

Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

About these resources

This pack begins with questions about the whole book, suitable for a book club. It then contains, by chapter:

Discussion questions

For whole class responses, book clubs, etc.

Comprehension questions

Suitable for guided reading sessions or for written work.

Writing exercises



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Whole book questions

1. Jamie has to wait each day for the news in his newspaper, and again for Goodnight, New York in the evening. How is this different to today?
2. Harry Hooper is very powerful.
Do you think newspaper owners are still powerful? Why/why not?
3. How do you decide what news you can trust?
4. Eve, Jamie and Rose all have different strengths.
What are their strengths? Who did you like best?
5. The giant candle clock in the Yorker headquarters is a strange thing to imagine!
Why do you think the author included it?
(There's no single correct reason!)
6. Although the candle is fantastical,
the author includes lots that is more realistic.
What do you think of the world of 1960s
newspaper offices?
How is it different to today?



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Readers introduced to New York Newspaper Boy

Discussion questions

- Do you find it interesting to hear world news? Why/why not?
- In 1969, Jamie could read the news in the daily paper, or watch it on the daily program. How do you find out about the news? How is it different?

Comprehension questions

1. Look at the title of this chapter. The title is written to sound like a newspaper headline. What effect does writing the chapter title in the style of a newspaper headline have?
2. The author describes Jamie Creeden's normal daily routine. Summarise Jamie's routine in your own words.
3. In this chapter, the reader is introduced to Jamie. What impression do they get of him from this chapter? Identify some of the words or phrases that give you this impression.
4. The author describes how Jamie cycles through the 'gathering dawn' on his way to his paper route. What does 'gathering' mean in this context?
5. Jamie buys something to eat from a cart near his school, if he is finished with his route quick enough. What does Jamie eat?
6. The writer explains that Jamie Creeden knew he 'was going to write the news' and that this book is 'the story of how – quite unexpectedly – he turned out to be right'.
7. What do you think this means? What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?
8. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?



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Paper Boy meets Hero

Discussion questions

- What kind of person do you think Jamie is?
- What impression do you get of New York from this chapter? Would you like to visit? Why/why not?

Comprehension questions

1. What time of year does this story take place?
2. In this chapter, the author introduces Lou Moon. Lou owns the shop that Jamie delivers newspapers for. What impression of Lou Moon do you get from this chapter? Find two words or phrases that give you this impression.
3. The Morning Yorker tagline is 'Always punctual. Often Accurate'. What does the word punctual mean?
4. What does the word 'accurate' mean?
5. When Jamie meets Harry Hooper, the man in charge of the Morning Yorker, the author creates a contrast between the way Jamie speaks and the way Harry speaks. Jamie is completely silent and then struggles to speak clearly. Harry speaks in clear, concise sentences. What effect does this contrast have?
6. How do you think Jamie feels about meeting Harry Hooper? Identify some of the words or phrases that show that he feels this way.
7. What is the headline story of the Morning Yorker on 26th June 1969?
8. Summarise Jamie's day in your own words, from beginning to end.



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Paper Boy meets Hero

Comprehension questions (cont.)

9. The chapter ends with another reporter beating Jamie to his exclusive scoop about the milkshakes in New York diners.
What do you think will happen next? Why?

Writing exercise

Write a diary entry about the day from Jamie's point of view.

Tips for planning

- Start by skimming the chapter again, and noting down the most important things that happen.
- Next to each major event, use your imagination to brainstorm what Jamie might think and feel about each of these things.

Tips for writing

- Remember that a diary entry is in the first person, and the past tense.
- To really help your diary come alive, think about how Jamie – an energetic, excitable boy from 1969 New York – would talk. This might mean using words or phrases that you wouldn't use.



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Yorker Headquarters revealed

Discussion questions

- The Yorker headquarters candle clock is a fantasy, but everything else is from a 1969 newspaper room. What did you find interesting about this world?
- Hal laughs at Eve and Jamie's ambitions.
Why do you think this is? Was he right to laugh?

Comprehension questions

1. How does Jamie feel while waiting for Harry Hooper to call?
Find three words or phrases that suggest he feels this way.
2. The author describes how the pier 'buzzed with gossip'.
What does the word 'buzzed' mean in this context?
3. Half of the show *Goodnight New York* has been taken away from Cindy Bell and given to another reporter. What story does the other reporter cover this time?
4. What is the headline in the *Morning Yorker* on the day Jamie visits the headquarters?
5. The author describes the *Morning Yorker* headquarters in this chapter.
What kind of place do you think the Yorker headquarters are, based on this description?
Find three words or phrases that suggest this.
6. What object stands in the centre of the *Morning Yorker* building?
7. Jamie is introduced to some of the reporters at the *Morning Yorker*.
They are called 'Rod and Ted and Bud and Todd and Ed and Judd and Ned and Chad'.
What effect does the repeated use of the word 'and' and names ending in an 'd' sound suggest about these reporters?



