

ROUTE 6



Story summary

In this story, Matt receives a mysterious letter from his lost girlfriend, Jane. He has to 'find Route 6' so he breaks into the offices of The Firm in order to discover what he can. The Firm has a large file on Jane and a map with '6' printed on it. Matt follows the map, goes north and finds many trucks loaded with people behind bars. They are being driven away. Matt still has no answers about Jane, why The Firm is interested in her and what is happening to the people in the trucks.

Difficult words and spelling

- opened, remember, everything, hundreds, happening, across, interested
- Vowel phonemes: 'o' in cold, hot, shot
- Adding 'ing' to words ending in 'e': come – coming, race – racing
- Adding 'ed' suffix: watched and waited
- Compound words: every + thing; no + body

Other language work

- 'Matt went into the bar'. Develop more active verbs to describe how he moved, such as 'dashed' or 'crept'.
- Direct questions and question marks: 'She was here? In the bar?'
- Apostrophes for possession: Head's office, Matt's boss, Jane's file
- Apostrophes for omission: It's, I've

Questions to interrogate the text

Chapter 1

- How did Matt feel when he received the letter?
- Why is the content of the letter so mysterious?

Chapter 2

- Why did he go to The Firm?
- Why did he decide to break into the office rather than ask The Firm for help?

- Was this a dangerous thing to do?
- Why might there be a file on Jane? What would this mean for Matt?
- What kinds of thing might they know about her?
- Why did Matt think that the map he found might be the way to Route 6?

Chapter 3

- How did he get to the place on the map? How do you know?
- Why might the trucks be transporting the people? Are they being held against their will? How do we know?
- What clues are we given to show how these people felt?
- How was Matt feeling as he returned to the city?
- What was he thinking about?

Role-play/drama suggestions

Imagine Matt gets caught while breaking into The Firm. How does he explain this?

Matt manages to talk to someone in one of the trucks. What is their story?

Working in pairs, role-play what Matt says and what he is really thinking as he returns to the city.

The copymaster sheets

PCM 1 invites pupils to use their knowledge of the characters and the situation as well as their imaginations to complete the file on Jane.

This involves writing, but also discussion of what we know (and how much) and why. Some of the sections, such as colour, will have to be imagined, so ensure that the pupils are aware that there are no 'right answers' in some parts. Jane is a part of Matt's quest, but she also drives much of the mystery of the book. Discuss with the pupils why the author cannot tell you too much too soon.

PCM 2 asks the pupils to consider processes and their sequence.

Here they should discuss what happens in the book and complete the writing frame. Discuss the language on the sheet and how these words allow the process to occur in sequence – many of them are 'time words'. Discuss how without the correct sequence such writing would not really make sense.

Jane's file

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Firm

- Write what you think Matt might have found in Jane's file.

TOP SECRET FILE

Name: _____

Girlfriend of: _____

Boyfriend's job: _____

Where is she now? _____

DESCRIPTION

Approximate age: _____

Colour of hair: _____

Colour and shape of eyes: _____

Shape of face: _____



Any other details:

NOTES

What I think may have happened to her:



- What do you **not** know about Jane? How does this add to the mystery?

Finding Route 6

Name: _____ Date: _____

- Write about how Matt got the information to help him find Route 6.

First Matt went to The Firm.
Then he went to ...
After this he ...
But the computer ...
So, the next thing he did was ...
He found ...
This helped him because ...



- How important is it to have this information in the right order? Why?