

**The School Story written by Andrew Clements is a level R book. It is a great story for upper elementary students and provides great inspirations for creative writers. Our comprehension packet includes vocabulary, prediction boxes, comprehension questions for each chapter, creative writing, critical thinking, labeling story elements, art, and also a crossword puzzle and wordsearch as fun additions. A key is available for this packet.**

# **The School Story**

Author: Andrew Clements

Level: R

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Back Cover**

**Prediction:** Do you think that Natalie’s story will get published? Why or why not?

**Chapter 1**

New Words: (1) suspense, torture, (2) bodega

**Vocabulary:**

Below write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of it’s prefix or suffix.

slowly (1)-

shouting (3)-

commuting (5)-

novelist (7)-

1. What does Natalie mean on p. 4 when she says “I know how the end feels, but not exactly what happens”?

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2. How did Natalie get the idea for her story?

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3. Why did Natalie think she might be able to write a school story?

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4. If you were going to write a school story, what do you think would be a good idea for a story that would get readers excited about reading your book?

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**Be an author!**

Begin writing your own story. Write one paragraph using the idea above.

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**Chapter 2 A Portrait of the Author as a Young Girl**

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

calmly (9)-

evenly (9)-

thoughtfully (9)-

naturally (10)-

**Questions:**

1. What made Natalie first become interested in reading?

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2. What happened that changed what happened during Natalie's bedtime?

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**Prediction:**

What do you think the next step for Natalie getting her book published will be?

**Chapter 3 Mystery Man**

**New Words:** manuscript(13), sarcasm(15), “air of superiority” (16)

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its suffix or prefix.

curly (14)-

publishing (14)-

**Prediction:**

Who do you think Ted Geisel might be?

**Chapter 4 City Kid**

**New Words:** transportation (19), “street smarts” (19), radar (20)

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

reception (23)-

receptionist (23)-

security (23)-

brownish (24)-

reference (25)-

1. How is how Natalie goes to school different from how you go to school?

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2. How was making children’s books different from how Natalie thought it would be?

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3. Who is the main character in the story? \_\_\_\_\_

4. List 5 things you know about Natalie.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

5. List 3 things you know about Zoe.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. List three examples of “street smarts”.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 5 The Plot Thickens**

**New Words:** pseudonym

**Vocabulary:**

**Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of any prefix or suffix.**

pictures (28)-

**Questions:**

1. Who is Theodore Geisel?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is Zoe's idea?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why doesn't Natalie like the idea?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. On page 28 the author says Zoe is building her case. What does he mean by this?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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5. What would your pseudonym be? \_\_\_\_\_

**Prediction:**

Do you think Zoe's idea will work? Why or why not?

**Chapter 6 Reality Attack**

**New Words:** editor (30), cubicle, morgue(31) , cantankerous (33)

**Vocabulary:**

Fill in the blanks with the new words from chapter six.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ read over the book deciding what might need to be taken out.
2. I sit at my desk in my \_\_\_\_\_ at work.
3. She disliked her \_\_\_\_\_ boss.
4. They found a dead body and brought it to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Chapter 7 Business Lesson**

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of it's prefix or suffix.

**unread** (35)-

imagining (35)-

**inside** (35)-

**unsolicited** (37)-

**submissions** (37)-

**eventually** (37)-

**editorial** (37)-

rejection (38)-

originality (39)-

seriously (40)-

**Questions:**

1. What did Natalie find out about publishing companies?

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2. How does Natalie feel about the way things are done at publishing companies?

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3. Why do you think Natalie wrote about a father?

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**Prediction:**

How do you think Natalie will get her story read by publishers?

**Chapter 8 A Portrait of the Bulldog as a Young Girl**

**New Word:** brownstone

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and any suffix or prefix it may have.

argument (43)-

comfortable (47)-

carefully (48)-

imagination (52)-

creative (53)-

**Questions:**

1. Natalie is a writer. Zoe is a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What was Zoe looking for at her dad's office? Why was she looking for that?

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4. Zoe looks for the table of contents. Why would she go to this part of the magazine first?