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Yorker Headquarters revealed

Comprehension questions (cont.)

1. Eve is introduced in this chapter. What kind of character do you think she is? Find three words or phrases that suggest this.
2. What does Bud take Eve and Jamie to see in the basement?
3. 10. Look at the final few paragraphs of this chapter. It ends on a cliff-hanger; ‘then Bud’s telephone rang’. What effect does this ending have on the reader?
4. 11. What do you think will happen next? Why?

Writing exercise

The Yorker is obsessed with punctuality and timing. To show this, there is a huge candle clock in the centre of the building. This is an example of the author using an image to represent an idea or theme.

Imagine instead that the Yorker was obsessed with making money. Describe Jamie entering a new version of the headquarters, of your own invention. Think about how you could use images to represent this money-making theme.

Tips for planning

- Brainstorm things that are to do with making money and being rich.
- Pick your favourite images: how might they be part of the building? Let your imagination run wild!



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Yorker Headquarters revealed

Writing exercise (cont.)

Tips for writing

- Remember, to fit in with the story, your piece needs to be third person and past tense.
- If you re-read the passage beginning ‘It was the kind of building designed to make you feel a bit timid’, you will see that the author mixes together what Jamie sees with what he feels, does and says. To really bring your piece alive, think about what Jamie will feel, do and say in response to your building.



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Paperboy in trouble

Discussion questions

- Vinnie is a comedy character, but his threats to Jamie are very serious. Did you find this chapter funny or scary – or both?
- Jamie has been told that when you interview someone, you should start with a topic the person cares about, to open them up. He tries this with Vinnie. Do you think this only applies to interviews?

Comprehension questions

1. What does the title of this chapter suggest is going to happen next? Why do you think this?
2. How do you think Jamie feels about filling in for Bud in this chapter? What parts of the text tell you that he feels this way? Identify some of the words or phrases that suggest how Jamie feels.
3. Jamie speaks to Bud's source on the phone and the author describes them only as 'the Voice'. Why do you think the author has chosen only to refer to her as 'the Voice'? What effect does this vagueness have?
4. Who does Jamie bump into while leaving the Morning Yorker offices?
5. The author describes how one of the posters Jamie saw on Broadway 'screeched' and another 'yelled'. This is an example of personification, where an inhuman thing is given human characteristics. Why do you think the author has chosen to use personification here?
6. Jamie is speaking to 'the Voice' at the stage door of the Angel Theater when the author says that 'three things happened very fast'. Summarise what three things happened in your own words.



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Comprehension questions (cont.)

7. In this chapter, the reader is introduced to Vinnie.
What kind of character do you think Vinnie is?
Find some of the words or phrases that tell you this.
8. Where does Vinnie take Jamie?
9. Vinnie kicks a pillar and it makes a ‘clang’ that ‘reverberates’. What does the word ‘clang’ mean?
10. How does Jamie feel while in the subway tunnel with Vinnie?
How do you know he feels this way?
Find three words or phrases that suggest he feels this way.
11. This chapter ends on another cliff-hanger. Jamie realises that Eve is in the subway station too, trying to help him escape from Vinnie.
What effect does ending on yet another cliff-hanger have on the reader?
12. What do you think will happen next? Why?

Writing exercise

In this chapter, we meet a hitman named Vinnie. Although he is only briefly described, we learn a lot about the character through what he says and does.

Imagine Jamie is kidnapped by a different hitman, of your own invention. See if you can write their drive through New York and show us what your hitman is like through his speech and action.

Tips for planning

- Decide one or two key character traits you would like your hitman to have.
- Brainstorm how you can show these characteristics through:
 - > Things that they do.
 - > Things that they say.



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Paperboy in trouble

Writing exercise (cont.)

Tips for planning

- Plan the events that will happen in your piece, eg:
 - > Jamie is pushed inside the car.
 - > The car starts down the road. ... etc

Tips for writing

- Remember that the story is in third person, and in the past tense
- You can organise your paragraphs around the events you have listed. Don't forget to also start a new paragraph any time someone speaks



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Escape!

Discussion questions

- Both Pearl and Harry Hooper want the newspaper because it makes them powerful. Do you think people who write and broadcast the news today are still powerful? Why/why not?
- Jamie is afraid of the dark because ‘all his worst thoughts suddenly had room to swell outwards, outwards and upwards’. Can you relate to this feeling – either in the dark, or at other times?

Comprehension questions

1. Thinking just about the title, what do you think will happen in this chapter?
2. Eve says “you’re not a very normal boy, are you?”. Do you think Jamie is a ‘normal boy’? Why or why not?
3. Jamie takes one of Vinnie’s belongings when he escapes. What does he take?
4. Eve explains to Jamie that the track is not ‘live’ so it’s safe to walk on. What does the word ‘live’ mean in this context?
5. Most of the chapter is set in the subway tunnels. The writer makes the tunnels feel sinister. How? Find three words or phrases.
6. At one point in the tunnel, the track splits in two directions. Eve decides to go right. Why does she choose right?
7. The part of the chapter that takes place outside of the tunnel includes much more dialogue than the part of the chapter in the tunnel. Why do you think the author has done this?



