Bod spots the ghosts from the graveyard walking down the hill and toward the town. Josiah Washington walks up to Mrs. Caraway and asks her to dance.

Bod sees Silas standing in the shadows with an unreadable expression, observing everyone else dancing. Bod shares the final dance of the night with The Lady on the Grey, who promises Bod that when it is his time he can take a ride on her horse. The next morning, Bod looks forward to talking with the ghosts about the dance, but no one seems to acknowledge that it happened. Bod grows even more frustrated when Silas denies seeing the dance. Bod becomes overjoyed, however, when it begins snowing.

Chapter Five

This chapter was read by:

Mr Cleverley MFL Teacher

Remember to log on and listen to Mr Cleverley reading chapter five and fill in all the activities.

SCAN ME



Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Squinting** – Looking at someone or something with your eyes partly closed to try and see more clearly.
- **Embrace** – To hold someone closely in your arms like a hug.
- **Hieroglyphs** – Carvings in the walls which was the first form of writing from the Egyptians.
- **Entranced** – Holding somebody's entire attention.

Read over these definitions.

Activity Two:

Think of examples of where you might use or hear these words.

Vocabulary	Examples
Squinting	
Embrace	
Hieroglyphs	
Entranced	

Chapter Five

This chapter was read by:
Mr Cleverley MFL Teacher

Activity Three: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter five.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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Chapter Summary

After a fight with another ghost over a book, Bod asks Silas if he can attend school to learn more than he can learn in the graveyard. Silas then reveals to Bod that his parents were murdered and that the murderer is still out there looking for Bod. Bod doesn't seem worried and after some convincing Silas allows him to attend school as long as Bod agrees to be partially faded and not bring attention to himself.

While in school Bod observes a pair of bullies who are blackmailing kids into shoplifting. The leader is a girl named Mo who threatens to tell the police and show the video of them stealing if they don't give up their pocket money. Bod decides to intervene and tells one boy to threaten to tell the police on the bullies. The plan works, and the bullies lose their power over the kids at school. Mo realizes that Bod is the reason their scheme is over and the bullies follow him after school. Bod leads them to a graveyard where he tells them that they need to be nice to kids. One of the bullies tries to hit Bod, but Bod fades and disappears. Suddenly the shadows around them seem to move, and Mo starts getting afraid. Mo and the other bully run away in fear.

The next day at school, Mo tells Bod that she isn't afraid of him, and the other bully stabs Bod with a pencil. This makes the other kids begin to notice Bod, which is a bad thing. Bod stops going to school after being noticed, but he is still determined to teach the bullies a lesson. He stands outside the other bully's house at night and gets into his dreams. Mo sees Bod and knows it's him. Bod heads back to the graveyard, but Liza has been watching him. She tells him Silas will be mad when he finds out. Before he can get back, a police car pulls up, and Mo is with the officer. The officer is Mo's uncle. The officer takes Bod into custody and puts him in the back of the car. As they are driving, a huge black figure appears in front of the car. The officer hits the figure and stops. The figure is Silas who was alerted by Liza. Silas flies Bod back to the graveyard but is slightly hurt by the police car.

Bod decides to permanently stop going to school, but he wants to pay Mo back for calling her uncle. He hides outside a science lab that Mo is cleaning after school and makes her think all of the dead animals in jars are waking up. Then he tells her he will haunt her dreams if she bullies kids again.

Chapter Six

Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Treacherous** – Dangerous or unpredictable.
- **Concealed** – To hide something.
- **Remnants** – The last parts of something.
- **Infinite** – Endless space or something impossible to measure.

Read over these definitions and then cover them up.

Activity Two:

Read the sentences below. What does each sentence mean?

	What do you think the sentences mean?
Bod was concealed from everyone.	
He went down the treacherous path.	
There were remnants of daylight.	
You have infinite potential.	

Chapter Six

Activity Three: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter six.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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Chapter Summary

When Bod is fourteen, Silas begins disappearing for long periods. Nobody knows where he goes, and the Owens' are upset when he leaves Bod behind without a guardian to provide food. While Silas is away, Scarlett Amber Perkins moves back to Bod's town. Bod tells Scarlett about the murder of his family and she looks up what happened in the library archives. She finds out the murder took place in the house where Mr Frost now lives. He is a historian, so he looks up the details and tells Bod and Scarlett more about it. Bod is confused about what he has learnt and Silas isn't around to advise him so he seeks out the Sleer instead. The Sleer encourages him to go after the murderer and find out his real name.

