



Thursday 4th March

English Tasks

World Book Day

To get into the spirit of World Book Day today, we are going to get inside our class text.

I want you to think back to earlier on in the book when Kester managed to escape from Spectrum Hall in the middle of the night with the help of an army of cockroaches, a curtain of moths and a flock of pigeons!

How rumours and gossip must have spread that following morning, when word spread that someone had actually escaped! Would they be surprised that it was Kester (the boy who couldn't speak and had no friends and always sat alone) who would be the first ever pupil of Spectrum Hall to outwit the Facto and escape?

I wonder what the stories entailed? Did word get around that he had help from some animal friends? Did they find out that even the dreaded Doctor couldn't catch him? Did they believe he did escape, or had they been told or did they assume he had died trying, or been sent away for bad behaviour? Did the Doctor use him as an example of what happens to 'naughty delinquents' who dare to test the system? Or had he become a hero to the pupils left behind?

Let's remind ourselves with a summary of how he escaped:

- The cockroaches and pigeons were in his room (**would there be someone who saw evidence of them being there?**)
- The General got the keycard from the sleeping warden and opened the door (**were there rumours that the warden had been sacked for his tardiness?**)
- Kester took his red Spectrum Hall-issue anorak, his striped Mum-and-Dad-issue scarf and his green watch (**were there rumours that they were missing from his room? Had someone snuck in to investigate?**)
- The moths covered the security camera so he could escape down the corridor and into the lift (**had someone heard a noise outside their room- footsteps, scurrying, fluttering, the lift doors closing, the clanking or droning of the lift descending?**)
- When he gets down to the main hall, red lights flash and the siren is sounding (**surely, they would have all been aware of this commotion and would be keen to know what was going on? By now, the whole hall would be awake and alert**)
- There were shouts and boots thundering down the corridors as the wardens scrambled in response (**could anyone see through cracks in their door?**)
- They went out into the darkness of the yard and searchlights sought them out (**did anyone witness the chaos through their window? I wonder how much they could make out in the darkness**)
- Five wardens surrounded him (**surely he couldn't escape from that?**)
- The cockroaches persuaded Kester into a very tight hole in the ground just in time as a warden grabs him
- They crawl through the pipe/ tunnel and waiting the other end is the doctor, standing in front of a line of wardens (**did anyone see through the wondering searchlights that non-one was wearing a protective suit or mask out beyond the Hall?**)
- Kester was standing on the cliff edge and the warden was trying to inject him with a syringe and Kester steps back off the edge, the doctor lunges for him and Kester 'falls' (**who saw this? What did they think happened to him?**)
- The army of cockroaches crawl all over the doctor and the wardens and they squirm and shout in protest (**I wonder what that looked like from afar?**)

Now we know what happened next! But, did anyone else see Kester being lifted through the night air over the spray of the sea by a flock of pigeons?

Your task today is to imagine you are a pupil at Spectrum Hall. What would your account of the night's events be? Imagine you are telling someone else, who unbelievably slept through the whole thing, what you heard and/ or saw last night.

Just think about how incredulous you may be!

Are you in awe of Kester?

Do you think he was stupid?

Do you believe he survived?

How do you think he escaped? What makes you think that?



Decide what your opinion is and whether you want others to be impressed by Kester's actions or laugh at him, as that will reflect how you tell the story.

So, you are going to write in the first person an account of what you think happened last night at Spectrum Hall.

You may begin...

You won't believe what Dumbinga got up to last night! Daft boy thought he could outwit the Factorium- what a fool he was! No-one can escape from here and survive- everyone knows that.

Rumour has it, he somehow got hold of the keycard to his room; maybe he bribed the warden or something- told him he would snitch on him for falling asleep on duty every night. Did he really expect to get down on the lift without anyone noticing? As soon as he pressed the buttons, of course the sirens and lights would go off, they always do.

Or perhaps...

Dumbinga! What a hero! Have you heard? He outwitted the whole team of wardens last night, and the doctor, and the searchlights! Would you believe it?

Rumour has it he bewitched the warden with some kind of sleeping potion and then cast a spell on the Doctor and his cronies so they thought they were being chased by a swarm of bees or something before jumping off the cliff and flying off into the night! Cool, huh?

I knew there was something different about him, I just knew it!

It's not about how much you write, but:

- your opinion of Kester must be obvious
- you must describe in detail what you think happened
- you must base it on events from the text
- you must write in the first person
- you must write as one of the pupils
- you do not need to use speech punctuation to 'tell' your story
- you must think carefully about how you begin so we know from the first word or phrase what you are thinking

I would like to make a quick plan, then write for half an hour and then spend time editing, improving and looking at your targets. I can't wait to hear some of your favourite parts later!

Enjoy!

Mrs P