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Escape!

Writing exercise

8. Summarise everything that happens after Jamie and Eve leave the tunnel
9. The chapter ends with Eve and Jamie agreeing to meet the next day, and with Jamie safely at home.
What do you think will happen next? Why?

Writing exercise

In this chapter, we learn that Jamie is afraid of the dark. We all feel differently about darkness – you might find it frightening, mysterious, exciting, or something else.

Write an acrostic poem about what darkness means to you.

An acrostic poem doesn't have to rhyme. The important feature is that every line begins with a letter of the key word. In this case, the first line begins with D; the second with A; and so on, until you have spelled out D-A-R-K-N-E-S-S.



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Paperboy on the trail

Discussion questions

- We now know about the case of the actress, and the Arsonist. Do you have any theories or suspicions so far?
- We have seen good and bad features of Eve's life. Do you think she is lucky or unlucky?

Comprehension questions

1. How does Jamie feel the next morning? Identify three words or phrases that suggest he feels this way.
2. What two things does Jamie do wrong that morning because he is distracted?
3. Summarise everything that Jamie does from the beginning of the chapter to the point at which he arrives at Eve's apartment.
4. In this chapter, the author describes Eve's apartment. What kind of place do you think it is, based on this description? Find some of the words or phrases that suggest this.
5. What is the name of Eve's pet dog?
6. Some of Eve's certificates are for 'etiquette classes'.
What does the word 'etiquette' mean?
7. Summarise Jamie's conversation with Rose Johnson on the phone in your own words.
8. At the end of the chapter, Jamie finds the right number for Art Johnson and speaks to his daughter, Rose. What do you think will happen next? Why
9. Where do you think Ester and Klaus will lead Max next? Why?



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Paperboy on the trail

Writing exercise

In this chapter, we see two newspaper articles, and learn about how Jamie goes about writing his own newspaper reports.

Write a newspaper article about another attack by the Arsonist, which you can invent..

Tips for planning

- Take a look at the Arsonist article that Jamie and Eve read, and note down any key features of the attack.
Which details will be the same every time?
Which details will you need to change or invent?
- As Jamie notes, newspaper articles should answer the 5 Ws: What, when, where, who and why? – note down answers to each of these in your plan

Tips for writing

- Remember the key features of a newspaper article:
 - > It will need a short, punchy headline
 - > It should be in the third person
 - > It should be in the past tense
- You might want to include quotes from people you have interviewed, and a picture with a caption



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Art Johnson's Daughter

Discussion questions

- What kind of person do you think Rose is?
- Who would you get on best with, out of the three children? Why?

Comprehension questions

1. In this chapter, the author introduces Eve's mother, Pearl Hooper-Banks, in person for the first time. What kind of character do you think she is? Why?
2. What two symbols are engraved on the lighter Jamie took from Vinnie?
3. How does Jamie feel when he spots the engraving on the lighter?
How can you tell he feels this way?
4. What borough of New York are Rose and Art living in?
5. The author describes the run-down house Art and Rose are living in. A few paragraphs later, the author describes Rose's beautiful, colourful backyard den. What effect does describing these two very different settings one after the other have on the reader?
6. Rose gives Jamie and Eve a stick of bubblegum each. Eve chews hers and blows a bubble with 'avid fascination'. What does the word 'avid' mean?
7. What does the word 'fascination' mean?
8. Rose tells Jamie and all about her father, Art Johnson, and what happened to him. Summarise, in your own words, everything Rose tells Jamie and Eve in this chapter.
9. The chapter ends with Rose, Jamie, and Eve thinking about visiting Long Island Jail. What do you think will happen next? Why?



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Art Johnson's Daughter

Writing exercise

In this chapter, the author describes Rose Johnson's den. Imagine a den of your own, and describe Jamie and Eve entering it.

Tips for planning

- Look again at the passage beginning 'It was cool and shady inside'. How would you sum up this den in one word? What details has the author used to give you that idea?
- Now, think of one adjective that sums up the den you would like to write about, eg cosy or sinister.
- Using your imagination, brainstorm what you might see, hear, touch and smell in this den that would suggest the word you have chosen.

Tips for writing

- Remember, to fit in with the story, this scene needs to be in third person and past tense.
- To really bring your scene alive, think about how Jamie and Eve will respond to the den, and include some of their words and actions.



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Night Time

Discussion questions

- Jamie's mother says 'We keep our stars on the ground. We make our fate down here, not up there'. What does this mean to you? Do you agree?
- What do you think of Jamie's decision to keep trying to solve the mystery?

