

# SHARED READING

## Extract 1

- In this extract from Part One, August, after enduring rude questions from Julian about his face, finds himself smiling at Jack.
- Circle 'I' in the first two sentences. Ask: *What is this style of writing called?* (first-person narrative) *How is it special?* (The story is written from one person's point of view.) Circle 'I' and 'me' and identify them as personal pronouns. Locate other personal pronouns in the extract. Underline 'my' and identify it as a possessive adjective that describes 'face'.
- Ask: *Why are there so many speech marks?* (The text is mainly dialogue.) Together, work out who is speaking when no speech tag is provided. Ask: *What can we predict about the characters from what they say?* (Jack is kind, a peacemaker; Julian is unkind; Charlotte likes to be right.)
- Ask: *Was August right to correct Julian's English?* Comment on August's courage in looking at Julian and correcting his earlier mistake with 'supposedly'. Ask: *What can the reader infer about August?* (He is confident intellectually.)
- Underline the penultimate paragraph. Ask: *Is Julian's apology sincere? What implies that his action was deliberate?* (Julian has been unpleasant throughout the tour.)
- Ask: *Can you make predictions about these children's future school relationships with August? How might August's relationship with Julian develop? Which child is August most likely to be friends with?* (Point out that Jack recognises that August is smiling.) Ask: *What other predictions can we make?* (Perhaps that August will stand up for himself, that he will do well academically.)

## Extract 2

- In this extract near the end of part One, August, unrecognised in his Halloween costume, listens to a classroom conversation about himself.
- Read the first sentence aloud. Circle 'him'. Ask: *Why does it seem offensive?* (The speakers are not bothering to name August.) Identify and circle other insults in these early lines: 'shrunk heads', 'orc', 'Darth Sidious'. Ask: *Why has Julian chosen the costume he wears?* (Like August, the character's face is disfigured.)
- Investigate how the identity of the second mummy is revealed gradually. Number these clues: he hangs out with August; teachers seat them next each other in class. Underline 'I knew the shrug, of course. I knew the voice.' Ask: *Why are these words important?* (August knows the mummy's identity; and it is a close friend.)
- Circle 'I knew' beginning three consecutive sentences. Ask: *What is the effect of the repetition?* Suggest that the writer builds the emotional atmosphere and the intensity of August's feelings. Ask: *Why does August stay in the classroom?*
- Ask: *What can we infer about Jack here?* (Perhaps that he is not brave enough to stand up for his friend, he cannot come to terms with August's face.) Ask: *Are you surprised that Jack says these things? Do you think he will follow Julian's advice?* Encourage discussion.