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**Matching**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a made up story

2. \_\_\_\_\_ these types of books usually have a puzzling plot

3. \_\_\_\_\_ books written for children

4. \_\_\_\_\_ a story written about someone's life

5. \_\_\_\_\_ story written based on actual events in the past

6. \_\_\_\_\_ story written about yourself

7. \_\_\_\_\_ books about an unusual or exciting experience

8. \_\_\_\_\_ a true story

- a. historical fiction
- b. fiction
- c. children's books
- d. autobiography

- e. adventure books
- f. mystery books
- g. nonfiction
- h. biography

**Multiple Choice**

1. What steps did Zoe's dad say they needed to take to get a story published?
  - a. get an agent, map out a strategy, target best publishers
  - b. send story to publishers, map out a strategy, get an agent

**Onomatopoeia-** words that imitate sounds

Find and copy the sentence on p. 51 that uses onomatopoeia on the lines below. Underline the word that imitates a sound.

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**Chapter 9 The Agent**

**Vocabulary**

Write the root word and it's meaning as well as the meaning of it's prefix or suffix.

**cheerfulness** (56)-

**cautious** (57) –

**disbelief** (58)-

**disappointment** (58)-

**completely** (58)-

**Questions:**

1. Why does Natalie keep changing her mind?

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2. Why doesn't Zoe give up?

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3. What is Zoe's idea for an agent for Natalie?

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4. What does the author mean on p. 58 when he says Natalie's face was a dictionary of emotions?

**Prediction**

Do you think Zoe will make a good agent? Why or why not?

**Chapter 10 The Chosen Grown-Up**

**New Words:** persuasive editorial (65)

**Vocabulary:**

Write the root word and its meaning along with the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

programmable (64)-

magically (65)-

unruly (65)-

**Questions:**

1. Who is Ms. Clayton?

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**Chapter 11 Welcome to the Club**

**Prediction:**

Do you think Ms. Clayton will help Zoe and Natalie get the story published?

**New Words:** barrier (70), moat (70)

**Vocabulary:**

Write the root word and it's meaning along with the meaning of it's suffix or prefix.

friend**ship** (70)-

accept**able** (76)-

un**locked** (73)-

**Questions:**

1. What is the title of Natalie's book?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is Zoe's pseudonym?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Ms. Clayton describe Natalie's book?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think it is a good idea for Zoe and Natalie to use pseudonyms?  
Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Prediction**

Do you think that publisher's will like The Cheater by Cassandra Day? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 12 In or Out

### Vocabulary:

Write the root word and its meaning along with the meaning of it's suffix or prefix.

insane (80)-

unmoved (86)-

research (89)-

### Questions:

1. Why does Zoe give Ms. Clayton \$500.00?

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## Chapter 13 Open for Business

### Questions:

1. How did Zee Zee Reisman get Natalie's Mom to read the manuscript without asking her to?

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2. Write the sentence on p. 98 which uses onomatopoeia.

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### Prediction:

How do you think Hannah Nelson, Natalie's Mom/Editor, will react to the story?

## Chapter 14 – Judgment Day

### Questions

1. What word would you use to describe how Natalie was feeling when she was waiting for her mom to read the story?

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2. Do you think it was fair how Natalie got her book to the publishers? Why or why not?

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3. On p. 111 Natalie says, "That's the whole idea of a good book, right. It's supposed to hit you where you live." What does she mean by this?

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## Chapter 15 A New Island

### Vocabulary:

Write the meaning of the root word and it's prefix or suffix.

breathless (112)-

wonderful (112)-

renamed (113)-

dangerous (119)-

### Metaphor

In chapter 15, it talks about how finding an author is like finding an island out in the middle of an ocean. What does this mean?

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## Chapter 16 Poker Anyone

### Vocabulary

Write the meaning of the root word and it's suffix or prefix.

momentarily (127)-

**Questions**

1. Why do you think Leitha wants to be the editor?

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2. What do poker and what Zoe needs to do have in common?

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3. On the lines below, please write the sentence on p. 129 which consists of a metaphor.

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4. Find on p. 123 an example of onomatopoeia and write it on the line below.

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**Prediction**

Do you think Zee Zee will get Leitha to let Hannah, Natalie's Mom, edit the book?

**Chapter 17- High Stakes Aces Wild**

**Questions:**

1. Why did Leitha finally agree to let Hannah edit the book?

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2. Write the example of onomatopoeia on p. 140 on the line below.