Comprehension questions

1. Jamie's mom had not appeared in person yet, but in this chapter the author includes a note from her. What is the effect of Jamie's mom appearing only through a note? Why do you think the author chooses not to have Jamie's mom appear in person?
2. Other than his note from his mom, Jamie receives another threatening note. Who is the threatening note from?
3. How does Jamie feel about this second, threatening letter? Find two words or phrases that tell you that he feels this way?
4. Jamie looks out of the window as a 'soda can and a paper bag waltzed past in a forlorn duet'. What does the word 'waltzed' mean in this context?
5. What does 'forlorn' mean?
6. This chapter includes the article about Joseph Woolf. Jamie rereads the article. Summarise the Joseph Woolf article in your own words.
7. The chapter ends with Jamie having a sleepless night, thinking about the mystery and the threatening letter he received. His mom also returns home and kisses him goodnight while he pretends to sleep. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this will happen?



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Night Time

Writing exercise

In this chapter, Jamie receives threatening notes from Vinnie. Have a go at making some of your own.

You will need something you can cut letters out of, such as unwanted magazines or newspapers.

Take a look at the style of the note:

- Is everything spelled right? Why?
- The note gives a command – ‘keep quiet’. Here, ‘keep’ is an imperative verb. What other imperative verbs could you use?



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Joseph Woolf

Discussion questions

- Now we know about actress, the Arsonist and the assassin. Do you have any suspicions or theories?
- Do you trust Joseph Woolf? Why/why not?

Comprehension questions

1. What are the visiting hours for Long Island Jail?
2. Jamie visits the Office of the Recorder of Deeds to find out who owns the buildings targeted by the Arsonist. They all belong to Harry Hooper. How does Jamie feel about this piece of news? Find some of the words and phrases that tell you he feels this way.
3. The person who works at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds repeats Harry Hooper's name eleven times, for each of the buildings he owns. What is the effect of this repetition?
4. Jamie once did an elderly neighbour's shopping and felt 'virtuous' for a month. What does the word 'virtuous' mean?
5. In this chapter, Joseph Woolf is introduced for the first time. What kind of character do you think that he is? Find the words or phrases that suggest this.
6. Summarise everything that happens after the children arrive at Long Island Jail, in your own words.
7. At the end of the chapter, Joseph Woolf has told Jamie, Eve, and Rose what happened from his perspective. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?



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Joseph Woolf

Writing exercise

Do you think Woolf is innocent or guilty?

Write a letter to the local paper arguing your case.

Tips for planning

- Think about the key point you want to make in each paragraph. List these on your planning page
- Hint: when you are aiming to persuade, it is good to think about why people might disagree with you. These are called counter-arguments. Your letter will be more persuasive if you can think of, and argue against, counter-arguments.

Tips for writing

Remember the key features of a letter:

- The sender's address, and the date, should go at the top right hand corner
- Open with a greeting: 'Dear name,' – here you are writing to a newspaper, so you can use "Dear editor"
- The opening paragraph should explain the purpose of your letter. As you are writing to a newspaper, give the date and headline of the article you are responding to.
- Write in the first person
- Choose an appropriate way to end the letter. You should use a formal sign off in this case, as it is a formal letter.



Trouble In NEW YORK

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Invasion!

Discussion questions

- Do you trust Cindy Bell? Why/why not?
- How do you think Eve will feel about Jamie's theory?

Comprehension questions

1. What park are Jamie, Eve, Rose, and Pumpkin in at the beginning of the chapter?
2. After Jamie and his friends leave the park, Jamie heads to Memorial Pier to think. He thinks about the mystery and how his friends are doing. How does Jamie feel while thinking at the pier? Find the words or phrases that show he feels this way.
3. Cindy Bell is waiting in Jamie's apartment, but the author describes the person waiting in Jamie's apartment as 'the blonde woman' at first. The author waits a few sentences to explain who she is. What is the effect of this delayed reveal?
4. Cindy Bell 'drummed a tattoo of impatience' with her nails on the table. What does the word 'tattoo' mean in this context?
5. Jamie thinks about the 'drab normalness' of his house. What does the word 'drab' mean?
6. Jamie explains everything that has happened in the book so far to Cindy Bell. Summarise everything he tells her in this chapter, in your own words.
7. Jamie focuses on one phrase that Cindy Bell says in particular; people like us. The author repeats it and then repeats it again in italics. Why do you think the author has chosen to emphasise this phrase in this way?
8. At the end of the chapter, Cindy Bell has left, and Jamie has had a sleepless night and stayed up until dawn. What do you think will happen next? Why?

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Trouble In NEW YORK

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Invasion!

Writing exercise

In this scene, Jamie and Cindy both have different information about what is going on. Re-write this scene in the first person from Cindy's point of view.

