

Junior
Certificate
School
Programme



Skellig

Student Workbook
David Almond



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

PDST
Professional Development
Service for Teachers | An tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt
Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí



Junior
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STUDENT WORKBOOK



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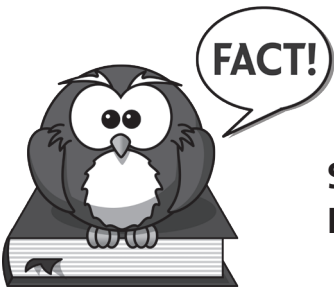
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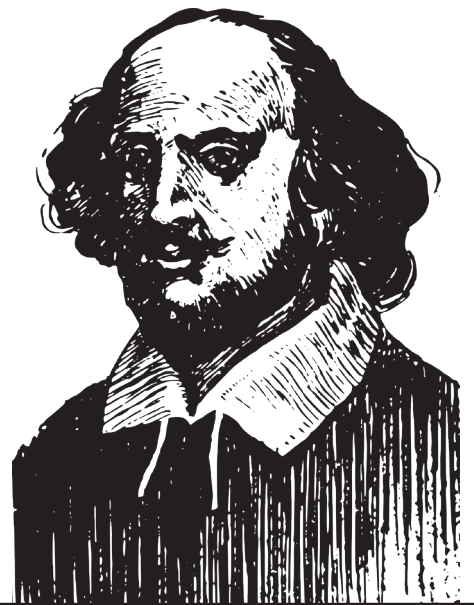
Editors
Kathleen Moran
Denise O’Flanagan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR**A. LIST FIVE FACTS ABOUT DAVID ALMOND**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



**SHAKESPEARE IS A VERY
FAMOUS AUTHOR**



Name another famous author you have heard of

BOOK REVIEWS**A. LIST THREE PUBLICATIONS THAT REVIEWED THIS BOOK**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BOOK REVIEWS**B. DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	beautiful	
2	classic	
3	magical	
4	poignant	
5	extraordinary	

CHAPTER 1

1. Name the street the family has moved to.

2. What season of the year was it?

3. What is Mr. Stone's occupation?

CHAPTER 1

4. Name the person who had lived in the house previously.

5. What does 'Just see it in your mind's eye' mean?

6. Where is the garage?

7. Describe the dining room.

8. How old do you think the narrator is?

9. Is the narrator male or female?



Come back later and see if you were correct about the narrator. Yes or no?

CHAPTER 2

LIST FIVE POINTS ABOUT THE GARAGE.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. Why is the narrator not allowed to go into the garage?

7. What does the narrator hear in the garage?

8. Circle three words which describe how the author feels

ANGRY

AFRAID

ANNOYED

HAPPY

EXCITED

CHAPTER 2



9. DICTIONARY WORK

find meanings for:

1	mortar	
2	stank	
3	scratching	
4	scuttling	
5	collapse	

10. Who or what do you think is in the garage?



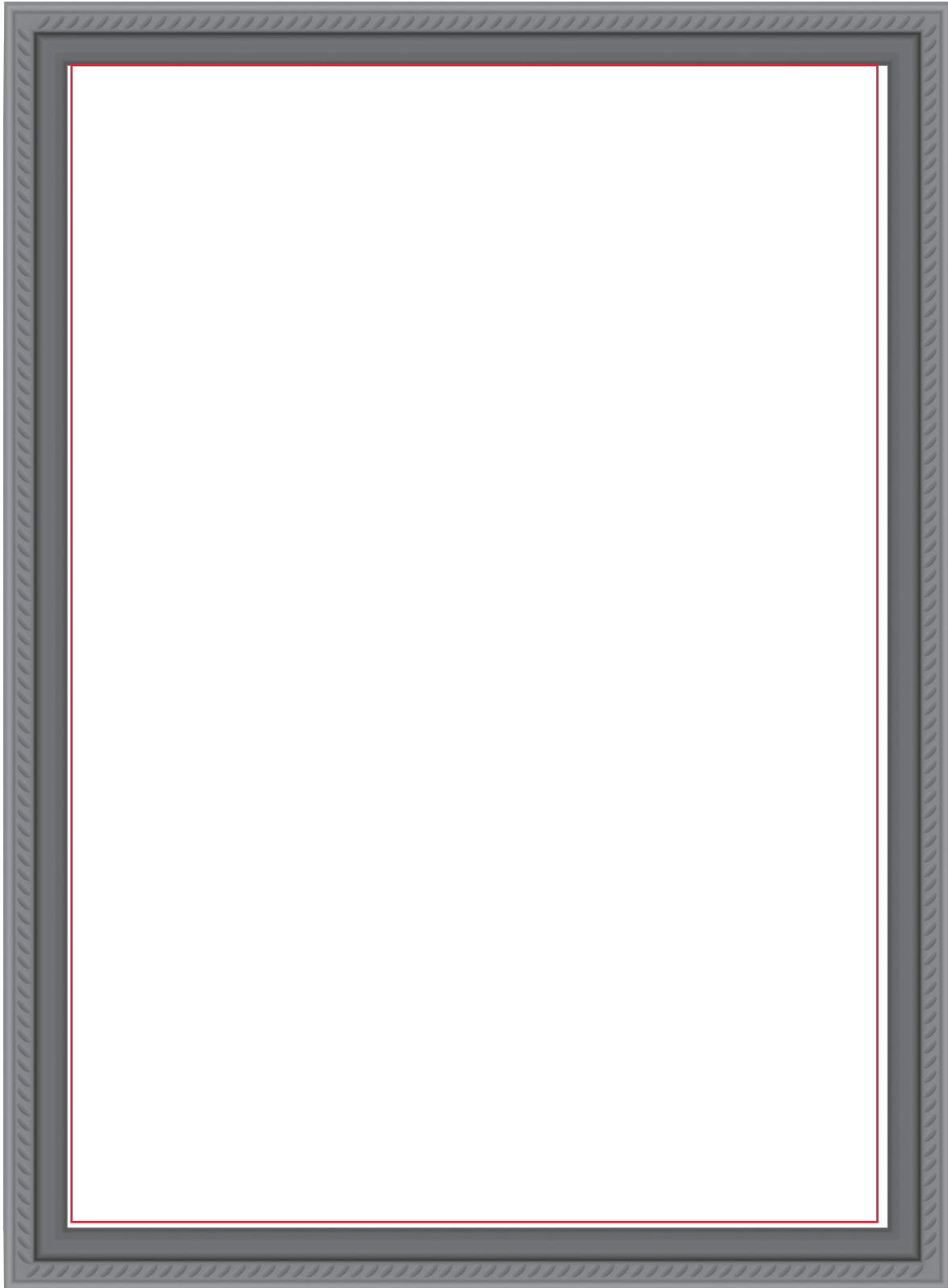
Come back later and see if you were correct about the narrator. Yes or no?

CHAPTER 2**IT TASK 1**

1. Use an internet search engine to find images of a garage
2. Copy and paste them into a Word document
3. The images should be A5 size
4. Name the document The Garage
5. Save the document
6. Print the document
7. Bring the document to class
8. Cut out the images and make a collage
9. Homework:
 - Take a photograph of your collage
 - Print the photograph
 - Place the photograph of your collage in your copy

CHAPTER 2

PLACE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH HERE



CHAPTER 3

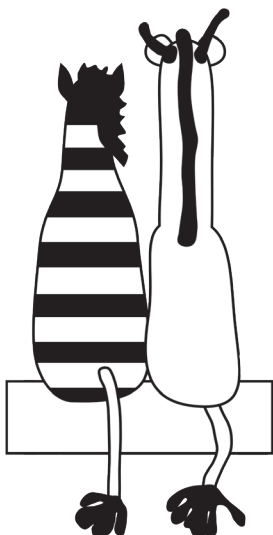
1. Name two things they plan for the garden

2. What does Michael have for lunch?

3. Where did Michael's family live before they moved?

4. Name three insects Michael mentions.

5. What is the first thing the 'creature' says to Michael?



PAIR WORK ACTIVITY: DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

What does it mean to belong?

Do you think Michael feels as if he belongs here?

How does the author show us how Michael feels?

Be prepared to explain your thinking to the class

CHAPTERS 4 and 5**DICTIONARY WORK****find meanings for:**

1	dusty	
2	stupid	
3	silence	
4	rattle	
5	dribble	

1. How does Michael go to school that morning?

2. Name five of Michael's teachers.

3. What story does Miss Clarts tell the class?

CHAPTER 6

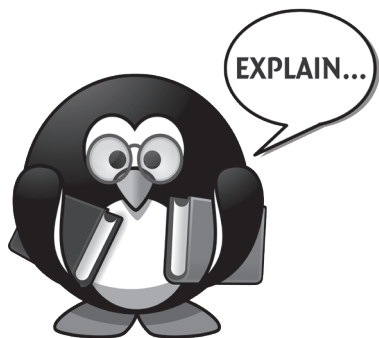
1. Where had Dad put the toilet?

