



Chapter 3 · Terror in the Forest

Lucy and Brandon plunge into the forest, but they soon come under attack. Who are these attackers, and where is Brandon's mum, Amy? They may have underestimated the Collector and his powers...

CURSE OF THE MOON CHILDREN

Alex Woolf

CONTENT



READ!

- **Reading comprehension questions:** 10 multiple choice questions to test text retrieval and reading comprehension. These questions may also be completed online at www.fictionexpress.co.uk
- **Guided reading:** teacher's notes and a written response worksheet comprising 6 questions which allow for deeper response to the story, looking at personal response, inference and prediction



WRITE!

- **"Inspire!" words:** to encourage children to include them in their own writing
- **Writing worksheet:** dialogue for plot
- **Grammar worksheet:** degrees of possibility



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Role-play activity:** role-playing the book's characters



EXPLORE!

- **Exploring the story:** game for ways to defeat the Collector



Name: _____

1

Why did Charlie Elgin drop a pebble on Lucy's head?

- ☐ A. To get her attention
- ☐ B. To warn her
- ☐ C. To attack her

2

How does Brandon recognise Charlie Elgin?

- ☐ A. From the television
- ☐ B. From pictures his friend showed him
- ☐ C. From seeing his doll

3

What makes Brandon feel dizzy?

- ☐ A. The silvery powder
- ☐ B. Fear of the zombie dolls
- ☐ C. The magic cake

4

What do the zombie dolls want Brandon to do?

- ☐ A. Release them
- ☐ B. Live with them forever
- ☐ C. Let them kill him

5

How does Brandon escape from the zombie dolls?

- ☐ A. He holds on to an owl
- ☐ B. He climbs a tree
- ☐ C. He runs to the stream



Name: _____

6

What does the Collector's bed remind Lucy of?

- ☐ A. A doll's bed
- ☐ B. A tomb
- ☐ C. An upturned table

7

According to the poem, what does the moon rock stop children doing?

- ☐ A. Laughing
- ☐ B. Crying
- ☐ C. Sleeping

8

How many years is a score?

- ☐ A. 10
- ☐ B. 12
- ☐ C. 20

9

Who is the doll carrying the umbrella?

- ☐ A. Amy Watts
- ☐ B. Charlie Elgin
- ☐ C. Gemma Townsend

10

How does the moon powder end up in the Collector's mouth?

- ☐ A. Lucy blows it back at him when he throws it
- ☐ B. Brandon drops it in his mouth from above
- ☐ C. Brandon knocks it out of the Collector's hand



1

Ask: What happens in this chapter? Point out that Brandon and Lucy are separated quite early on in this chapter and the story splits into two adventures. Ask: How does this make you feel as a reader? (Two different perilous stories to follow doubles the drama.) Remind the children of previous discussions about the genre of the story: last week we had a small person adventure like a fairy tale and a sci-fi type adventure. Here we are back into a scary story.

2

Ask the children to relate what happens to Brandon. Ask: What makes the zombie dolls so scary? Together, locate phrases such as 'glassy and dead', 'expressionless', 'zombie', the chanting together of his name, 'urgent hissing breathless voices', 'the zombie dolls slowly and steadily moving up the trunk towards him'. Discuss how they seem relentless and lifeless. Ask: Why does the author describe rather than name the squirrel? (To capture the way Brandon is seeing it in a new perspective.)

3

The moon is almost a character in this chapter. Ask: Why is it important? (For plot and atmosphere.) Read out the phrase, *'Up here, the moon shone brightly, bathing Brandon and the squirrel in its silver radiance.'* Ask: What impression does this give? (Brandon and the squirrel seem magical, the moonlight is kind, the scene is beautiful.) Ask: How does this atmosphere change when the moon goes behind a cloud? Enjoy the description of the silhouetted owl and the tree as a squid with waving tentacles.

4

In contrast, Lucy's adventure centres on spooky magical interiors (the different rooms in the cottage). Ask: Why is the sitting room spooky in this chapter? (Because its cosiness is a trap.) Ask a volunteer to read out the description of the Collector's bedroom. List the sinister or magical elements (the bed like a coffin, the moon symbols, the glowing rock, the poem, all lit by flickering candlelight). Ask: What motivation does the poem suggest for the Collector's actions? (To stop the children feeling sad.)

5

Discuss the scene in the attic. Ask: What makes this scene scary? (For example, suddenly seeing the Amy Watts doll, the sudden arrival of the Collector, towering over her.) Point out the contrast between the 'striding' and 'confident' Amy Watts and Lucy pocketing the Amy doll. Ask: How is the Collector portrayed? Point out the 'sing-song voice', 'Go to sleep, child', 'no more tears'. Discuss how he acts like a caring father. Ask: Is he acting or does he think he is being caring?