Tips for planning

- First, skim the chapter again, and note down the key events
- Use your imagination to brainstorm what Cindy would think and feel about each of these key events

Tips for writing

- Remember, this piece is in the first person and the past tense
- Look at how the author mixes together action, speech, description of Jamie's feelings, and description of the setting. See if you can mix all these elements together to help your writing come alive.



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Paperboy in disgrace

Discussion questions

- Do you think it was fair for Eve to be cross with Jamie? Why/why not?
- Do you agree with Jamie's theory? Why/why not?

Comprehension questions

1. Look at the title. What do you think the title of this chapter suggests about what will happen?
2. Vinnie has left Jamie another note. Vinnie has misspelled trouble, spelling it 'truble', and used 'to' when he means 'too'.
What do these mistakes suggest about Vinnie?
Why do you think the author has included the errors?
3. Jamie is sure that Vinnie's threat must be Pearl, his main suspect, 'bluffing'.
What does the word 'bluffing' mean?
4. Jamie tells Eve that he suspects her mother.
How does she feel about this?
Find some of the words or phrases that tell you this.
5. What effect does Jamie and Eve's argument have on the reader?
6. Eve's mother, Pearl, returns home. She brings four other people home with her for lunch. Who are these people?
7. Jamie is kicked out of Eve's house at the end of the chapter.
Everyone is very cross with him, and he and Eve are still fighting.
What do you think will happen next?
Why do you think this?



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Paperboy in disgrace

Writing exercise

Starting from ‘Anybody for a cheese tartlet?’, see how much of this scene you can write as a script. You can use the speech the author has written, or come up with your own.

When you have finished you can try acting them in groups, to see if your script is clear.

- A play script only contains speech, and stage directions. You will find there is lots of extra information and description in the original version that you can leave out.
- No speech marks are used. Write the speakers name, a colon, and then the words they say.
- Stage directions tell us what should be on stage, and how the actors should move. They are in italic writing and written in the present tense
- There might also be instructions before a line to tell us how a line should be said, e.g. ‘sadly’ or ‘shouting’
- Here is an example, based on an earlier part of the chapter:
 - Eve: Friends don’t normally accuse each other of having corrupt murderous families just to get their own ace reporter kicks.
 - Rose arrives and knocks on the door.
 - Rose: Hello hello!
 - Jamie and Eve look at Rose in silence. She looks back and forth.
 - Rose: (Uncertainly) Um. I brought cookies?



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Return of Paperboy

Discussion questions

- What do you guess Jamie has realised?
- Jamie finds that being a reporter has made him lonely, pushing away first his mother and now his friends.
Do you think he is right about this?
Could he have done anything differently?

Comprehension questions

1. Look at the title of this chapter and compare it to the title of the last.
What do you think is going to happen in this chapter? Why?
2. Jamie is experiencing a lot of emotions all at once, and this is described as ‘muddling’.
What does the word ‘muddling’ mean in this context?
3. What does Jamie want to achieve in this chapter?
How do you know this?
4. How does Jamie sneak into the Yorker offices?
5. Summarise everything Jamie finds on and in Bud Finkleby’s desk.
6. Jamie investigates Bud Finkleby’s desk. The author describes the desk and its contents one part at a time – from the surface of the desk to each individual drawer.
Why do you think the author has described each place that Jamie looks, one at a time?



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Return of Paperboy

Writing exercise

Jamie is ignoring an argument between Judd and Ed, which we only hear about in snatches. Write this argument.

Tips for planning

- Re-read the passage from ‘Judd and Ed weren’t helping’ up to “‘Oh!’” said Jamie.’ Note down anything we know about the argument
- What don’t we know? Fill out any missing key details
- At one point, Ed tries to hide behind coffee cups. If you like, you could brainstorm other ways Ed might try to avoid Judd, to make this argument funny

Tips for writing

- Remember to start a new paragraph any time someone new speaks
- Have fun with it – these two are comedy characters!
How silly can you make their argument?



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The candle clock

Discussion questions

- The mystery has been solved. Were any of your guesses close? Did you spot any of the clues?
- Jamie thinks the most important thing is for newspapers to tell the truth. Is this important? Why/why not?

Comprehension questions

1. How many copies of the newspaper can the press print in an hour?
2. How many newspapers does the press print before midnight each day?
3. Hal gets Jamie's name wrong twice, calling him 'Jimmy' and 'Johnny'. Why do you think Hal cannot remember Jamie's name? What effect does Hal getting his name wrong have?
4. Jamie gets closer and closer to solving the mystery while he talks to Hal. How do you think Hal feels at this point? How can you tell he feels this way?
5. Jamie solves the mystery in this chapter and explains it all to Hal. Summarise everything he explains to Hal.
6. Harry Hooper repeats the word 'swell'. What does the word 'swell' mean in this context?
7. In this chapter, Jamie finally sees Harry Hooper's private office. What kind of place do you think it is? Find three words or phrases that show you this.



