

Junior
Certificate
School
Programme



The Savage

By David Almond

Student Workbook



The Savage Workbook

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Written and shared by Dympna Kiernan, Librarian, JCSP Demonstration Library Project.

Novel Resource co-ordinated by Denise O'Flanagan, JCSP Advisor.

Suggestions for Pre-Reading

- 1 Discuss with students what is meant by the following-
Fable/Graphic Novel/Fiction v true story

- 2 Explain the techniques used in graphic novels-
Speech Bubbles, Thought Bubbles, Onomatopoeia, Captions, Panels, Panel frames.

Flick through the pages of the novel and explain that "The Savage" is not quite a graphic novel but does use some of the techniques.

- 3 Examine the front and back cover using the following headings
Image(s), Colours, Font, Blurb.

- 4 Look at how the book is structured, in the graphic element, the story is written by Blue when he was younger. The story written in the ordinary font is David Almond's story.

Chapter One

1 Can you spell better than Blue?

Blue's Spelling	Correct Spelling
<i>Family</i>	
<i>Culdn't</i>	
<i>Beries</i>	
<i>Rooined</i>	
<i>Wepons</i>	
<i>Nives</i>	
<i>Ax</i>	
<i>Alotment</i>	
<i>Cort</i>	
<i>Aynshent</i>	
<i>Truely</i>	

2 Look at the illustrations of The Savage. Which do you like best?

Why?

3 Write 5 sentences to describe The Savage to someone who has not seen the pictures. You may want to use some of the following words:

lonely, brave, frightening, vicious, happy, cruel, sad, afraid.

Chapter Two

1 What do the following words mean?

Co-Op / Swagger / Hard lad / Lurch / Flex

2 Who is Mrs. Molloy?

3 Are the following statements true or false?

	True	False
Blue's dad told his son to hit back at Hopper when he was being bullied		
Blue's dad told Hopper to stay away from Blue.		
Blue told his mother about Hopper.		
Blue's dad says Hopper is bullying Blue because Blue is smaller and weaker.		

4 Why did Blue's family change from an ordinary happy family to a sad one?

5 What jobs will bring Blue "loads of dosh"?

6 Blue's friends tell him how to make Hopper stop the bullying

Link the advice with the friend who gave it.

Max Mack	Don't go anywhere near Hopper
Joey Sullivan	Make a wax model of Hopper and stick pins in it.
Louie Carr	Go to the police

7 Graphic novels sometimes have a superhero and supervillain. Hopper is the supervillain for Blue. Fill out the form as Blue would fill it out.

My Supervillain

Supervillain's Name:

Superpowers:

Catchphrase:

Weaknesses:

Personality:

Headquarters:

Description of what he looks like:

What is Hopper like? Find out by doing this word search

H	K	E	V	N	D	D	I	R	D	V	W	K	Q	J
O	X	Y	J	J	U	O	N	U	K	I	N	E	E	V
D	D	K	X	K	X	G	A	D	V	A	P	A	A	D
W	S	G	R	N	Z	H	D	T	L	R	L	U	T	K
Z	B	R	D	I	Z	U	E	B	S	O	L	W	T	D
C	M	J	Y	T	Y	M	Q	F	U	E	F	X	F	S
J	E	U	U	S	M	Q	U	S	Z	K	B	Z	E	Q
J	Z	L	H	G	E	V	A	S	R	H	O	K	Z	D
V	E	E	O	V	W	N	T	Q	S	B	U	L	L	Y
C	G	G	I	T	W	Z	E	U	W	G	V	K	U	K
T	X	R	C	C	X	W	D	H	Q	B	P	X	W	H
K	A	B	K	F	O	Y	P	J	E	C	K	J	F	Z
O	O	T	T	A	T	U	J	C	C	O	A	P	L	Z
N	X	G	S	B	J	Y	W	G	X	F	N	A	O	R
G	S	C	L	B	K	F	B	N	J	R	V	C	D	V

BLANK
 BULLY
 JEALOUS
 INADEQUATE
 STINK
 STUPID
 TATTOO
 WEAK

Chapter Three

1 Use your dictionary to correct Blue's Spellings.

Blue's Spelling	Correct Spelling
Entrans	
Nite	
Chiken	
Nee	
Blud	
Bottel	
Delishus	
Horribel	
Strate	
Wud	
Stud	

2 Blue tells us that the creature is savage. What words does he use to show this?

3 The Savage calls Hopper stupid. Give one reason for this.

4 Look at the picture of The Savage. Describe in your own words how he looks. Look at his hair, his clothes and his feet.