2. What did Dad find behind the fire?

3. How does Michael know what type of birds they are?

4. Who might come over on Sunday?

5. Where does Dad go?



6. Explain Fossil

CHAPTER 6**IT TASK 2**

1. Use an internet search engine to find images of insects
2. Copy and paste them into a Word document
3. The images should be A5 size
4. Name the document Insects
5. Save the document
6. Print the document
7. Bring the document to class
8. Cut out the images and make a collage
9. Homework:
 - Take a photograph of your collage
 - Print the photograph
 - Place the photograph of your collage in your copy

CHAPTER 6

PLACE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH HERE



CHAPTER 7

1. Describe what the 'creature' sounded like

2. What does he eat?

3. What does he ask Michael for?

4. What do you think 27 and 53 might be?

5. Name the song Dad is singing.

6. Who does Michael meet at the wall?

CHAPTER 8

1. What do 27 and 53 stand for?

2. What is your favourite Chinese food?

3. What does Dad say they will order for the baby?



4. **DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	fancy	
2	fuss	
3	fat	
4	famished	
5	fridge	

CHAPTER 8**IT TASK 3****DESIGN AN IMAGINARY TAKEAWAY MENU**

1. **Open a blank Word document – 1 page only**
2. **Use insects in your meals**
3. **Use numbers for the meals**
4. **For example: 27 – Sweet and Sour Snails**
5. **Have 3 sections – Starters/Main Course/Dessert**
6. **Google images of insects to decorate your menu**
8. **Save your document as Imaginary Menu**
9. **Print your menu making sure it fits onto one page**
10. **Stick your menu into your copybook**

CHAPTER 8

PLACE YOUR MENU HERE



CHAPTER 9

1. Where is Mina sitting?

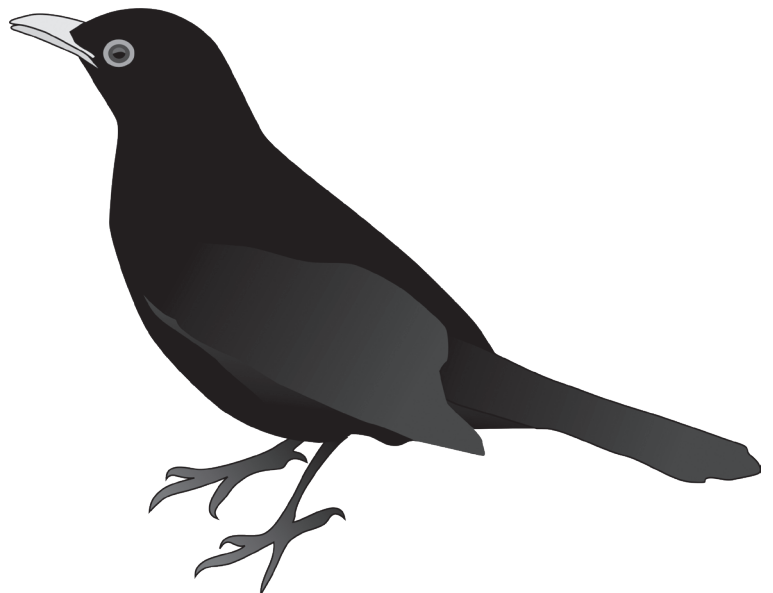
2. What does she have in her hand?