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The candle clock

Comprehension questions

8. Jamie has worked out most of the mystery and, in the second half of this chapter, Harry Hooper fills in all of the gaps. Summarise everything that Harry Hooper tells Jamie in this chapter, in your own words.
9. Comprehension questions
10. Who comes to Jamie's rescue at the end of the chapter?
11. At the end of the chapter, Jamie has escaped from the Morning Yorker offices. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?

Writing exercise

Harry Hooper describes how three 'crimes' were committed in this chapter: the disappearance of the actress, the assassination attempt, and the many arson attacks. Write an action scene in which he or his accomplices pull off one of these fake crimes.

Tips for planning

- Reread Harry Hooper's explanation of your chosen crime and note down the key things that will need to happen.
- Has everything been described? Will you need to add in any steps of your own?
List in order the key events that need to be described.
- Brainstorm what sights, sounds and smells might have been present in this scene.



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The candle clock

Writing exercise (cont.)

Tips for writing

- You can choose whether you would like to write this in first or third person, and past or present tense. If you're not sure, try out more than one – what difference does it make?
- It is a good idea to have a different main action in each paragraph. You can use the list from your plan. (And don't forget to start a new paragraph whenever anybody speaks!)
- Try varying your sentence length for effect. Short, punchy sentences are great for important, swift action!



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Manhattan Unit Engine 10/Ladder 19

Discussion questions

- We have now seen the fire station, and the newspaper headquarters. Where would you rather work? Why?
- What do you think of the group's plan? Do you think it will work?

Comprehension questions

1. At the beginning of the chapter, Rose, Eve, and Jamie arrive at the Midtown Manhattan Firehouse. What kind of setting is the firehouse? Find the words or phrases that tell you this.
2. The author says that 'each of the four new arrivals was thrilled to be there, each for their own reasons'. Summarise the reasons Rose, Eve, Pumpkin, and Jamie are 'thrilled to be there', in your own words.
3. What kind of people are the firefighters? What words and phrases tell you this?
4. The author describes a 'gloom' that 'hovered' over the group. What does the word 'gloom' mean, in this context?
5. What does the word 'hovered' mean?
6. They decide to use smoke to set off the fire alarm at the Morning Yorker offices as a distraction. Where are they planning to get the smoke from?
7. Part of the way through their very serious and emotional planning session, Pumpkin jumps on the firehouse dog's head and has to have a bucket of water poured over his head to calm him down. Why do you think the author spends two paragraphs on Pumpkin being silly and causing chaos at this point? What effect does this have?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Manhattan Unit Engine 10/Ladder 19

Comprehension questions (cont.)

8. At the end of the chapter, Jamie and his friends have come up with a plan to tell everyone what Harry Hooper has been doing. Summarise their plan in your own words.
9. What do you think will happen next? Do you think their plan will work?

Writing exercise

- Write an advert persuading people to apply for a job as a fireman.

Tips for planning

- Brainstorm reasons to be a fireman. You can use anything that appeals to you about the fire station in this chapter for ideas.
- Also remember to brainstorm what people need to know in order to apply. You are aiming to persuade people, but also to give them information.

Tips for writing

You might want to use a blank piece of paper, so that you can lay out your advert clearly. Remember:

- Adverts should use short, memorable phrases.
- They are meant to persuade, so use strong adjectives and emotive language.
- You might want to use a variety of different letter sizes, and a picture.



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Jamie Creeden Reports

Discussion questions

- To begin with, Jamie doesn't know what to put – he has 'writer's block'. Have you ever had this experience?
- Eve's advice is: 'You can't run. You just have to take it one step at a time.' What do you think of this advice?

Comprehension questions

1. At the beginning of the chapter, Jamie is trying to write the story they plan to publish in the Morning Yorker. How does Jamie feel while he is trying to write? How do you know that he feels this way? Find two words or phrases that show you how he feels.
2. The author describes four problems that stop Jamie from writing. What are the four problems?
3. Jamie lies to Rose and Eve at first, pretending that he has already written the story and is just 'tweaking it'. He then tells them the truth, that he has not been able to write anything yet. Why does Jamie lie at first, and then decide to tell the truth? What effect does it have?
4. Rose and Eve make Jamie feel better and help him to write. What words or phrases do they use to encourage and comfort him?
5. What page number do they decide to replace with their story?
6. The author describes the 'lines and lines of rollers' in the 'guts' of the printer. What does the word 'guts' mean in this context?
7. Jamie hides his 'telltale' red hair under a firefighter's helmet. What does 'telltale' mean?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Jamie Creeden Reports

Comprehension questions (cont.)

8. Summarise everything that happens from the moment Jamie and his friends arrive at the Morning Yorker headquarters to the end of the chapter, in your own words.
9. At the end of this chapter, they have done everything they planned, and Jamie, Eve, and Rose leave with the firefighters. What do you think will happen next? Why?