6

Ask: How is the Collector (momentarily) defeated in the attic? (Brandon arrives on an owl and lands heavily on the Collector's hand sending moon powder everywhere and making the Collector cough. Ask: What items do we have in this chapter that could be used against the Collector? (The moon rock, moon powder cakes, the animals, the other dolls if they can be rescued and so on.) Ask the children to speculate on things Lucy could do to rescue the moon children.



Name: _____

1

Lucy hadn't gone more than twenty paces when something fell out of the night sky and hit her on the head.

Explain why this event is important to the plot.

2

Far below, he could see the shadowy figures of the zombie dolls slowly and steadily moving up the trunk towards him.

What impression does this give of the dolls following Brandon?
Give three impressions.

3

Find and copy three phrases that describe the moonlight.

1.

2.

3.



Name: _____

4

With a sinking feeling, she realised the Collector must have ambushed them and taken him.

Which phrase is closest in meaning to ‘ambushed’?

Tick one.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| secretly followed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| suddenly attacked | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| hypnotised | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| poisoned | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5

“Go to sleep, my child,” he whispered... “There’ll be no more tears after that, Miss Lucy. No more sadness...”

Why do you think the Collector talks to Lucy as if he is her father?

6

Number the following events 1-5 to show the order in which they happened.

The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lucy escapes down the stairs. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Collector begins to choke. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Collector shouts in anger. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Collector lets go of the powder. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Brandon drops into the attic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



Find these words in Chapter 3. See how the author has used them to create an interesting sentence. Try to use these words in your own writing.

- a grey furry animal with big bright eyes** – describe the features of a well-known animal without naming it for effect
- breathless** – use to create a husky evil-sounding voice
- bruising** – use instead of ‘painful’
- chewed her lip** – show fear by having your character chew their lip
- crept** – use instead of ‘went’ to show going quietly or secretly
- croaked** – use instead of ‘said’ to show that a character is tired or ill
- dead eyes** – describing someone as having ‘dead eyes’ makes them sound scary
- expressionless** – use to show that someone is under the control of someone else
- fingers tightening** – use to show that someone is grasping someone or something
- flickering candlelight** – a flickering candle creates a scary atmosphere
- glistered** – use instead of ‘shone’
- grimaced** – use for a stronger version of ‘frowned’
- head was full of cotton wool** – use to show that someone can’t think straight (or is very forgetful)
- hissing** – describe voices as ‘hissing’ to make them sound evil
- hoodie** – be specific about the clothes your character wears, particularly if the clothes are different in some way
- hopped** – use instead of ‘jumped’ to show that the person is small or young
- hugged it to his chest** – use instead of ‘held on to’
- implored** – use instead of ‘pleaded’
- jerked** – use to show that someone has moved suddenly in surprise
- kid** – use instead of ‘child’ to create a less formal tone
- lunged** – use instead of ‘grabbed for’
- massive** – use instead of ‘big’
- moon** – describing the moon at night adds instant atmosphere to a scene
- relentless** – use to describe something that is unstoppable
- response** – use instead of ‘reply’
- roared** – use instead of ‘shouted’ to show anger
- scamper** – use instead of ‘run’ or ‘climb’ for a small person or animal
- shadowy** – use to describe a character that can’t quite be seen to make them sound scary
- shiver** – make your character shiver to show that they are cold or scared
- startled** – use instead of ‘surprised’



Name: _____

Dialogue can be a quick and dramatic way to move on the plot of a story.
Write a line of dialogue to replace each of these lines of narrative.

1. Something fell out of the night sky and hit Lucy on the head.

2. The boy continued to stare at him in silence.

3. Brandon recognised Tommy Mathers, Gemma Townsend and Tish Harris.

4. The zombie dolls laid their hands on Brandon.

5. Lucy was shocked to see Amy Watts as a lifeless doll.

6. Lucy heard a clatter of heavy footsteps on the stairs.

7. Brandon dropped through the hole in the roof.

8. Lucy picked up Brandon and put him in her pocket.



Name: _____

Rewrite these sentences so that the event described is less likely.
Use different words from the box or your own ideas.

might could possibly maybe perhaps

1. Lucy is going to use the moon rock to defeat the Collector.

2. Lucy and Brandon will be able to rescue Brandon's mother.

3. The zombie dolls are being controlled by the Collector.

4. The Collector will catch Brandon and Lucy.

Rewrite these sentences so that the event described is more likely.
Use different words from the box or your own ideas.

probably definitely must should will

1. The silvery powder might make Lucy fall asleep.

2. The Collector could be evil.

3. Lucy and Brandon could run away.

4. The zombie dolls might come back.



What happens?

What would you like to happen next in *Curse of the Moon Children*? Discuss the options in a group. Remember: listen to each other's opinions. Ask each other questions. Listen to the answers. Be prepared to change your mind!

A

Lucy trips over a rope laid by the other dolls, which then swarm over her

Lucy is near the cottage and the other dolls may be able to drag her inside, back to the Collector. But she is far larger than them and may be able to outrun them, if she can overcome the effects of the powder and stand up.

