

THE COLLEGE COLLECTION

Teaching notes

The College Collection synopsis:

The College Collection centres around the friendship of five main characters, Jim Jam, Woody, Anda, Luca and Nolan.

They are from different backgrounds and for an assortment of reasons, outlined in their individual stories, they all end up at Parkfield College to study for a BTEC in Media Studies.

The initial five books in Set 1 cover the characters' backstories. In the core book, *Art Attack* – book 6 of Set 1, they are thrown into a project together which takes them on a surprising and challenging adventure. They quickly become friends, their friendship is tested and not found wanting and they become a united group. In the three sets of books, we will be following them through their time at Parkfield College and discovering the things they get up to.

Set 1: books 1–5 are the backstories of the characters and can be read in any order.

Set 1: book 6, *Art Attack*, is the main adventure in the first set and is to be read last.

Set 2: more tales and excitement; we find out more about our characters and how their friendship develops.

Set 3: more stories and adventures featuring our five friends and their life at Parkfield College.

All children and young adults will face assorted challenges while growing up, and The College Collection has many subliminal messages. The subliminal messages of overcoming failure, acceptance and support run through all the texts, alongside messages of resilience and perseverance.

A large majority of children, either with or without highlighted reading problems, are very creative and will follow the college route of BTECs and/or aspire to a media centred career. The introduction of the concept of college and qualifications is very important, as it is very pertinent to the target reader's life.

Above all, the group work hard, have fun and their friendship shines through, as in all the best stories from *The Famous Five* to *Harry Potter*.

It is recommended that the reader use a bookmark or ruler in order to isolate the sentence being read by blocking out the text underneath.

There are no images of the characters. This was a deliberate decision to allow the reader's imagination to work its magic.

Happy reading!

Welcome to the College Collection reading scheme

These notes aim to aid and support the teacher, to extend and consolidate the pupil's reading experience and to supply resources to use in class. The resources are printable and ready for use independently or in conjunction with this reading scheme.

The purpose of the College Collection reading scheme is:

- to extend a reader's reading skills, especially where the acquisition of reading has been identified as a problem
- to reinforce the first 100 high frequency words, and the core phonic skills, needed to access basic reading levels
- to introduce the reader to 'real life' books
- to consolidate a young reader's skills
- to improve the confidence of the older reader, who is still acquiring and developing reading skills
- to provide stories which bridge the gap between base level schemes and longer, more challenging texts
- to provide books which are appropriate for the reader who still needs a formatted reading scheme and is not yet ready to go onto free readers
- to enable a developing reader to practise reading skills
- to extend a developing reader with age-appropriate material and therefore boost competence and confidence
- to engage the reader and therefore encourage reading for pleasure, aiming to ultimately encourage a reading habit
- to be flexible for use, so no matter what other schemes you may be instigating, these books stand alone; therefore enhancing and extending any reading experience

Pupils reading within this level are working on:

- self-correction becoming more fluent
- re-reading to clarify precise meaning
- being able to discuss content, predict outcomes and offer alternatives
- being able to employ contextual clues to decode new words
- attempting to discuss their understanding of the text
- evaluation of the stories and giving reasons for their evaluations

Speaking and listening activities

Use these questions, ideas and prompts during guided reading, as appropriate.

The questions are prompts and can be used with any book in the scheme, or in any guided reading with the appropriate changes.

Start with the front cover:

Read the title. What do you think this story is going to be about?

Try to predict the storyline from the title only.

Try to predict the storyline from the cover illustration only.

Read the author's name. Who has published this book?

Read the information on the back cover. Do you think this book is fiction or non-fiction?

What do you think is going to happen?

Can you imagine these characters? Try to think what they will look like.

During reading:

How do you see this ending?

Would you have done anything differently?

What has happened so far that shows good friendship?

If you had written this story, would you change anything so far?

In your own words, describe what has just happened.

At the end of each book:

Can you give a synopsis of the book you have just read?

Can you retell the story in five sentences?

Can you retell the story in 30 words?

If this was a film, which famous person would you cast as each of the characters?

Can you see yourself as the sixth friend?

If you had to be one character, who would you like to be?

Who do you think you are most like?

Who would your friends say you are most like?

Have you read any other stories that involve a group of friends?

What other stories do you know that involve a group of friends?

(Examples could include: *Five Children and It*, *Harry Potter*, *The Famous Five*, *Friends* (the TV series).)