3. What does Dad do in the dining room?

4. Why does the blackbird squawk?

5. Name all the birds Mina mentions

6. What colour is a blackbird?



CHAPTER 10

1. Who or what is feeding the baby in Michaels' dream?

2. What does Michael take from the bathroom?

3. How does the 'creature' describe the food?

4. What are the furry balls made of?

5. Describe the 'creature' in your own words.

CHAPTER 12

1. Who is in the house when Michael gets home?

2. Why is he there?

3. Circle three words which describe how Mum feels

SAD

TIRED

SCARED

WORRIED

EXCITED

4. What does Mum say shoulder blades were for?

5. Do you think Michael believes Mum? Why?

CHAPTER 13

1. What is the cats' name?

2. What word is painted in red over the door?

3. How does the author creates a sense of mystery about what is in the room?

4. What does Mina show Michael in the room?



5. DICTIONARY WORK

find synonyms for:

1	dusty	
2	stupid	
3	silence	
4	rattle	
5	dribble	

CHAPTER 14

1. List four things Michael does in the garden

2. What do they plan to have in the garden?

3. How does Dad describe Mina?

4. What is another word for 'the glass case'?

5. What do the doctors say about the baby?

CHAPTER 15**1. DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	natural	
2	curiosity	
3	creativity	
4	intelligence	
5	gloomy	

2. What does evolution mean?

3. What does Michael teach Mina?

4. Where does Michael have to go?

CHAPTER 16

1. At what time does Michael go to the garage?

2. Michael asks 'Are you dead?' What do you think?

3. What is the name of his illness?

4. List the five names he gives to Michael

CHAPTER 17

1. What does Mina think of going to school?

2. What season is mentioned in the poem by William Blake that Mina recites?

3. Why does going to school 'drive all joy away'?

4. Who do you think is the owner of the 'cruel eye'?

5. Are the 'little ones' happy or sad?

6. Do you agree with Mina that going to school is a terrible thing?

7. What would you miss about going to school?

CHAPTER 18

1. What does Dr. Bloom say about the baby?

2. Where do the people with arthritis go?

3. What is the name of the doctor upstairs?

4. What does the doctor first advise?

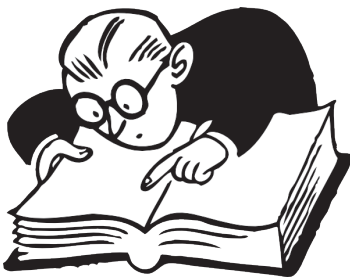
5. What does the nurse tell Michael?

CHAPTER 19

1. Describe Mina's mother.

2. What are Mina and her mother doing?

3. How does the clay feel to Michael?

**4. DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	stubborn	
2	struggle	
3	slink	
4	shiny	
5	smooth	

CHAPTER 20

1. What is Mina wearing?

2. List the three things Michael has with him.

3. Circle three words which describe how Mina feels

HAPPY NERVOUS FRIGHTENED SURPRISED ANGRY ANNOYED

4. What is calcification?

5. What is ossification?

CHAPTERS 21 and 22

1. What do Michael and Mina decide to do?

2. How will Michael and Mina call each other?

3. Where are Michael and the baby in his dream?

4. What do the doctors want the baby to do?

5. What does Michael's dream show us?

6. Describe Mr. Nobody in your own words.

7. Who or what do you think Skellig is?

CHAPTER 23

1. What does Mrs. Dando bring for the baby?

2. What does Mrs. Dando bring for Michael?

3. What is the red sticker for?

4. Who is Mina writing about in her diary?

5. What does Michael get marks for in his diary at school?

6. Why is Michael upset?

6. Do you think a diary should be private? Give reasons for your answer.

CHAPTER 24**1. DICTIONARY WORK**

find antonyms for:

1	danger	
2	silent	
3	empty	
4	sick	
5	short	

2. Where is Skellig when they find him?

3. Where does he want to go?

4. Describe his wings

CHAPTER 24

5. What does Michael mean when he says he wants to make sure the world is still there?
-
-

**IT TASK 4**

1. Use an Internet search engine to find images of Angels and Icarus
2. Copy and paste to a word document
3. The images should be medium sized A5
4. Name the document Angels.
5. Save the document
6. Print the document
7. Bring the document to class
8. Cut out the images and make a collage

CHAPTER 24

STICK A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR COLLAGE HERE



CHAPTER 25

**Imagine that you are Michael.
Write an account of your visit to the hospital that day.**

CHAPTER 26**1. DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	archaeopteryx	
2	dinosaur	
3	diplodocus	
4	stegosaurus	
5	extinct	