Bod and Scarlett visit Mr. Frost, who shows them a letter related to the murdered family. However, he reveals himself to be the man Jack, who had attempted to kill Bod fourteen years ago. Bod manages to escape with Scarlett, just as four men arrive at the house. Scarlett learns that these men are all friends with Mr. Frost. Returning to the graveyard, Bod hides Scarlett with the Sleer and confronts the four men, known as the Jacks. He learns that they are part of an organization called the Jacks of All Trades, which has been stealing magic from the dead for centuries. The Jacks reveal an ancient prophecy that predicts a boy will bring about their downfall. Bod closes the ghoul-gate on them, trapping them.

The Jack who killed Bod's family, follows Scarlett to the Sleer's lair. Bod follows them inside and confronts Jack, who takes Scarlett hostage. Bod shows Jack the Sleer's treasure and tricks him into saying he wants to be the Sleer's master. The master has to be dead, so the Sleer kills Jack. By now, Bod has figured out that Silas is systematically destroying the rest of the Jacks of All Trades, so Jack Frost is the last of them.

After the ordeal, Scarlett accuses Bod of using her as bait and calls him a monster. Silas returns, having defeated the remaining Jacks, and erases Scarlett's memories of the events. After everything that has happened, Bod would like to ignore life for a while. But like all living people, he gets hungry. Nobody is trying to kill him anymore, so Silas takes him out of the graveyard for pizza.

Chapter Seven

Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Preoccupied** – Focussed on something else.
- **Posterity** – All future generations of people.
- **Conspiratorially** – Suggesting some secret knowledge or plan.
- **Manifest** – To make something obvious to the eye or mind.
- **Incongruous** – Not in harmony or matching the surroundings.

Read over these definitions.

Activity Two:

Write your own sentence using the target vocabulary above, use the examples as a model

Examples Sentences	Your turn
She wasn't listening to me properly, she seemed preoccupied all the time I was talking to her.	
It was incongruous to see a thief sitting there right next to a policeman	
His illness began to manifest itself at around this time	

Chapter Seven

Activity Three: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter seven.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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Chapter Summary

As Bod grows older, he finds it increasingly difficult to see the ghosts that are his friends and family. One day he goes to visit Alonso Jones, a dead adventurer who tells great stories about visits to Moscow and Alaska, but he does not come out of his grave. He tries to stick his head into Alonso's grave, but he ends up hurting his forehead on a gravestone.

He goes home, and on his way he meets a ghost named Mother Slaughter. She retells the story of Bod's adoption, which he has heard many times before. Then she makes mysterious comments about growing older, and she says she is glad Bod came to the graveyard. When he moves on, she tells him to keep safe. It makes Bod nervous.

Bod's nervousness gets worse when he finds Mr. and Mrs. Owens standing formally to await him at their grave. Mr. Owens says he cannot imagine "a better young man than you, Bod," and Mrs. Owens weeps and disappears. Mr. Owens refuses to tell Bod what is wrong. Instead he sends him to see Silas.

Silas tells Bod that his time in the graveyard is finished, and that he now has to go out and face the world alone. Silas himself is going away, to a home far away that Bod never even knew existed: All the people here have had their lives, Bod, even if they were short ones. Now it's your turn. You need to live.

He gives Bod a suitcase, a wallet full of money, and a passport made out in the name of Nobody Owens. At first, Bod is upset. Soon, however, he grows excited, asking Silas if he can go out and see the world he has heard about from Alonso and other ghosts. He says "I want to see life. I want to hold it in my hands. I want to leave a footprint on the sand of a desert island. I want to play football with people I want....I want *everything*".

Bod offers to help Silas if he ever gets in trouble, although they both know Silas never does. Then Bod walks to the cemetery gates and says good-bye to Mrs. Owens. He tells her that he is going to go out and explore, meet people, get into and out of trouble. He steps out of the graveyard and goes to meet his life.

Chapter Eight

Activity One: Vocabulary

- **Perplexed** – Very puzzled and confused.
- **Sexton** – A person who looks after a church and churchyard.
- **Crypt** – An underground room or vault beneath a church.

Read over these definitions and then cover them up and test yourself to see if you can remember them.

Activity Two:

Read the sentences below. What does each sentence mean?

	What do you think the sentence means?
His strange behaviour perplexed her greatly.	
The road becomes treacherous when it is iced up.	
We were accustomed to working together.	
He continued his story through stifled sobs.	
For several years, Grandad was Oldham's oldest inhabitant .	
He soon regretted his hasty decision.	
The shadows concealed her as she crept up to the house.	

Chapter Eight

Activity Three: Quiz

Use the link to complete the retrieval quiz on chapter eight.

Tick here when you've completed it:

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