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## Chapter 18- The Long Arm of the Law

### Vocabulary:

Write the meaning of the root word and its suffix or prefix.

**midsentence** (149)-

**underage** (152)-

### Questions:

1. How does Zoe's dad feel about the girls getting Natalie's book published?

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### Prediction

When do you think Hannah will tell her mom it was her who wrote the book?

Chapter 10 is titled The Red Pencil Blues, what do you think chapter 10 will be about?

## Chapter 10- The Red Pencil Blues

### Vocabulary

**reviewer** (166)-

**methodical** (167)-

**narrator** (168)-

### Questions:

1. Why do you think it is important to Cassandra to keep her identity a secret?

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2. What have Natalie's and her editor/mom learned by working together?

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3. What sentence on p. 170 tells us we are getting near the end of the editing process?

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4. On p. 173 Ms. Clayton says, "I'm going to treasure it my whole life." What does this sentence tell us about Ms. Clayton and her feelings about this experience.

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## Chapter 20 – Family and Friends

My favorite part of this book was

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Would you recommend this book to other readers?

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What did you learn from reading this book?

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Please circle a score for this book below.

1 2 3 4 5  
Low High

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What gave Natalie the idea to write a “school story” in the first place?

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2. List four characters in the story.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Zoe’s job is a

- a. writer
- b. reader
- c. agent
- d. publisher

4. If you could have any of the jobs in this story, which one would you want?

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5. What is the title of Natalie’s book?

- a. The Writer
- b. The Cheater
- c. The Reader
- d. The Agent

6. What was the turning point in the book?

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7. Draw your own picture of the cover of Natalie's book.