Writing exercise

Jamie and his friends have a careful plan with many steps, which they go through in this chapter. Write a set of instructions for defeating Harry Hooper, laying out their plan.

Tips for planning

- You can skim the discussion in the last chapter as well as this chapter to make sure you have understood each step
- You might also want to return to Hal's explanation of the printers in the chapter 'YORKER HEADQUARTERS REVEALED' to understand what Eve needs to do
- Make sure you are clear what order the steps need to happen in

Tips for writing

- The main aim for instructions is to be clear. You can help the reader to follow by using bullet points or numbered lists. You might want to use headings, too.
- Instructions use imperative verbs, which give a command, e.g. "Pull the lever" or "Open the door"



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Safety

Discussion questions

- How do you think Jamie's mom is going to respond to his story?

Comprehension questions

1. What do you think the chapter title, 'Safety', suggest is going to happen? Why do you think this?
2. How do Jamie, Eve, and Rose feel in this chapter? How can you tell? Find the words or phrases that tell you they feel this way.
3. The author describes Jamie, Rose, and Eve as 'three soot-covered friends.' What does the word 'soot' mean?
4. The author describes the children asking each other lots of questions while hugging, and then 'a question came from outside the hug'. Who asks this question?
5. In this chapter the author introduces Jamie's mom in person for the first time. What effect does introducing her so late in the book have?
6. How do you think Jamie feels about seeing his mom? How can you tell?
7. Jamie is relieved because his mom is safe, and he can 'finally tell her everything'. Imagine you are Jamie and you have to fill your mom in on everything that has happened. Summarise everything that has happened in the book so far, in your own words.



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

The Yorker goes to print

Discussion questions

- We don't know Hal very well at all as a character, but we see him make a big decision in this chapter. How do you think he feels about it? What does it tell us about Hal?

Comprehension questions

1. In every chapter so far, the date that the chapter takes place on is printed under the chapter name. In this chapter, the exact time of the chapter is also listed; '2 July 1969 – 9:30 p.m. precisely'. Why do you think the time has been included in this chapter?
2. Hal inspects the plates before the Morning Yorker goes to print. 'At plate five, he paused. He frowned. He rubbed his belly uncertainly'.
Why do you think Hal pauses, frowns, and is uncertain about page 5?
3. The author details the entire journey of the newspapers being printed; 'sent out into the world by midnight, to meet the trains and vans that waited for them, to be taken to hundreds of stores, to be picked up by children on bicycles, to reach the stoops and mailboxes of eager readers by 7:30 without fail'.
4. What effect does explaining the whole journey of the newspapers, at this point in the book, have on the reader?
5. The newspapers are going to the 'stoops and mailboxes' of readers.
What does the word 'stoop' mean in this context?
6. Summarise this short chapter in your own words.
7. What do you think will happen next? Why?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

In case you were wondering

Discussion questions

- We don't know Hal very well at all as a character, but we see him make a big decision in this chapter. How do you think he feels about it? What does it tell us about Hal?

Comprehension questions

1. Vinnie has been 'lurking in Jamie's apartment'. What does the word 'lurking' mean?
2. Why has the author chosen to use the word 'lurking' here?
How would using another word - like waiting, loitering, or anticipating, for example - change the meaning?
3. What creature is in the apartment with Vinnie while he 'lurks'?
4. How does Vinnie feel when Jamie and his mother have not returned home?
How can you tell he feels this way?
5. This short chapter ends on a rhetorical question: 'after all, what harm could the boy do in one night?'. What effect does ending the chapter on this rhetorical question have?
6. What do you think will happen to Vinnie next? Why?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Always punctual

Discussion questions

- Do you think Jamie's article is good? Why/why not?

Comprehension questions

1. Where do Jamie, Jamie's mom, Rose, and Eve sleep the night before this chapter?
2. How does Jamie feel when he wakes up? How can you tell he feels this way?
3. After watching the entire mystery unfold, reading about Jamie trying to write the article about it, and reading about the entire plot to sneak the article into the Morning Yorker, the reader gets to read the full article in this chapter.
What effect does this build-up have on the reader?
How does the reader feel when the article is finally revealed?
4. Some of the words in Jamie's article are misspelled and there are some typing errors. Identify two examples of the errors in the article.
5. What effect do these errors have on the reader?
Why do you think the author has included them?
6. Jamie collected the papers for his route and 'whirled' out of Lou's shop.
What does the word 'whirled' mean in this context?
7. Summarise everything that happens in this short chapter, in your own words.
8. At the end of the chapter, Jamie submits his article from the Morning Yorker to the Young Reporter of the Year 1969 competition. Do you think Jamie will win? Why do you think this?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Jamie Creeden Reports

Writing exercise

Imagine that instead of a newspaper article, Jamie made his case in a persuasive speech. Write this speech. Your aim is to persuade your listeners that Harry Hooper has been inventing crimes for his newspaper.