B

Brandon is pulled out of Lucy's pocket by his "zombie doll" mother

The last time we saw Amy, she was alone in the doll's house. Perhaps she is trying to rescue Brandon? Or perhaps she is under the Collector's spell, like the other dolls? Will Lucy try to rescue him from Amy if this is the winning option?

C

The Collector pours his moon powder over them from an upper window

Lucy is still feeling the effects of the moon powder, but so is the Collector. Perhaps he will not be able to aim and the powder will not reach her. If Lucy can outrun the powder, this option might be the best chance to escape..

Role Play Activity

In this chapter Lucy and Brandon are separated and have different adventures. In pairs, take on the roles of Lucy and Brandon. Pretend that after leaving the cottage at the end of the chapter, you have a moment to tell the other what's happened to you. If you are taking on the role of Lucy, use the structure of:

- 1) Waking in the forest. What do you see? How do you feel? What does it look like?
- 2) Seeing the Collector's bedroom. Dramatically describe the strange things you saw.
- 3) The events in the attic. How did you feel when you saw Amy Watts? Capture the shock of seeing the Collector.

If you are taking on the role of Brandon, use the structure of:

- 1) Meeting the zombie dolls. How did you recognise them? How did their lifeless eyes and chanting make you feel?
- 2) Encounter with the squirrel. Dramatically describe being pulled up the tree by the squirrel and watching the zombie dolls climb.
- 3) Escape by owl. Describe what you see from the owl and landing through the roof.



Name: _____

Cut out the tiles below and place them in a hat or box.

In a small group, take turns to take a card. You have 30 seconds to think how Lucy or Brandon could use the subject on the card in their plan to defeat the Collector and explain it to the group.

When all the cards have been used, vote on your favourite plan.

moon rock	the Collector's bed	moon powder
cake	the zombie dolls	Amy Watts' umbrella
a mobile phone	Tiddles	broken roof tiles

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Charlie Elgin drop a pebble on Lucy's head?
C. To attack her
2. How does Brandon recognise Charlie Elgin?
B. From pictures his friend showed him
3. What makes Brandon feel dizzy?
A. The silvery powder
4. What do the zombie dolls want Brandon to do?
B. Live with them forever
5. How does Brandon escape from the zombie dolls?
A. He holds on to an owl
6. What does the Collector's bed remind Lucy of?
B. A tomb
7. According to the poem, what does the moon rock stop children doing?
B. Crying
8. How many years is a score?
C. 20
9. Who is the doll carrying the umbrella?
A. Amy Watts
10. How does the moon powder end up in the Collector's mouth?
C. Brandon knocks it out of the Collector's hand

READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. Lucy passes out and cannot help Brandon as he is chased by the zombie dolls. Brandon escapes and Lucy explores the cottage on her own. The two children are separated and have different adventures.
2. For example: they are lifeless / they are being controlled by someone else / they are scary / they are unstoppable / they have no individual thought
3. For example: He glanced up at the trees and the moon / the moon was wet and gleaming like a great big yellow eye / the moon shone brightly, bathing Brandon and the squirrel in its silver radiance / on the room's purple walls hung crescent moons painted in gold and silver / Lady of the silver moon / the moon passed behind thick cloud
4. suddenly attacked
5. For example: To trick her and soothe her into doing what he wants.
Because he really feels that what he is doing is for the good of the children.
6. Lucy escapes down the stairs. [5] / The Collector begins to choke. [4] / The Collector shouts in anger. [3] / The Collector lets go of the powder. [2] / Brandon drops into the attic. [1]

WRITE! Dialogue for Plot

For example:

1. "Watch out, Lucy! He's about to throw something!" shouted Brandon.
2. "Don't just stare at me!" pleaded Brandon. "Say something."
3. "Hey, I know you!" cried Brandon. "You're Tommy Mathers, and you're Gemma Townsend and you're Tish Harris. I've seen your pictures before."
4. "Hey, get your horrible zombie hands off me," shrieked Brandon.
5. "Oh, no! Mrs Watts, he's shrunk you," sobbed Lucy.
6. "Help! Who's coming up the stairs?" worried Lucy.
7. "Look up, Lucy, at the hole in the roof. Try and catch me," said Brandon in alarm.
8. "Phew. Let's get you back in my pocket," suggested Lucy.

WRITE! Degrees of Possibility

For example:

1. Lucy could use the moon rock to defeat the Collector.
2. Lucy and Brandon might be able to rescue Brandon's mother.
3. The zombie dolls are possibly being controlled by the Collector.
4. Maybe the Collector will catch Brandon and Lucy.

1. The silvery powder will make Lucy fall asleep.
2. The Collector is definitely evil.
3. Lucy and Brandon should run away.
4. The zombie dolls will probably come back.