# School Story

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

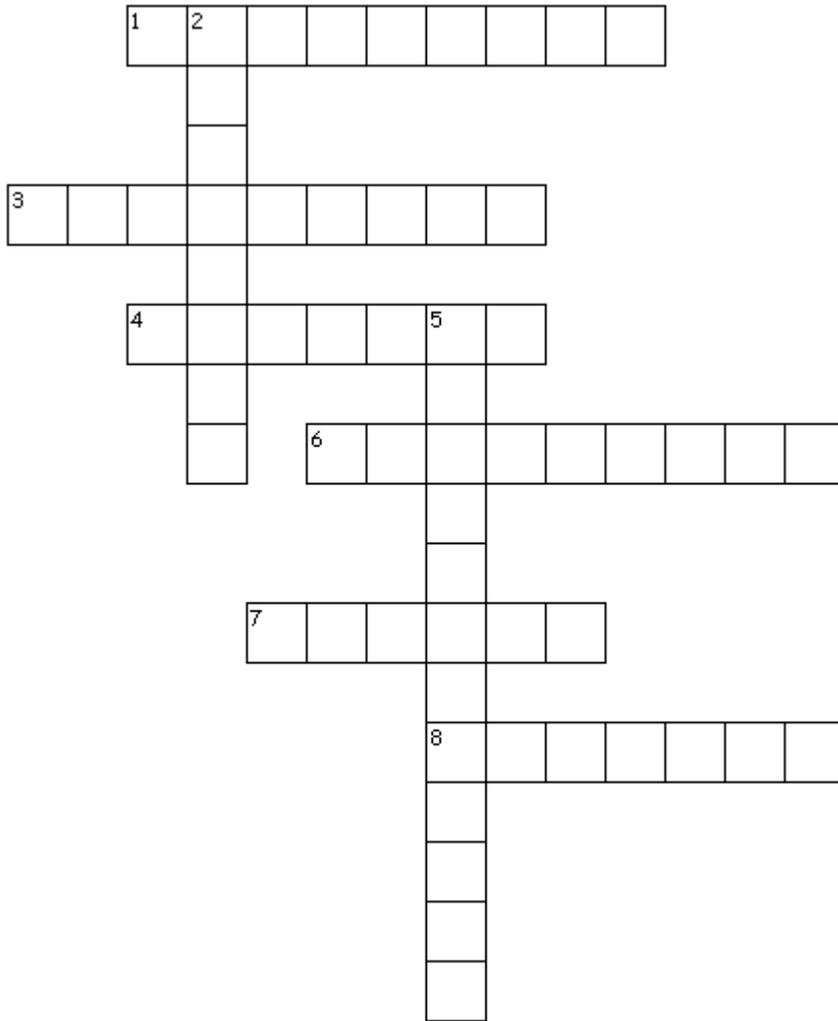
AGENT  
EDITORIAL  
NOVELIST  
PSEUDONYM  
REFERENCE  
TEACHER

CHARACTERS  
FICTION  
PERSUASIVE  
PUBLISHER  
SETTING  
WRITER

EDITOR  
IMAGINATION  
PLOT  
RECEPTIONIST  
STORY

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# School Story



Across

- 1. NO LIMIT
- 3. FULL OF CARE
- 4. MADE UP STORY
- 6. STORY WRITTEN ABOUT A PERSON
- 7. PERSON WHO FIXES A STORY
- 8. PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE BOOKS

Down

- 2. PERSON WHO WRITES A STORY
- 5. WORDS THAT REPRESENT SOUNDS

Word Bank: unlimited, careful, novelist, biography, editor, publish, fiction, onomatopoeia

## KEY

**Prediction:** Do you think that Natalie's story will get published? Why or why not?

Answers vary.

## Chapter 1

New Words:

- (1) suspense- state of uncertainty, unsure of what will happen
- torture- inflict severe pain
- (2) bodega- a small store, sometimes right off the street

## Vocabulary:

Below write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of it's prefix or suffix.

**slowly** (1)- not fast ly-adverb

**shouting** (3)- speak loudly ing- present tense, happening now

**commuting** (5)- travel from one place to another, ing- happening now

**novelist** (7)- book, ist- one that performs the action of or produces. In this case the person who writes a book.

1. What does Natalie mean on p. 4 when she says "I know how the end feels, but not exactly what happens"?

She knows she wants it to be a happy or sad ending but she doesn't know the exact actions she is going to write to get there.

2. How did Natalie get the idea for her story?

Natalie got the idea for her story because her mom works at a publishing company and her mom said they were looking for more "school stories".

3. Why did Natalie think she might be able to write a school story?

Natalie thought she might be able to write a school story because she is in school and knows what goes on there.

4. If you were going to write a school story, what do you think would be a good idea for a story that would get readers excited about reading your book?

Answers vary.

## Be an author!

Begin writing your own story. Write one paragraph using the idea above.

Answers vary.

## Chapter 2 A Portrait of the Author as a Young Girl

### Vocabulary:

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

calmly (9)- calm- quiet or without excitement. ly- adverb (describes a verb)

evenly (9)- even- flat not rough. ly-adverb

thoughtfully (9)- thought- what you think ful- full of ly-adverb

naturally (10)- natural- produced by nature, not altered ly-adverb

### Questions:

What made Natalie first become interested in reading?  
Her parents read to her before bedtime when she was younger.

What happened that changed what happened during Natalie's bedtime?  
Natalie's father died.

### Prediction:

What do you think the next step for Natalie getting her book published will be?

Answers vary.

## Chapter 3 Mystery Man

**New Words:** manuscript(13)- rough draft of a story  
sarcasm(15)- say something obvious  
"air of superiority" (16) – feeling like you are better than others

### Vocabulary:

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its suffix or prefix.

curly (14)- curl- not straight ly-adverb

publishing (14)- publish- to prepare or bring to the public ing- happening now

### Prediction:

Who do you think Ted Geisel might be?

Answers vary.

## Chapter 4 City Kid

**New Words:** transportation (19)- way to get from one place to another  
“street smarts” (19)- common sense  
radar (20)- look out and around for something

### Vocabulary:

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

**reception** (23)- receive-to take or acquire something given   tion- act of

**receptionist** (23)- see above   ist- person who does this action

**security** (23)- secure- safe feeling   ity- state of

**brownish** (24)- brown- color   ish- being

**reference** (25)- refer- look back to   ence- state of or condition

How is how Natalie goes to school different from how you go to school?  
Natalie goes through the city by herself. She often has to ride a city bus.

How was making children’s books different from how Natalie thought it would be?  
It is not as fun. It is mostly people just sitting at desks and not much talking.

Who is the main character in the story? Natalie

List 5 things you know about Natalie.

Likes to read and write.

Mom is a publisher.

Dad was in an accident and died.