Questions specific to each character:

Jim Jam:

Jim Jam saw strange shadows during the power cut. Describe a time when something familiar looked different.

Jim Jam's father thought of a clever plan to help her overcome her fear. Has anyone ever encouraged you?

Jim Jam had to interview her headmaster. What would you ask your head teacher?

Woody:

In what ways do you think that Woody is resilient?

Have you ever been mistaken for someone else?

Woody always tries to treat others kindly. What do you think has made him so empathetic?

Anda:

Anda has 1,642 friends on Facebook. Do you think that's a good thing?

Would you like to have been to so many schools in so many different countries?

Why do you think that Anda wants to go to college?

Luca:

Luca had a horrible experience while camping. What else do you think could go wrong if you were camping?

Luca's first attempt at filmmaking gave the wrong impression. Do you think that Luca was upset? How do you think he felt?

Why do you think that Luca wanted to leave school and go to college?

Nolan:

Nolan was eight when his brother was born. How do you think his life changed?

Nolan's dreams revolved around sport. How resilient do you think he was after his accident?

Nolan wanted to be a famous sportsman. Do you think that success is dependent on fame?

Group lesson and/or independent activities:

The learning objective (LO) is given as a guideline, adapt as appropriate.

LO: to explore characteristics and display empathy

In groups, ask the readers to discuss one assigned character. Hot-seat one member of the group. They must answer questions from everyone, but in character.

LO: explore the author's use of adjectives

Look at the adjectives that the author uses. Randomly take a page from any book and isolate the adjectives on a collective board. Mind-map alternatives. Why do you think the author has used these adjectives?

Make a word bank of adjectives for each character, using the author's words and also your descriptions of how you imagine each character to be.

Discuss the differences. Why do different readers come up with certain descriptive words and phrases? Get readers to justify their descriptions.

LO: introduction of letter writing

Imagine you are one of the five main characters. Write a postcard to your parents from Italy.

Imagine you are a different one of the five main characters. Write a postcard to a friend. How different will it be to the one to your parents?

Write a thank-you letter to Mr Morelli, thanking him for allowing you to stay in his house. Perhaps collaborate and write a collective letter?

LO: creative writing

Having read these books, use the style that the author employs and write a day in a character's life. It can be an unadventurous day, a day at college or a day at part-time work. Remember to use great descriptive words.

Think about all of the senses. What do they hear, see, smell? How do they feel?

LO: use annotation and grammar reinforcement

Take one chapter from any book in the series. Give each reader a photocopied page to highlight and annotate.

Use different coloured highlighters to isolate verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. Extend according to the reader's ability.

Annotate different aspects of the text, e.g. compound words and unfamiliar words. Break words down into syllables.

LO: to retell and recount a story

Revisit and recount a particular chapter from one of the books. Encourage readers to use one they particularly identified with or remembered accurately.

Retell the story but with a different final ending. Talk about predications and explore what they think makes a good ending to a film or story.

Use their literacy knowledge as their platform.

LO: to investigate some of the idioms the author has used

Explore and investigate the meanings of idioms.

The author has employed the use of idioms throughout the text, for example:

In *Art Attack*:

- ‘then came the bombshell’ – chapter 4
- ‘all for one and one for all’ – chapter 4
- ‘a little goes a long way’ – chapter 4
- ‘cooking up a storm’ – chapter 10
- ‘not a jot’ – chapter 16
- ‘to all intents and purposes’ – chapter 16
- ‘so near and yet so far’ – chapter 20
- ‘all’s well that ends well’ – chapter 22

Explore idioms from the other books, or some that the readers may know. List them and encourage the use of them in the readers’ own creative writing. Examples could include: raining cats and dogs, pull your socks up, etc.

LO: drama activities

Re-enact a scene from one of the books.

Hot-seat characters, similar to above but with more depth.

Re-enact the classroom scene from *Art Attack*. The group are told by Mr Pye that they are on their way to a supermarket instead of going to Italy, the plans have changed! Explore all the mixed emotions. Perhaps one of the characters was anxious about going abroad. Perhaps one of the characters was worried about paying for it.

Re-enact a scene from *Art Attack*, perhaps the famous film director is sitting on the sofa, you are all huddled around and he is actually giving you advice on your film! What would you ask him?

Re-enact the scene in *Woody* where Woody and his father are coming down the mountain in thick fog ... imagine thinking you are seeing a floating head!

