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### 3. Silent letters

#### Objective

To spell some words with 'silent' letters.

#### What you need

Copies of *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents*, interactive activity 'Silent letters', photocopiable page 23 'Silent letters'.

#### What to do

- Complete this activity after reading Chapter 5.
- Remind the children of the description of a poisoned rat found in a tunnel: 'It was whimpering'. Write 'whimpering' on the whiteboard and read it aloud. Which letter in 'whimpering' do the children see but not hear? ('h' is silent) Share other words containing a silent 'h' (such as rhubarb, whine, rhyme).
- Show the children the interactive activity 'Silent letters'. Put the children into small groups. Explain that for each gap they must choose the correct word from the drop-down list.
- Work through the interactive together, choosing one group at a time to select the word for the gap. Offer the answer for class discussion. Does the class agree with the suggested answer?
- Display the text on screen 2. Ask: *Which letter is silent in each answer?*
- Put the children into pairs, each child with their own copy of photocopiable page 23 'Silent letters'. Ask the partners to take turns reading the story to each other. The listener must be on the alert for letters they cannot hear and underline those words on their text. Ask the children to circle the silent letters.

#### Differentiation

**Support:** Identify the lines of the story containing silent letters.

**Extension:** The children write a new story containing six words with silent letters and read it to a partner. Can the partner identify the silent letters?

### 4. Degrees of possibility

#### Objective

To use modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility.

#### What you need

Copies of *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents*, interactive activity 'Degrees of possibility', printable page 'Degrees of possibility'.

#### What to do

- Complete this activity after reading Chapter 8.
- Direct the children to the first sentence in Chapter 8. Ask: *What type of word is 'too'?* Confirm it as an adverb of degree. Explain that these adverbs can modify (soften) or intensify (strengthen) a verb, adjective or other adverb in the sentence.
- Show the children interactive activity 'Degrees of possibility'. Put the children into small groups. Ask them to sort the words into modifying adverbs and intensifying adverbs.
- Work through the interactive together, choosing one group at a time to place a word. Does the class agree with the suggested answer?
- Give out individual copies of the printable page 'Degrees of possibility'. Ask the children to read the text and write adverbs from the two groups that make sense in the gaps.
- Afterwards put the children into pairs, to take turns reading their version to each other. How different is the meaning?

#### Differentiation

**Support:** Read the printable sheet aloud to the children. Encourage some oral answers before they write.

**Extension:** Ask the children to write a diary entry by another child visiting this castle. They should try to use three modifying and three intensifying adverbs.

## Silent letters

- Listen as your partner reads this story aloud. Underline 12 words that have a silent letter and then circle the silent letter.

Jaye's face was solemn. She wanted a proper adventure but it kept going wrong. She needed to stay calm. She knelt down to examine the new hole in the corner. Someone had cut the wood! Could a rat with extra big teeth have been gnawing?

Little did she know that two unusual mice had just been there. One had used his knife to make the cuts. Then his sword had punched the hole. For safety, his friend had written where the tunnel entrance was. There was no doubt they would find it again.

