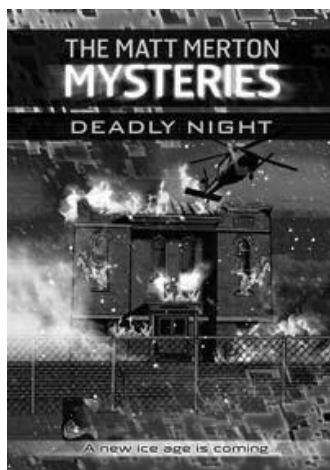


DEADLY NIGHT



Story summary

It's late at night, but Matt can't sleep. He goes to Sam's cafe and then for a walk. He sees a light on in a school and decides to investigate. Inside he finds a boy at a computer, looking at images of Matt, Dexter and Jane. Matt interrogates the boy but gets no response. He doesn't want to use the Truth Stick on such a young boy, so instead he locks him in the classroom and calls Dexter. Dexter says he will be right over and Matt decides to wait outside on the street. Shortly afterwards a helicopter flies over the school and drops a bomb on it. Dexter calls Matt and admits to having the boy killed. The story ends with Matt feeling extremely angry at the lost opportunity to find out what the boy was doing.

Difficult words and spelling

- customer, already, routine, destroyed, disappeared, people, survive, building, following, dangerous, furniture, remember, silent, question, believe, computer, photograph, scan, hacker, middle, hacking, noise, calm, regret, helicopter, thought, suddenly, business, replied, guess, concern, knew, wouldn't
- 'ly' endings: deadly, quickly, suddenly
- Compound words: in+side, any+body, no+thing, any+way, to+night

Other language work

- Irregular past tense verbs: went, drank, tried, broke, thought, found, flew
- Apostrophes for contraction: can't, won't, didn't, don't, that's, what's
- Apostrophes for possession: mother's name
- Use of single speech marks to draw attention to a phrase – 'the look'

Questions to interrogate the text

Chapter 1

- Why do you think Matt is having trouble sleeping?
- Why is it snowing? Why are the streets empty?
- Do you think the author is building up a tense atmosphere? How is he doing this?
- What does the title of the story imply? Will something good or bad happen?
- Why does Matt break into the school?

Chapter 2

- What does Matt find in the school?
- What is strange about what is on the boy's computer?
- Why can't Matt bring himself to use the Truth Stick?

Chapter 3

- Who does Matt call for help?
- Why does Dexter address Matt by his surname, Merton?
- What does Matt tell Dexter the boy is doing? What is 'hacking'? What is he hacking into?
- Why does Matt think the boy is an Enemy?
- What does Dexter tell Matt to do?
- What happens next?

Chapter 4

- Why did Dexter have the boy killed?
- What did Matt want to do with the boy?
- Do you think Dexter expected Matt to survive the bombing? How can you tell?
- At the end of the story, why is Matt so angry?

Role-play/drama suggestions

Freeze-frame Matt and the boy in the school. What is each character thinking and feeling? What is their body language like?

Conscience alley: one pupil plays Matt; the others form two lines to make an alley. Matt is faced with the dilemma of whether or not to kill the boy with his Truth Stick. As he walks through the alley the pupils advise him what to do, giving reasons. You could ask pupils on one side to urge the Truth Stick option, and the other side to promote alternatives. At the end, Matt has to give his decision and support it with reasons.

The copymaster sheets

PCM 1 deals with skills of inference and critical thinking.

It encourages pupils to read and think critically, rather than taking all the information given by characters at face value. This task could be extended into a longer piece of writing about Matt and The Firm, written from Dexter's point of view. The writing could be specifically about what happened at the school, and why. Talk about whether Dexter expected Matt to survive the bomb blast. What clues are there in the text that he may have wanted to kill Matt?

PCM 2 focuses on creative writing skills.

It requires pupils to imagine a conversation between Matt and the boy. Pupils are asked to reread pages 18–25 and to look at the pictures for visual clues. They are given a film script structure for writing. Extra support is given with some idea prompts at the bottom of the page. Talk about whether the pupils think Matt would use the Truth Stick on someone so young. Why/why not?

All about Dexter

Name: _____ Date: _____

- Can Dexter be trusted?
- Look at what Dexter says and does in the story. Write what you think he is really thinking.

Wait there. I'm on my way.

He is thinking ...

Matt. You got out.

He is thinking ...

I'm just doing my job, Merton. I think you should get on and do yours.

He is thinking ...

Talk about

- Did Dexter want Matt to die in the bomb blast?

Solving the mystery

Name: _____ Date: _____

- Read pages 18 to 25 of the story and look carefully at the pictures.
- Now imagine that the boy speaks to Matt. Write what they say to each other. Use the film script started for you.
- You could use an idea from the box.
- You will need another sheet of paper.

Matt Look, I don't want to use this Truth Stick. Just tell me who you work for and what you are doing.

Boy Well, I ...



Ideas

The boy is working for The Firm.

The boy is spying on Dexter, Matt and Jane.

The boy is working with Jane against The Firm.

The boy was hacking into the school computers and accidentally found secret files about The Firm.

*Talk
about*

- Would Matt use the Truth Stick on someone so young?