Alternatively, you could devise new scenes.

Devise and act out a scene where you argue over what to eat at a meal time.

Devise and act out a scene where you are at college and all revising for an exam together.

Devise and act out a scene where you are at one of the character’s houses, making a meal or getting ready to go out to a party. Maybe it’s fireworks night, you’re going to the beach for the day, it’s Easter time: the possibilities are endless.

Teaching resources:

Cube nets

Make a cube out of paper or card. You should be able to find a blank template on the internet if you aren't sure how to do this. Add a different item of vocabulary to each face. Roll the cube as you would a die.

Use in creative writing or utilise where appropriate in any of the activities.

Word wheels

Create a word wheel to develop oral and written literacy skills. You will need two circles of paper and a paper fastener. On one piece of paper, write your vocabulary around the outside of the circle. Cut a slit in the other circle, which is large enough to reveal one of the words. Fasten this circle on top of the other one using the paper fastener. When you spin the top wheel, you will reveal an item of vocabulary.

Use the word wheels as a reading activity (decoding of words out of context) or in lessons to aid spelling and writing.

Teacher observation:

- Can the readers use and structure their language correctly?
- Is the reader's language being used appropriately?
- Are readers retaining information accurately?
- Are readers able to suggest different ideas clearly and eloquently?
- Are readers reading with fluency?
- Are readers able to recount and sequence accurately?
- Are readers using appropriate expression when reading aloud?

Vocabulary banks

100 high frequency words

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 1. the | 34. this | 68. children |
| 2. and | 35. have | 69. him |
| 3. a | 36. went | 70. Mr |
| 4. to | 37. be | 71. get |
| 5. said | 38. like | 72. just |
| 6. in | 39. some | 73. now |
| 7. he | 40. so | 74. came |
| 8. I | 41. not | 75. oh |
| 9. of | 42. then | 76. about |
| 10. it | 43. were | 77. got |
| 11. was | 44. go | 78. their |
| 12. you | 45. little | 79. people |
| 13. they | 46. as | 80. your |
| 14. on | 47. no | 81. put |
| 15. she | 48. mum | 82. could |
| 16. is | 49. one | 83. house |
| 17. for | 50. them | 84. old |
| 18. at | 51. do | 85. too |
| 19. his | 52. me | 86. by |
| 20. but | 53. down | 87. day |
| 21. that | 54. dad | 88. made |
| 22. with | 55. big | 89. time |
| 23. all | 56. when | 90. I'm |
| 24. we | 57. it's | 91. if |
| 25. can | 58. see | 92. help |
| 26. are | 59. looked | 93. Mrs |
| 27. up | 60. very | 94. called |
| 28. had | 61. look | 95. here |
| 29. my | 62. don't | 96. off |
| 30. her | 63. come | 97. asked |
| 31. what | 64. will | 98. saw |
| 32. there | 65. into | 99. make |
| 33. out | 66. back | 100. an |
| | 67. from | |

College Collection word bank

A

abandoned, abruptly, absolute, absolutely, accident, accidentally, accommodation, according, action, active, activity, actual, actually, adamant, adjusting, adored, adventure, advise, afternoon, aggressive, agony, agreement, aimlessly, airports, aisle, alibis, all, alligator, allocated, allowed, almighty, alright, Alsatian, alternative, although, amazed, amazement, amazingly, ambitions, America, amongst, ancient, and, Anda, angles, announced, annoying, anonymous, anorak, another, anxiety, anxious, apology, applied, appointment, appointments, apprehension, are, area, arguments, armoured, arranged, arrangement, arrangements, arrival, arrived, art, article, as, ashamed, assembled, associated, association, assorted, assortment, assumed, assured, assuring, astonished, astonishment, Atlantic, atmosphere, attached, attack, attention, attract, attracting, aunt, autumn, avalanche, average, avocado, avoided, aware, awful, awkward, awkwardly, awnings

B

badminton, baggage, balanced, bandages, banished, banks, bannisters, barrier, barriers, basically, bated, beacon, beautiful, beauty, beckoning, beginnings, Belgium, believe, belonged, beware, bewildered, biscuits, bleary, blotting, bought, bowled, breath, breathe, breathing, breathlessly, breathtaking, bright, brightly, Bristol, broad, broadcaster, broadly, brother, brought, building, buildings, burglars, burgle, buried, burly, business, buzzing