2. Describe the archaeopteryx.

3. Explain Mina's theory about the descendants of the dinosaurs in your own words.

CHAPTER 26

4. What is pneumatisation?

5. What is Michael thinking about?

CHAPTER 27

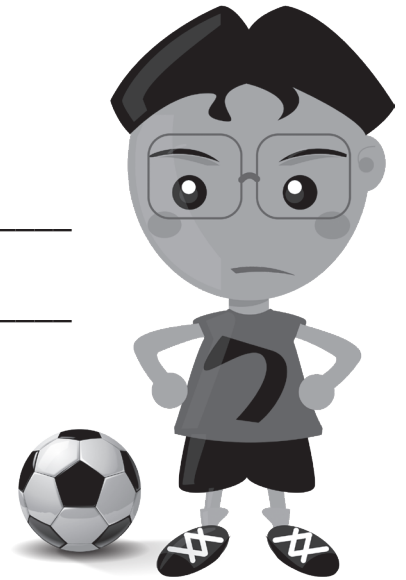
1. Who are Leakey and Coot?

2. How did they feel about Mina?

3. Why do you think Michael is annoyed?

CHAPTER 27

4. What happens when Michael thumps the garage?

**CHAPTER 28**

1. What colour of paint does Dad use to write DANGER?

2. Whose uncle is a builder?

3. What is the blackbird looking for?

4. What do you think 'Plays hooky?' means?

CHAPTER 28

5. What does William Blake say about school?

6. Why do you think Leakey and Coot don't like Mina?

CHAPTER 29

1. What are Michael and Mina arguing about?

2. How does she describe Leakey and Coot?

3. Do you feel sorry for Mina? Why?

CHAPTER 29

4. Why do you think Michael is so upset?

CHAPTER 30

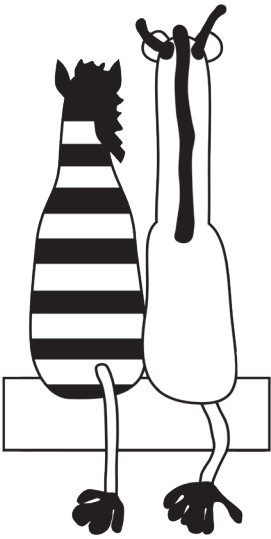
1. Describe what happens in Michaels' dream

2. Where is Mina waiting for Michael?

3. How many owls were with them?

4. Do you think it is possible to hate your friend?

CHAPTER 30



PAIR WORK ACTIVITY

In pairs, discuss what you think Michael’s dream means.

Be ready to share your thoughts with the rest of the class if asked.

CHAPTER 31

1. **What did they find in Skellig’s room?**

2. **What do you think has happened?**

3. **What could they hear in the darkness?**

4. **Describe what happens when they join hands.**

CHAPTER 31

5. **Why do you think Dad's voice was filled with fear?**

6. **Give examples of how the author creates a sense of tension in this chapter.**

CHAPTER 32

1. **Why does Dad call Dr. Death for Michael?**

2. **What two questions does Dr. Death ask Michael?**

3. **Do you think Ernie saw Skellig?**

CHAPTER 32

4. **Should Michael tell Dad about Skellig? Why/why not?**

5. **Write the conversation Michael's Dad and Dr. Death might have had at the door.**

CHAPTER 33

Write an account of Michael's day.

CHAPTER 34

1. Where are Michael and Mina?

2. What things did William Blake see?

3. What is Michael wondering about?

4. What did Mina draw on Coot? Why do you think she does this?

5. How did Skellig feel about Michael going to school?



CHAPTER 35

1. What is Michael waiting for?

2. Describe some of Michael's drawings.

3. What is the ball of skin and bone and fur called?



4. **DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	pellet	
2	regurgitate	
3	digest	
4	extraordinary	
5	etched	

CHAPTER 36

1. Who are Michael and Mina waiting for?

2. Name three things the fledglings might dream about.

3. What is going to happen to the baby?

4. What does Mina compare herself and Michael to?

5. Where does Michael want to be?

6. Why does Michael's fear increase?

CHAPTER 37

1. Describe how the night passes.

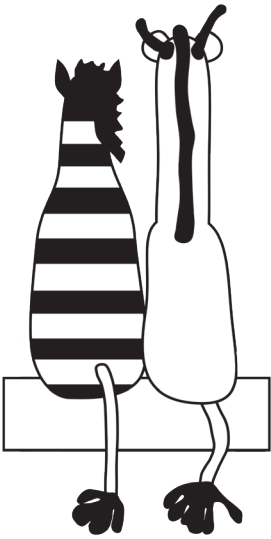
1. What do Michael and his father fight about?