Has a friend named Zoe.

Started writing a book.

Goes to school.

Lives in New York.

Travels alone.

List 3 things you know about Zoe.

She is a talker, friends with Natalie, Dad is a lawyer.

List three examples of “street smarts”.

If a person bothers you, yell and start running.  
Don't get on an empty bus.  
Sit in the front of a bus by the driver.  
Never get into a car or van with strangers.  
Call 911.  
If you get grabbed, do whatever you can to get away.  
Never go into a strange building.

## Chapter 5 The Plot Thickens

**New Words:** pseudonym- phony name

**Vocabulary:**

**Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of any prefix or suffix.**

pictures (28)- picture- photo s- more than one

**Questions:**

Who is Theodore Geisel?  
Theodore Geisel is Dr. Suess.

What is Zoe's idea?  
Zoe's idea is that Natalie use a pseudonym.

Why doesn't Natalie like the idea?  
Natalie doesn't like the idea because she feels like it is lying.

On page 28 the author says Zoe is building her case. What does he mean by this?  
Zoe is building a case by listing many reasons that support her idea.

What would your pseudonym be? Answers vary

**Prediction:**

Do you think Zoe's idea will work? Why or why not?

Answers vary.

## Chapter 6 Reality Attack

**New Words:** editor (30)- person who fixes mistakes in a book and suggests ideas to make it better

Cubicle- boxlike area in offices where people work

morgue(31)- place where dead bodies are stored

cantankerous (33)- not likeable

### **Vocabulary:**

Fill in the blanks with the new words from chapter six.

1. The **editor** read over the book deciding what might need to be taken out.
2. I sit at my desk in my **cubicle** at work.
3. She disliked her **cantankerous** boss.
4. They found a dead body and brought it to the **morgue**.

### **Chapter 7 Business Lesson**

#### **Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

**unread** (35)- read- to examine and understand words un- not

**imagining** (35)- imagine- picture or pretend ing- happening now

**inside** (35)- in- into side- a part of something

**unsolicited** (37)- solicit- to try to persuade un- not ed-past tense

**submissions** (37)- submit- to offer or give ion- action or process of

**eventually** (37)- event- happening ly- adverb

**editorial** (37)- editor- person who fixes a book ial- of or relating to work that is the opinion of the editor or publishers

**rejection** (38)- reject- to refuse to accept ion- act of

**originality** (39)- original- your own, first preceding others ity- state of being

**seriously** (40)- serious-earnest in importance ly-adverb

#### **Questions:**

What did Natalie find out about publishing companies?

Natalie found out about a slush pile where manuscripts go when they are sent in by new authors or authors without agents. The publishers look at successful authors and author's with agent's books first before they look at the slush pile.

How does Natalie feel about the way things are done at publishing companies?

Natalie doesn't think it is fair.

Why do you think Natalie wrote about a father?

Natalie probably wrote about a father because she had a good relationship with her father and misses him.

**Prediction:**

How do you think Natalie will get her story read by publishers?

Answers vary.

**Chapter 8 A Portrait of the Bulldog as a Young Girl**

**New Word:** brownstone- a house built or faced with brownish stone

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and any suffix or prefix it may have.

**argument** (43)- argue- give reasons for your thinking    **ment-** act or process of

**comfortable** (47)- comfort- at ease    **able-** able to be

**carefully** (48)- careful- cautious    **ful-** full of    **ly-**adverb

**imagination** (52)- imagine- pretend or picture in your mind    **ation-** action or process

**creative** (53)- create- to make    **ive-** perform an action

**Questions:**

Natalie is a writer. Zoe is a **talker**.

What was Zoe looking for at her dad's office? Why was she looking for that?

Zoe was looking for the magazine "Publisher's Weekly" in her Dad's office. She was looking for the magazine to find tips to help Natalie.

Zoe looks for the table of contents. Why would she go to this part of the magazine first?

The table of contents makes its easier to find parts in books. It will tell you what page a certain item or article is on so you can go straight to that part and save time.

**Matching**

1. b a made up story

2. f these types of books usually have a puzzling plot

3. c books written for children

4. h a story written about someone's life
5. a story written based on actual events in the past
6. d story written about yourself
7. e books about an unusual or exciting experience
8. g a true story
- i. historical fiction
  - j. fiction
  - k. children's books
  - l. autobiography
  - m. adventure books
  - n. mystery books
  - o. nonfiction
  - p. biography

### Multiple Choice

What steps did Zoe's dad say they needed to take to get a story published?