C

cacophony, calendar, calm, cancelled, cannelloni, captain, career, careers, careful, cartridges, cautiously, cavern, ceiling, central, centre, certain, certainly, chaos, chapter, chapters, character, characters, cheerful, chewed, chewing, children, chirping, chocolate, choice, choices, cinema, circuits, circumstances, cities, clenched, clothes, cloud, clouds, cobblestoned, collapsed, collars, collected, colossal, coloured, colourful, comfortable, compacted, company, compartment, compete, competent, competing, competition, complains, complete, completely, complicated, compliment, concentrate, concentrates, concentrating, concerned, confidence, confident, confirmed, confused, congratulate, congratulations, consideration, considered, constantly, contained, containers, contest, context, continued, convenient, conversation, converted, convince, convinced, corpulent, correctly, corridor, costume, counselling, countries, country, couple, courage, course, cousin, covered, coveted, creative, cricket, crickets, crouched, crouching, cube, cupboard, cupboards, curious, curtailed, curtains, cushions, customers, cutlery, cylindrical, cypress

D

damaged, dangerous, dangers, dappled, deafening, decent, decide, decided, decision, decorate, decorating, deemed, definitely, delicious, delighted, dense, departed, department, depends, Derbyshire, descended, deserted, design, desperately, destination, determined, determinedly, develop, devise, devoid, devoured, difference, different, difficult, difficulty, diplomatic, direction, directions, director, disappear, disappeared, disappearing, disappointed, disaster, discounted, discover, discovered, discussed, discussing, disposed, distinct, distinctive, distracted, district, divorce, document, dominoes, doubt, doubts, dough, dreaded, drifting, dungarees

E

each, earliest, easier, easiest, eastern, easy, ecstatic, edition, education, eerie, effectively, eight, eighteen, either, elderly, elected, electrical, embarrassed, embarrassing, emergency, encourage, encouraged, encouraging, energy, engine, engineers, enormity, enormous, enough, enquired, enrolled, enthusiasm, entire, entitled, entrance, envied, equally, equipment, escape, especially, essay, essentially, Eurovision, eventually, evidence, evidently, exactly, exasperation, exception, exchanged, exchanges, excitedly, excitement, exciting, exclaimed, exclaiming, exclusion, exercise, exhaust, ex-

hausted, existed, expectantly, expected, expedition, expensive, experience, explained, explaining, exploded, expression, expressions, extended, extraordinary, extremely

F

faintest, family, famous, fantastically, fascinate, fascinated, fascination, fault, favourite, favourites, feature, fibre, figured, finally, fingers, finished, fireplace, five, fixture, Florida, fluent, following, for, forgotten, fossils, four, framework, freezing, friendly, frightened, from, frustrating, function, funeral, furious, further, furtive, future

G

gait, gathered, gathering, generations, genuine, ghastly, ghostly, gigantic, gingerly, glistened, glorious, goal, goalposts, goose, gradually, grandparents, granite, gravely, grief, groaned, Groningen, ground, gruesome, guard, guessed, guilty

H

hairstyle, harvested, hasty, health, heartbeat, heave, heaved, hesitant, hesitate, hesitated, hinges, hippopotamus, hired, hockey, holiday, horrified, horror, hospital, huge, hurtled

I

identical, ignore, imagination, imagine, imagining, immaculate, immediate, immediately, imminent, immortal, impossible, impressed, impression, improve, in, incomprehensible, inconvenient, increasingly, incredibly, incredulous. indicate, indicated, individual, industry, infiltrating, insisted, insistent, inspected, instantly, instruction, instructions, instrument, instruments, intending, intention, interested, interesting, interview, intimidating, introductions, invented, investigate, investigating, investment, involved, inwardly, is, isle, issues, issuing, itself

J

jangling, jarring, jewellery, Jim Jam, journey, judge, judgements, junior

K

kilometres, kindergarten, knot, knots, knotted

L

laden, language, laugh, laughed, laughter, launch, league, lengthening, lessons, light, lights, listened, listening, literacy, literally, located, logistics, Lois, loungers, Luca, luggage, lumbering

M

machine, magazines, magically, makeshift, manages, marriage, married, marshmallows, marvelling, masterpiece, medallions, media, Mediterranean, medical, memories, memory, mentioned, menu, merchandise, meringues, merits, message, Mexico, Miami, minute, minutes, miserable, mistakes, mixture, morning, mortified, motion, motioned, mountain, mountains, moussaka, moustache, mouthful, multi-coloured, murmured, murmuring, muscles, museum, music, mysterious