2. What falls on the floor?

3. Describe in your own words how Michael's dad feels.

4. What are Michael and Mina doing in the garden?

CHAPTER 37



PAIR WORK ACTIVITY

Discuss the importance of this scene and how it connects to the other things that are happening.

Be ready to share your thoughts with the rest of the class if asked.

CHAPTER 38

1. In the myth that Mina's mother tells them, where is Persephone trapped?

2. During what season is she released?

3. What is symbolic about this?

CHAPTER 38

4. Give three examples of Persephone's struggles.

5. How does Mina feel when they discover Skellig is gone?

6. What happens to Michaels' heart?

CHAPTER 39

1. Where are Michael and Mina?

2. Why does Michael think that the baby is dead?

3. Why is Michael afraid to phone the hospital?

CHAPTER 39

4. How does Blake describe fainting?

5. What do you think of that explanation?

6. In your opinion, what is the importance of the fact that they watched the fledglings while waiting for Michael's father to come home?

CHAPTER 40

1. How did Mina's mother divide the pomegranate?

2. What does she say is the importance of the pips?

3. Who arrives while they are in the garden?

CHAPTER 40

4. What work has Rasputin sent to Michael?



5. DICTIONARY WORK

find meanings for:

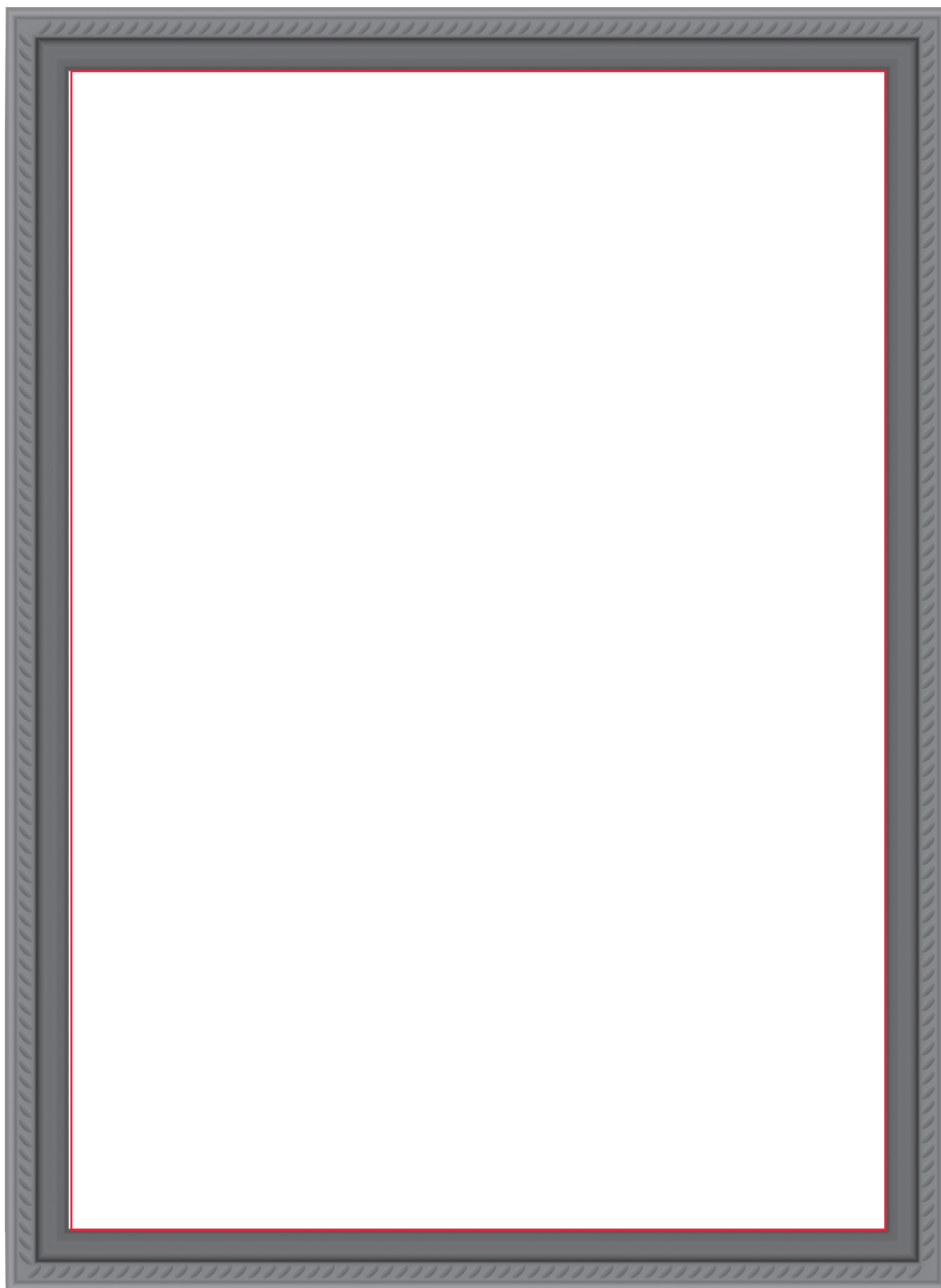
1	tibia	
2	fibula	
3	sternum	
4	clavicle	
5	radius	
6	ulna	

