

Teaching Resources and Activity Sheets

Key Stage 2

Themes: Adventure | Mystery

Purchase *The New Famous Five*

CHARACTER STUDY
CICI



CHRIS SMITH
THE NEW FAMOUS FIVE
FIVE AND THE FOREST OF SECRETS
Enid Blyton

While reading *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith, gather information about the important character, Cici. Add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about her.



What do you know about Cici?

How do Cici's relationships with the others change as the story develops?

How does Cici's confidence in herself change as the story develops?

How does Cici's role in the adventure develop?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

To be completed after reading Chapter Six.



Extract taken from Chapter Six of *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith.

'Fire ready for lighting, Captain!' announced Tom to George with a salute.

'These should help get it going,' George said, holding up some matches and the bunch of letters that the postwoman had handed to her as they left Kirrin Cottage.

'Don't you want to read them first?' Fran asked with a grin. It was just like the professor to burn letters without reading them, but it didn't sound like a great idea.

'They'll just be the usual junk, I'm sure,' George replied, starting to riffle through the pile of envelopes. 'Yes, just as I thought. Catalogues, a bill that I've already paid, newsletters . . . Wait, what's this?' Her mouth dropped open and she sat down heavily on a tree stump.

'What's wrong?' Fran darted forward in alarm. 'What is it? Bad news?'

George shook her head and held out an envelope. It was slightly old and yellowed, with her own address written on the front in small, neat handwriting: *Professor George Kirrin, Kirrin Cottage, Kirrin*. Fran

looked at it curiously. There didn't seem to be anything particularly unusual about it, apart from the fact that the envelope and the writing seemed much older than the stamp which was brand new.

'What's going on?' Tom, Maddy and even Cici had now gathered round as well. 'Is it a mystery?' Tom wanted to know. 'I told you we wouldn't be able to go away together without an adventure of some sort.'

'It's a mystery all right,' George replied in a slightly shaky voice.

'What's so mysterious about getting a letter?' asked Tom. 'I mean, I know most people use email these days, but . . .'

'It's the handwriting,' George told him. 'I'd know that handwriting anywhere.'

'So, who wrote it? Who's this letter from?'

George hesitated for a long moment before replying. And when she did, it was in a soft, faraway voice. 'It's from my father.'

Discussion Questions:

- The text says that it was "just like the professor to burn letters without reading them". What does this suggest about George's character?
- What details about the envelope make it seem unusual or mysterious? Why might the author include these details?
- How does George's reaction change after she notices the envelope? Give details from the text.
- Tom immediately asks, "Is it a mystery?" What does his reaction suggest about his attitude towards adventures?
- The author describes George's voice first as "slightly shaky" and then as "soft, faraway". What do these descriptions suggest about how she is feeling?
- Why is "It's from my father" an effective way to end the chapter? does it make you want to find out next?

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FOLLOW THE INVISIBLE TRAIL

DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

To be completed after reading Chapter Twelve.



In *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith, Colin Maxwell uses George's invisible ink to leave a secret trail. Start at his house and follow the clues through each location until you reach the old mine. Answer each question as you go.

start

1 Colin Maxwell's House

Fran shines the special blue-light torch beside the back door and reveals a black footprint. What does she realise Colin has done, and why?

2 Across the Garden and Field

What clues do the group follow as they move away from Colin's house, and why do they sometimes have to stop and search carefully?

3 Edge of Silver Woods

What is the final clue they find before the trail disappears, and who does Cici begin to suspect?

4 Back at the Campsite

Why does George decide to wait until dark before continuing the search?

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CHRIS SMITH

THE NEW FAMOUS FIVE

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Enid Blyton

5

The Birdwatcher's Campsite

What does George discover when she searches the campsite with the blue-light torch? What does this tell the group?

6

The Wide Muddy Track

What new evidence shows the group which way Colin was taken?

7

The Old Mine Entrance

What final clue convinces George that Colin is being held inside the mine?

finish

Why was George's invisible ink such an effective way for Colin to leave a trail without his kidnappers noticing?

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SHOOT THE RAPIDS

MAZE CHALLENGE

To be completed after reading Chapter Nineteen.



In *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith, the group must take the dangerous route through the rapids to reach the airfield in time. Guide the canoes from the "DANGER! RAPIDS!" sign to the airfield, avoiding dead ends, rocks and dangerous channels along the way.





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SHOOT THE RAPIDS

MAZE CHALLENGE SOLUTION

To be completed after reading Chapter Nineteen.



In *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith, the group must take the dangerous route through the rapids to reach the airfield in time. Guide the canoes from the "DANGER! RAPIDS!" sign to the airfield, avoiding dead ends, rocks and dangerous channels along the way.





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WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

CLUES AND RED HERRINGS

To be completed after reading Chapter Twenty.



In *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith, , the Kirrin Device has the potential to produce huge amounts of clean energy. However, it can also be adapted into a dangerous weapon. At the end of the adventure, George decides that the device should be dismantled and the blueprints destroyed.

Debate question: Should the Kirrin Device be dismantled?

Consider the evidence from the story. Record arguments on both sides before deciding whether you agree with George's decision.

Reasons to dismantle the Kirrin Device	Reasons not to dismantle the Kirrin Device
• What could happen if the device fell into the wrong hands? • What dangers have already been caused by people wanting the device? • Can George be certain that the technology could ever be kept completely safe?	• What benefits could a source of clean energy bring? • Could the device be protected or redesigned instead of dismantled? • Is it right to dismantle an important scientific invention because it could be misused?

Your verdict

After considering both sides, do you agree with George's decision to dismantle the Kirrin Device and destroy its blueprints? Explain your judgement using evidence from the story.

Further discussion: Who should be responsible for deciding what happens to a powerful invention: the inventor, scientists, governments or wider society?

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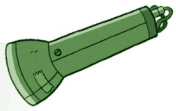
WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

CLUES AND RED HERRINGS

To be completed after reading Chapter Sixteen.



In *The New Famous Five: Five and the Forest of Secrets* by Chris Smith, some characters are not what they first appear to be. Robert Pemberton initially seems threatening and suspicious, while Jan appears friendly and welcoming. As the mystery develops, the truth about both characters is revealed.



A **red herring** is a clue or detail that deliberately leads the reader towards the wrong conclusion. Look back at the story and record the clues and red herrings that shape your first impressions of Pemberton and Jan.

Robert Pemberton	Jan
Think about how your view of Pemberton changes. • What makes him seem suspicious or threatening when he first appears? • What does he say or do that makes the group mistrust him? • Which details lead you towards the wrong conclusion once his real role is revealed? • What is eventually revealed about him?	Think about how your view of Jan changes. • What makes her seem friendly or trustworthy when she first appears? • Are there any early details that seem unusual or suspicious when you look back? • How does she behave when the group asks her to call the police? • What is eventually revealed about her?

Looking back

Which character is the more effective example of misdirection? Explain how the author leads the reader towards the wrong conclusion. Use evidence from the story.

Further discussion: Why are red herrings useful in a mystery story? How do they affect the reader?

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WORDSEARCH



CHRIS SMITH

THE NEW FAMOUS FIVE

FIVE AND THE FOREST OF SECRETS

Enid Blyton

Cross out each word as you find it.

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

AIRFIELD
CICI
DEVICE
FRAN
GEORGE
INVISIBLE
KIRRIN
MADDY
MINE
RAPIDS
TOM
WOODS

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WORDSEARCH

ANSWERS



Cross out each word as you find it.

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

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