

Reading

Unit 3 - Wednesday

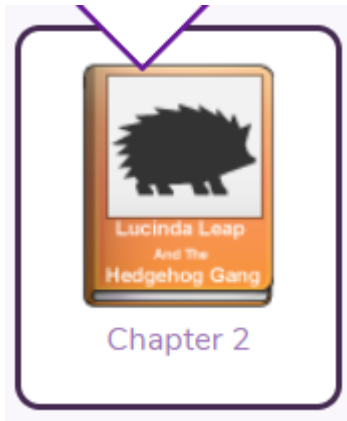
Please login to Purple Mash...



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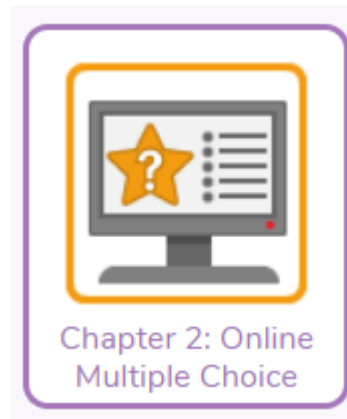
and read Chapter 1



2Dos

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and answer the questions about the text. If you follow these instructions you will be able to submit the work to us because you have done it on the 2Do app.

Extra Challenge. Try one of these...



2Dos

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Or you can read it on the next few pages.

Lucinda Leap and the hedgehog gang



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Art by Zarina Liew

lucinda leap and the hedgehog gang

chapter 2

It was a hedgehog. A tiny, cute hedgehog. Just a normal hedgehog, that's all, Lucinda told herself, as her mind whirred. Except in a tiny leather jacket and talking to me. And was that an earring?



"Hello," she said, trying to act casual.

The hedgehog laughed. "Now you see me! Hello!" He waved. "Now, what's this about living in the hedge?"

Lucinda glanced around at the cool girls from her school hanging around the shelter, and over at her parents playing with her baby sister in the play area. No-one was paying her any attention, so she crouched down. Was she really about to talk her problems over with a hedgehog?

“Well...” she began. Yes, it looked like she was.

“Yes?” the hedgehog said, nodding encouragingly.

“I’ve just moved here. My mum got a new job, so I had to start a new school. And I don’t know anyone, and those girls over there are from my class and they are a bit...” She paused. She didn’t like being rude about people.

“Not your cup of tea?” asked the hedgehog.

“No.” Lucinda crunched a brittle leaf between her fingers.

“They seem a little ‘Ahahaha! Look at me!’” The hedgehog threw his head back, laughing as he swished imaginary hair over his shoulder.

Lucinda giggled despite herself. “They are a bit like that.” She peered over her shoulder at the girls and was relieved to see that they didn’t seem to notice her chatting to what looked like no-one.

“Ah, I know the type,” the hedgehog said. “Squirrels can be like that. They think they are so great just because they have these bushy tails and can run right up a tree.”

“Gosh.” Lucinda had never really thought about whether hedgehogs and squirrels might get on. “What about bats?” she asked curiously.

“Oh, bats! Whole different ball game. Salt of the earth! Great fun. Of course, it helps that they are nocturnal, like us. But they can fly, and they don’t make a big deal about it, you know? So you need bats, my friend, bats; not squirrels.” The hedgehog pointed his tiny paw into the sky for emphasis.

“I should hang out with bats?” Lucinda wasn’t sure that such a plan would be so great, either.

“No! I mean, why worry about making friends with people like those Squirrel Girls, when there are bound to be other people who’ll make much better friends?”

“Yes, you’re right.”

“I’m Spike, by the way. This is my hedge. Well, a whole bunch of us live in this big hedge. Want to meet ‘em?”

“Oh, yes! I’m Lucinda, Lucinda Leap.”