CHAPTER 40**IT TASK 5**

1. Use an Internet search engine to find images of skeletons
2. Copy and paste to a Word document
3. The images should be A5 in size
4. Name the document Skeletons
5. Save the document
6. Print it out
7. Bring the document to class
8. Cut out the images and make a collage
9. Place a photograph of your collage in your copy

CHAPTER 40

PLACE YOUR PHOTOGRAPH HERE



CHAPTER 41

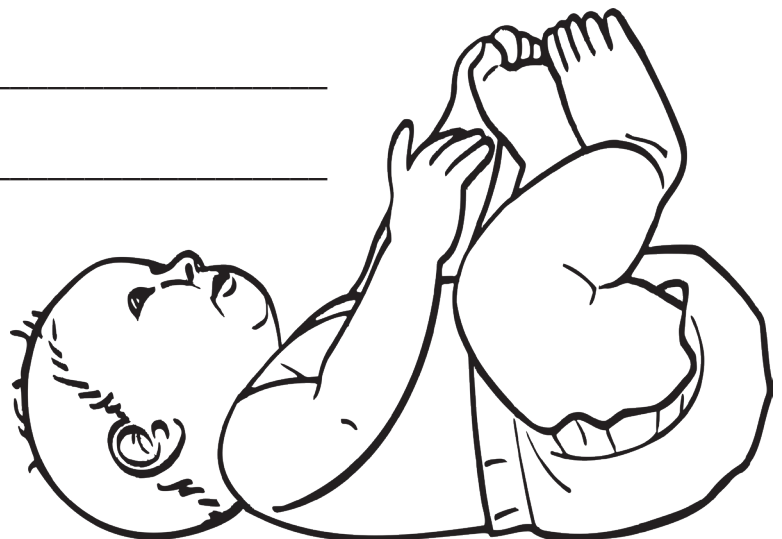
1. Describe the baby.

2. What name does Mum suggest for the baby?

3. Who do you think is the man in Michael's mother's dream?

4. Why does the Doctor say Michael is an 'educated man'?

5. Describe the mood in the car on the journey home?



CHAPTER 42

1. Why was Whisper grumpy and frustrated?

2. What do they find on the windowsill?

3. How does Skellig describe Michael and Mina?

4. What do you think 'Heart like fire' means?

5. How did Michael and Mina give Skellig his life back?

CHAPTER 43

1. What kind of day does Michael have at school?

2. Write an account of your best day ever in school



CHAPTER 44

1. How do Michael and Dad spend their evenings?

2. What does Michael get instead of 27 and 53?

3. What meals do you think these numbers represent?



4. **DICTIONARY WORK**

find meanings for:

1	heap	
2	beautiful	
3	delicate	
4	gorge	
5	tender	
6	border	

CHAPTER 45

1. What are the names of the builders?

2. List four items they take out of the garage.

3. What does ‘the devil’s own work’ mean?

4. What was left of Skellig’s presence in the garage?

5. What is ‘knocky down’?

CHAPTER 46

1. In what season does the baby come home?

2. Who else is born in this season?

3. Circle three words which describe how Michael feels

ANXIOUS

DIZZY

APPREHENSIVE

NERVOUS

ANNOYED

4. How does Mina describe the baby?

5. Why do you think they called the baby Joy?

BOOK REVIEW

1. Title and author

2. Target audience

3. Main characters

BOOK REVIEW

4. Setting – List all places

5. Plot

6. Who would you recommend this book to?