N

national, natural, naturally, naughty, neither, nervous, nervously, nervousness, Netherlands, nets, nightmare, Nolan, nonsense, normally, northern, notice, noticed, notices, nowhere, nurse, nursery

O

obstacle, obvious, obviously, occasional, occasionally, occupation, ocean, of, offered, officers, one, open-ended, operation, operations, opportunity, opposite, opposites, opposition, optimistically, option, options, oral, ordinary, organise, organised, out, overly

P

pack, packages, paddle, painting, parcel, parents, parliament, particular, particularly, passenger, patches, patients, paused, peculiar, peered, peering, pelicans, pencil, peninsula, perfect, performance, periods, persuade, persuasion, phoned, photocopy, photographer, photographs, physiotherapy, piazza, pictures, piste, plaits, plastic, player, pleasant, pleasures, poetry, pointing, polished, pollen, pomegranate, popular, position, possibilities, possibility, possible, postponed, potatoes, potential, poured, power, practically, practice, precarious, preferred, prepare, prepared, presentation, presented, presenters, pressure, pretended, pretending, prey, primary, princess, privacy, private, probably, proceeded, produced, producing, production, professional, progressed, promised, promptly, prompts, proper, properly, protect, protected, protecting, protection, provisionally, purpose, puzzled

Q

qualifications, quality, quantities, queasy, questions, queue, queuing, quieter

R

racquet, radio, ravenous, ravioli, reading, realised, rearranging, reasonably, reasoned, reassuringly, receded, recipe, reciting, recognisable, recognised, recording, refreshed, refreshing, regretted, regretting, regulars, relationship, relative, relatives, relaxed, release, released, relief, relieved, reluctant, remained, remember, remembered, reminded, repeated, replace, replaying, replies, requesting, required, rescue, rescuer, resist, responsible, restaurant, restaurants, resulting, retired, retrieving, returned, returning, ricotta, ritual, rivalries, roaring, robberies, rockery, rough, roughly, route, rowdy, rumour, rustling

S

safety, saffron, sandwich, scampered, scared, scarves, scent, scissors, screwed, scribbled, searching, secondary, secretary, section, secure, securely, sensation, separate, series, serious, seriously, service, several, shade, shallow, sharpener, sheath, shirts, shivered, shortened, shoulder, shoulders, sigh, sighed, signature, silence, silently, sinews, six, skeleton, skills, slightly, slithered, slithery, sneaked, social, solution, source, sourcing, sparkling, speaking, special, spectators, squiggles, squirrel, stabilised, stagger, staggering, stallholders, station, statues, steering, stile, story, straight, straightened, strange, strangers, strangled, streaked, stretched, stretching, strictly, stripy, strolled, structure, struggling, students, stupefied, sturdy, sublime, succeeding, success, successes, successful, succulent, suddenly, suggested, sultry, supporting, suppose, surprised, surprisingly, surrounded, surrounding, surroundings, surveillance, swallowed, Switzerland, sympathetic, syrup, system

T

tablecloth, teachers, techniques, teenager, television, temporally, tension, terrace, terraces, terracotta, terrible, terribly, terrified, texture, the, theatre, theory, thieves, thirteen, thought, thoughtful, thoughts, thousand, threaded, threatening, three, through, tidying, tightly, tissue, to, toast, together, tortuous, touchline, tourists, tousled, towel, towers, traffic, trainers, trapeze, travelling, treasure, trouble, troubled, troubles, trousers, tumbledown, Turkey, twinkle, twinkled, two, typical, tyre

U

uncomfortable, undergrowth, underneath, unexpected, unexpectedly, unfamiliar, unforgettable, unfortunately, university, Umbrian, unmistakable, unnoticed, unusual, unusually, unwrapped, upright, use, usually

V

valuable, various, vegetables, vehicle, violin, vision, visitor, vocabulary, voice

W

wandered, wary, Washington, weather, weight, weird, welcoming, wheels, wherever, whichever, whilst, whipped, whirl, whirled, whirred, whisked, whispered, whistle, whistles, whole, whooping, wiggles, wisteria, wonder, wondered, Woody, word, words, worried, wound, wrenched, wriggles, wrist, writing, written

Y

yawned, Yorkshire, your