“Got it. Nice to meet you, Lucinda Leap. I won’t shake paws because of the quills.” He pointed to the sharp spikes all over his back. “Hey guys!” he shouted, though his voice was still tiny. “Someone I’d like you to meet!” The hedge immediately began to rustle and shake, and hedgehogs started to appear either side of Spike. “Lucinda, allow me to have the pleasure of introducing Maxine; she’s my sister.”

Maxine was smaller than her brother. She had bright blue quills and was wearing a tiny pair of dungarees. She held in one arm a sleeping baby hedgehog, wrapped in a blanket.

“Aw, how sweet!” Lucinda said.

“And this is Ada, my cousin. She’s only just woken up, so please excuse the grumpiness!”

Ada was wrapped in what looked like a doll’s dressing gown and rubbed her eyes sleepily. “Alright Lucinda?” Then she let out a big long yawn. “Oh sorry, but this business of being awake during the day does not work for me!”



“Oh, that’s right,” said Lucinda. “Why are you awake during the day? Aren’t hedgehogs nocturnal?”

“Ah, well, that’s the trouble...” Ada began, but then tailed off.

“Oh, she’s gone!” Spike laughed. “She could fall asleep in the middle of a meal, I swear! What she was trying to say is, we’ve got a problem. See that new road bridge over there?”

Lucinda turned to look where he was pointing. On the far side of the park, scaffolding and plastic sheeting towered over the hedgerows.

“Well, the builders are working on it all day long. They get here nice and early, all keen, and leave late in the evening.”

“They’ve got targets,” Maxine chipped in. “I was foraging over there and I heard one of them yelling about it to the others. The boss I expect!”

“So we’re not getting our usual sleep during the day and we aren’t very good at sleeping at night,” explained Spike, chuckling wryly.

“We’re hungry,” said Maxine. “It’s stopping us from catching the worms and slugs and bugs we eat... being so tired.”

“That’s awful,” said Lucinda. She looked at the hedgehogs who, apart from Spike, all looked close to exhaustion and wondered if she could help them.



Comprehension Questions

1. What was unusual about the hedgehog's appearance?
 - a it was wearing a leather jacket
 - b its spikes were curly
 - c it had a bright purple nose
 - d it was wearing sunglasses
 - e it had only one eye

2. *"Not your cup of tea?"* asked the hedgehog.
If something is not your cup of tea, it means...
 - a you prefer other drinks.
 - b it is someone else's drink.
 - c it is not to your liking.
 - d you are not thirsty.
 - e you are feeling unwell.

3. Ada is Spike's...
 - a brother.
 - b mother.
 - c sister.
 - d auntie.
 - e cousin.

4. What have the construction workers been building?
 - a a new road bridge
 - b a block of flats
 - c some offices
 - d a shopping centre
 - e a car park

5. *She looked at the hedgehogs who, apart from Spike, all looked close to exhaustion and wondered if she could help them.*
Why were the hedgehogs so tired?
- a foraging for food was hard work
 - b they had to walk a long way to get food
 - c the builders had been keeping them awake
 - d there was no space to sleep in the hedge
 - e squirrels kept waking them up



Chapter Sequencing

Put these events in the order in which they happened in the story, numbering them from 1 to 5. The first one has been done for you.

Lucinda shared her worries with the hedgehogs.

Lucinda crouched down and started to have a conversation with some hedgehogs.

The hedgehogs told Lucinda about the problems they were having.

Spike gave Lucinda some advice about making friends.

Lucinda wondered whether she could help the hedgehogs.

1

Open-Ended Questions

1. Does Spike prefer bats or squirrels?
2. *Lucinda crunched a brittle leaf between her fingers.*

What does the word 'brittle' tell you about the leaf?

3. In what ways did Spike think that the squirrels and the girls from Lucinda's class were similar?
4. Look at the paragraph beginning with *Ada was wrapped...* and continue reading until *...then tailed off.*

Why was Ada finding it so difficult to stay awake during the day?

5. Lucinda wondered if she could help the hedgehogs.
Identify two problems that the hedgehogs needed help with.