5 The Savage is Blue's superhero. Fill out the form below as Blue would.

My Superhero

Superhero's Name:

Secret Identity:

Superpowers:

Catchphrase:

Weaknesses:

Personality:

Headquarters:

Description of what he looks like:

Chapter Four

1 Use your dictionary to find out what these words mean.

Raided	
Chicken coop	
Lock-in	
Clubbed	
Laid it on thick	
Frolicking	

2 Use your dictionary to correct Blue's Spellings.

Blue's Spellings	Correct Spellings
Cort	
Shure	
Thort	
Grate	
Sumthin	
Agen	
Jabered	
Lurn	
Abowt	
Innosent	
Piknick	

3 Who is Jess?

4 Why does Blue hold her hand?

5 From looking at the pictures, how can you tell that The Savage won't harm Blue and Jess?

6 What does The Savage do to show he likes Blue?

Chapter Five

1 Use your dictionary to correct Blue's Spellings.

Blue's Spelling	Correct Spelling
Burds	
Hissself	
Stuffin	
Stomak	
Straynge	
Sed	
Wot	
Fownd	
Fense	
Pijamas	
Nitie	
Owt	

2 In his dream Blue was eating:

- a) Berries
- b) A rabbit
- c) Meat from the bins
- d) Bones

3 Why did Blue's Mam come into his room?

4 Are the following true or false?

	True	False
The Savage wanted to eat the pigs because they were tasty		
The pig ran around the field because he was afraid of The Savage		
Mr. Stokoe took out his gun to shoot The Savage		
The Stokoes called the police		
The pigs and The Savage enjoyed the game		

Chapter Six

- 1 Why does Blue pretend he is The Savage?

- 2 When his Mam leaves the room, Blue feels *sad, small, frightened, furious, bitter, lost, lonely*; Why?

Does The Savage feel the same way as Blue?

- 3 Describe how The Savage looks at this moment in the story. You may use some of the following words, if you wish.

Vicious, violent, angry, bitter, calm, happy, threatening, aggressive, cruel.

Chapter Seven

1 Use your dictionary to correct Blue's spelling.

Blue's Spelling	Correct Spelling
Crewel	
Memry	
New	
Threw	
Rite	
Pawsed	
Tyme	
Shuvd	
Brilliant	

2 The Savage has a good side and a bad side. In the box below, write down one point that shows his good qualities and one point that shows his bad qualities.

Good qualities	Bad qualities

3 What was the stupid, smoky thing that The Savage remembers?

4 Why does The Savage not go into Blue's house first?

5 Blue writes; *"I couldn't do it"*. What could he not do?

6 The Savage lifts his axe and kills Hopper. True or false

7 The Savage behaves differently in Hopper's and Jess's room. Tick the right answer.

	Hopper's room	Jess's room	Order
He bared his teeth			
He had tears in his eyes			
He punched him in the face			
He pulled the curtains			
He spoke softly			
He raised his axe above his head			
He burst his lip			
He put his hands on the brow			

8 Now, put the statements in chronological order- (the order in which they happened.)

9 True or false?

- a) The Savage spoke like Blue and Jess in the woods.
- b) He said poems.

10 Imagine that Hopper reported what happened to the police. They asked for a description. Then they put up a "Wanted" poster stating there would be a reward for whoever captured The Savage.

Fill in the poster on the next page.

WANTED

NAME:

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

SPECIAL FEATURES:

OTHER INFORMATION:

Chapter Eight

1 Are the following statements true or false?

	True	False
Jess spoke like The Savage		
Jess got dirty because she was playing in the mud		
The Savage waved an axe in triumph		
Blue threatens Hopper		
Hopper attacks Blue		

Chapter Nine

1 What did Blue think he was doing?

CHE	FRO	AS	SLU	RPI	SA	BER	MA
RIE	ER	GR	WIN	NG	S.	WAT	ND
ND	NA	CA	IW	OOT			

Unscramble the tiles to show what he thought.

2 Why does Miss Brewer come to stand beside Blue?

3 Miss Brewer is angry with Blue. True or false.

- 4 In this chapter Blue's spelling seems to be better. Can you think of one reason why?

Chapter Ten

- 1 Put the following statements into chronological order- the order in which they happened.

	Order
The Savage led Blue into the cave.	
The Savage showed Blue what he had drawn	
Blue smelled the scent of The Savage	
The Savage put chicken feathers into Blue's hair.	
Blue showed The Savage his drawing.	
Blue heard his father's voice.	
Blue saw a picture of himself with Jess, his Mam and his Dad.	

- 2 Blue says: "*I knew that my wounds would heal*".
What were his wounds?
- 3 Blue says "*I knew that somehow, in some weird way, everything that was happening was true*". Do you agree with Blue? Give reasons for your answer.

Blue and The Savage in the Cave

Complete the word search to remember what happened and the atmosphere...