- a. **get an agent, map out a strategy, target best publishers**
- b. send story to publishers, map out a strategy, get an agent

**Onomatopoeia**- words that imitate sounds

Find and copy the sentence on p. 51 that uses onomatopoeia on the lines below.

Underline the word that imitates a sound.

So if the book's any good, and it gets into the right hands, then BOOM! It gets published.

## Chapter 9 The Agent

### Vocabulary

Write the root word and it's meaning as well as the meaning of it's prefix or suffix.

**cheerfulness** (56)- cheer- lightness in spirit ful- full of ness- state or quality of being

**cautious** (57) – caution- be careful ious- having the qualities of

**disbelief** (58)- dis- not belief- believing something to be true

**disappointment** (58)- dis- not appoint ment- act of being

completely (58)- complete- whole ly- adverb

**Questions:**

Why does Natalie keep changing her mind?

Natalie keeps changing her mind because she is scared and isn't sure that this plan will work.

Why doesn't Zoe give up?

Zoe doesn't give up because she believes in Natalie and the story.

What is Zoe's idea for an agent for Natalie?

Zoe's idea is that she be Natalie's agent.

What does the author mean on p. 58 when he says Natalie's face was a dictionary of emotions?

The author means that Natalie's face is showing many feelings at once.

**Prediction**

Do you think Zoe will make a good agent? Why or why not?

Answers vary:

Yes, she is a good talker.

No, she is just a kid.

**Chapter 10 The Chosen Grown-Up**

**New Words:** persuasive editorial (65)- a story written by an editor to try to persuade or get you to feel or believe something

**Vocabulary:**

Write the root word and its meaning along with the meaning of its prefix or suffix.

programmable (64)- program able- able to program

magically (65)- magic- charms, spells, rituals that cause effects ally- with

unruly (65)- un- not ruly- neat or orderly

**Questions:**

Who is Ms. Clayton?

Ms. Clayton is a teacher and Zoe and Natalie's school who is going to help them get the book published.

**Chapter 11 Welcome to the Club**

**Prediction:**

Do you think Ms. Clayton will help Zoe and Natalie get the story published?

Answers vary.

**New Words:** barrier (70), moat (70)

**Vocabulary:**

Write the root word and its meaning along with the meaning of its suffix or prefix.

friend**ship** (70)- friend- someone you know and like ship- quality or state of

accept**able** (76)- accept- understand able- capable of

un**locked** (73)- un- not lock- a device to keep something closed ed-past tense

**Questions:**

1. What is the title of Natalie's book?

The Cheater

2. What is Zoe's pseudonym?

Zee Zee Reisman

3. How did Ms. Clayton describe Natalie's book?

Ms. Clayton described Natalie's book as intense and funny.

4. Do you think it is a good idea for Zoe and Natalie to use pseudonyms?  
Why or why not?

Answers vary.

**Prediction**

Do you think that publisher's will like The Cheater by Cassandra Day? Why or why not?

Answers vary.

**Chapter 12 In or Out**

**Vocabulary:**

Write the root word and its meaning along with the meaning of its suffix or prefix.

in**sane** (80)- in- to have sane- sound mind

un**moved** (86)- un- not move-to change or go from one place to another ed-  
past tense

re**search** (89)- re- again search- look for

**Questions:**

Why does Zoe give Ms. Clayton \$500.00?  
Zoe gives Ms. Clayton \$500 to rent an office.

**Chapter 13 Open for Business**

**Questions:**

How did Zee Zee Reisman get Natalie's Mom to read the manuscript without asking her to?

She left her a voicemail pretending to be an agent.

Write the sentence on p. 98 which uses onomatopoeia.

The stamp made a mechanical *ca-chonk* sound as he pressed it onto the front of the envelope, and then he scribbled his initials below the date.

**Prediction:**

How do you think Hannah Nelson, Natalie's Mom/Editor, will react to the story?

Answers vary.

**Chapter 14 – Judgment Day**

**Questions**

What word would you use to describe how Natalie was feeling when she was waiting for her mom to read the story?