Tips for planning

- List the arguments you will make. You can re-read Jamie's newspaper article to remind yourself of the claims and the evidence.
- Think about any reasons people might not believe you. These are counter-arguments. Your speech will be more persuasive if you predict those counter-arguments, and give reasons why they are wrong

Tips for writing

- Make sure your separate points are organised clearly in paragraphs, and begin each paragraph by signalling what you will talk about next
- Your aim is to persuade, so you can use strong, emotive language. You might want to use rhetorical questions, and appeal to the reader directly, e.g. "We all know", "I'm sure you'll agree"



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Page five is a hit!

Discussion questions

- Eve says Rose is a ‘different sort of brave’ for caring about other people so much. Do you agree that this is a kind of bravery? Why/why not?
- Jamie still wants to be a reporter, because even though it was sometimes dangerous, it was exciting. Do you relate to this? Why/why not?
- Eve thinks that powerful people want everyone to be ‘quiet’, ‘stupid’ and ‘selfish’. What do you think about this way of seeing the world – what does she mean, and is she right?

Comprehension questions

1. The author describes what happens after ‘word’ gets around about page five of the Morning Yorker. What does the word ‘word’ mean in this context?
2. The author also describes people who have read the article as ‘agog to read the story by the young reporter who was taking on Harry Hooper himself’. What does the word ‘agog’ mean?
3. When Grandfather Hooper fires Harry Hooper, who does he put in charge of the Morning Yorker?
4. How does Joseph Woolf feel about being released from prison?
How can you tell he feels this way?
Find the words or phrases that tell you how he feels at this point.
5. The author describes Rose as ‘subdued’ and explains that she ‘hadn’t been herself since the night in the Yorker’. Her mood changes throughout this chapter, though.
How does Rose’s mood change?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Page five is a hit!

Comprehension questions (cont.)

6. Rose says something so quietly that Jamie thinks he might have just heard a ‘overexuberant ant’.
What does the word ‘overexuberant’ mean?
7. Rose has decided she no longer wants to be a firefighter when she grows up. Summarise the reasons that she no longer wants to do this job in your own words.
8. Now that Rose has decided not to be a firefighter, what do you think she might decide to be when she grows up? Why do you think this?
9. Who wins the Young Reporter of the Year 1969 competition?
10. How do Jamie, Rose, and Eve feel about the result of the Young Reporter of the Year 1969 competition? How can you tell they feel this way?
11. Jamie, Rose, and Eve think that adults want them to be quiet because it is easier to ignore things that are wrong in the world. Jamie says that he reckons they are ‘going to keep making noise... a lot of really, really, really loud noise’. What do you think this means?

Writing exercise

Although this story has been told in third person, it has mostly been told from Jamie’s point of view. In this chapter, we learn a little from speech about how things have worked out for Eve and Rose. Write a diary entry from their point of view written after the article has printed, reflecting on their experience.



Trouble In NEW YORK

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Page five is a hit!

Writing exercise (cont.)

Tips for planning

- If you have chosen Eve, re-read the passage beginning ‘Grandfather Hooper sacked Harry Hooper’; if Rose, the passage beginning ‘Art had been given his job back at the firehouse’. Note down the key things you learn
- Brainstorm what Eve/Rose would think and feel about these things.

Hint: remember to think about what kind of person they are, drawing on the whole book. What would they care about most? *Tips for writing*

- Remember, a diary entry should be in the first person, and the past tense
- To bring your writing alive, think about how Eve and Rose speak. You could look back through the book for help. You are trying to write a diary in their “voice” – can you make it sound different to your voice?



Trouble In NEW YORK

SYLVIA BISHOP

Extra! Extra!

Discussion questions

- Jamie did not win the competition to write for the Yorker, but Cindy has advertised the Bugel. Do you think this is a better or worse outcome than winning? Why?
- Has the book answered all your questions about the story? Is there anything you would like to know more about?

Comprehension questions

1. What does 'extra' mean in this context?
2. What does Pepe give Jamie and his friends for free that evening, to celebrate Jamie's first TV appearance?
3. Jamie has not won the prize that he has been talking about since the very beginning of the book, but he still achieves some incredible things and is praised by Cindy Bell on Goodnight, New York. Why do you think the author decided not to have Jamie win the Young Reporter of the Year competition, even though it has been his main goal since the first chapter? What effect does this ending have?
4. Towards the end of her television news report, Cindy Bell advertises Jamie's own newspaper, the Bay Ridge Bugle. How do Jamie, Eve, and Rose feel about this? How can you tell they feel this way? Find the words or phrases that suggest this is how they feel.
5. Summarise everything that has happened in this final chapter, in your own words
6. This is the final chapter of the book. What do you think will happen to Jamie, Rose, Eve, and the other characters next? Why do you think this?