W T H E S A D D W E V A G E R
 R I S B L E E O L U E W W A E
 I S C Q T P U B W P N Z B D D
 T X X N M N I H F O T V J E R
 I V U A D D O R G X R F S L I
 N R T S E I R U D K G B R B E
 G S P R D E H C U O R C E M W
 V V C E D D Z D C V M N H E U
 C N C L E S S X I S Y Y T R H
 I T I A H R P F G S S R A T O
 X W C H G P E A A E T Z E A W
 L Y I N G Q W D M N E H F V W
 D V I D G W E B F D R B O G Y
 D E L W O R G E O A Y L D R E
 D E R E P S I H W S S H P J E

BROW

GROWLED

LYING

PEERED

TREMBLED

WILDER

CROUCHED

GRUNTED

MAGIC

SADNESS

WEIRDER

WOUNDS

FEATHERS

INCREDIBLE

MYSTERY

STAMPED

WHISPERED

WRITING

Chapter Eleven

1 Fill in the blanks.

"Hopper? He's quieter, not quite so stupid, not quite so..... I often catch him watching me. He never, but I'm waiting for the day when he comes and asks me how I know about what to him in the night."

2 What do you think Blue will answer when Hopper asks him that question? (Write 5 sentences for your answer.)

3 The story ends with the word "DAD". Do you think this is important?

4 Why?

General Questions on the story

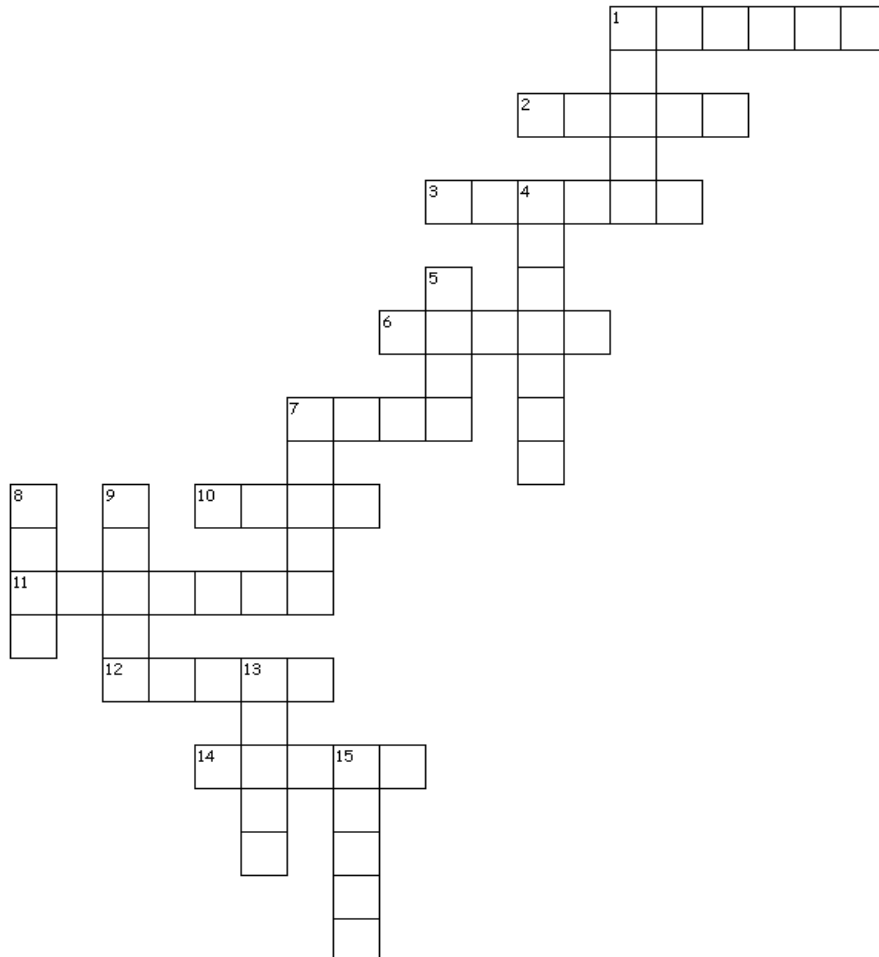
- 1 Superheroes often live in large cities. The Savage lives in the woods outside Saltwell.

Draw a map of the little town of Saltwell. Make sure to include:

- *Burgess Woods*
- *The ruined chapel*
- *Stokoe's pig farm*
- *Franky Finnigan's allotment*
- *The ancient pit shaft*
- *The post office*
- *Greenacres Rest Home*
- *Blue's house,*
- *The Co-op*
- *The School*
- *Hopper's house*
- *Badger's Brook*
- *Aiden's Lane*
- *The Grey Horse*

- 2 Write a review of this novel, explaining what you liked/disliked about it and why you would/would not recommend it to a friend.

Complete the crossword to find out how The Savage acts



Across

- 1 Speak fast, making no sense
- 2 Growl viciously, baring the teeth
- 3 Talk rapidly, making no sense
- 6 Hit with his fist
- 7 Throw saliva from your mouth
- 10 Cut into pieces
- 11 Breathe through the nose
- 12 Turn or rotate
- 14 Nick or steal

Down

- 1 Stare fiercely
- 4 Kill very brutally
- 5 Break or burst
- 7 Push roughly
- 8 Draw in your breath sharply
- 9 Make the short, deep, sound of a pig
- 13 Inhale through his nose
- 15 Toss away