Answers vary. Anxious, nervous, scared, etc.

Do you think it was fair how Natalie got her book to the publishers? Why or why not?  
Answers vary.

On p. 111 Natalie says, "That's the whole idea of a good book, right. It's supposed to hit you where you live." What does she mean by this?

It means you can relate it to your own life and are very interested by it.

**Chapter 15 A New Island**

**Vocabulary:**

Write the meaning of the root word and its prefix or suffix.

breathless (112)- breath- air coming in or out of your mouth less- not having

wonderful (112)- wonder- happy feeling ful- full of

renamed (113)- re- again name- label ed- past tense

dangerous (119)- danger- not safe ous- state of being

## Metaphor

In chapter 15, it talks about how finding an author is like finding an island out in the middle of an ocean. What does this mean?

It says this to let us now that finding an author is very hard like it would be to find an island in the middle of the ocean.

## Chapter 16 Poker Anyone

### Vocabulary

Write the meaning of the root word and its suffix or prefix.

momentarily (127)- moment- very short amount of time ly- adverb

### Questions

Why do you think Leitha wants to be the editor?

Leitha wants to be the editor because she thinks the book will be successful.

What do poker and what Zoe needs to do have in common?

Both poker and what Zoe needs to do consist of risk taking, bidding, accepting a big or turning it down, etc.

On the lines below, please write the sentence on p. 129 which consists of a metaphor.  
...was about to get run over by a steam roller.

Find on p. 123 an example of onomatopoeia and write it on the line below.

thump

### Prediction

Do you think Zee Zee will get Leitha to let Hannah, Natalie's Mom, edit the book?

Answers vary.

No, she will want to do it herself.

Yes, she will do what the author wants.

## Chapter 17- High Stakes Aces Wild

### Questions:

Why did Leitha finally agree to let Hannah edit the book?

Leitha finally agreed to let Hannah edit the book because it was the only way the author, Natalie, would agree to let them publish the book.

Write the example of onomatopoeia on p. 140 on the line below.

boom

## Chapter 18- The Long Arm of the Law

### Vocabulary:

Write the meaning of the root word and its suffix or prefix.

**midsentence** (149)- mid- in the middle of sentence- words put together to

**underage** (152)- under- below age- how old you are

### Questions:

How does Zoe's dad feel about the girls getting Natalie's book published?  
Zoe's Dad is impressed.

### Prediction

When do you think Hannah will tell her mom it was her who wrote the book?

Answers vary.

Chapter 10 is titled The Red Pencil Blues, what do you think chapter 10 will be about?

Answers vary. Fixing the book?

## Chapter 10- The Red Pencil Blues

### Vocabulary

**reviewer** (166)- review- look over er- person who does this action

**methodical** (167)- method- way of doing things

**narrator** (168)- narrate- to tell a story or- person who does this

### Questions:

Why do you think it is important to Cassandra to keep her identity a secret?  
Because she wants to surprise her mom and for people to take her seriously and not read the book thinking a child wrote this.

What have Natalie and her editor/mom learned by working together?  
They have learned to respect each other's ideas and insights.

What sentence on p. 170 tells us we are getting near the end of the editing process?

The sentence “Finally, on the fourth pass, the manuscript came back in a new form.”

On p. 173 Ms. Clayton says, “I’m going to treasure it my whole life.” What does this sentence tell us about Ms. Clayton and her feelings about this experience.

This sentence tells us that this experience has really meant a lot to Ms. Clayton and she will always remember it.

## QUIZ

What gave Natalie the idea to write a “school story” in the first place?

Her Mom works at a publishing company who was looking for more school stories.

List four characters in the story.

Natalie (Cassandra Day), Zoe (Zee Zee Reisman), Ms. Clayton, Hannah, Leitha, Zoe’s Dad

Zoe’s job is a

- e. writer
- f. reader
- g. agent**
- h. publisher

If you could have any of the jobs in this story, which one would you want?

Answers vary

What is the title of Natalie’s book?

- e. The Writer
- f. The Cheater**
- g. The Reader
- h. The Agent

What was the turning point in the book?

The turning point in the book was when the publishing company said they would publish Natalie’s book.

Draw your own picture of the cover of Natalie’s book.

