

Workbook – Name:



JOSHUA

A PIXIE ALLIANCE

Cover illustration by Mousam Banerjee

Joshua: A pixie alliance

Chapter one excerpt – Flyaway kite

Joshua woke at sunrise. His speaking clock told him the time at the touch of a button: 5 a.m.

Never up this early, he turned off his (7:00) alarm and wondered why he hadn't heard the rooster's raspy crow. As he listened, a rising wind rustled leaves and thrummed the roof rattling wind chimes. He smiled. It was a high wind.

He shoved back the covers and shivered. Pulling on tracksuit pants and a fleece-lined hoodie, he headed for the kitchen. It was quiet, and his parents were asleep. He crept out the back door.

Joshua got his kite from a storage cupboard. Spilling flowing tails. Shaped like an arrow, the massive body was wider than the length

of his arm. Weighing less than a pencil case, no-rip nylon stretched across the frame. *Yellow, blue and green like a fresh spring day.* Nan had said six months before, when she gave it to him. *Flies like an eagle.*

She'd shown him how to throw the frame and send out the line. It wasn't an easy thing to do, learning to fly a kite. Without sight, it was more challenging. He was eight when he found out he'd never see again. At ten, with Nan's help, he soon had his kite soaring. That was the last time they ever flew it together. Then Nan got sick. Now, clutching the bridle, a group of strings attached to the flying line, he headed towards the wind chimes. Set up as a guide, they alerted him to the deck's four hazardous steps. Their music usually floated. Today they clattered, causing a terrible din.

Yellow, blue and green like a fresh spring day. That's how Nan described Joshua's kite. Draw an image of a different kite and colour it. How would you describe it to a sight impaired friend?

Comprehension

1. Learning to fly a kite was challenging for Joshua because he:

- (a) had the flu
- (b) didn't like kite flying
- (c) was sight-impaired
- (d) was waiting for the right wind

2. Where did Joshua store his kite?

- (a) underneath his bed
- (b) in the garage
- (c) in a kitchen cupboard
- (d) on the veranda, in a storage cupboard

3. Who taught Joshua to fly a kite?

- (a) a friend
- (b) his grandmother
- (c) Dad
- (d) a neighbour

4. The kite was shaped like a ...

- (a) diamond
- (b) triangle
- (c) an eagle
- (d) an arrow
- (e) dragon

5. List two more kite shapes

6. What was the purpose of the wind chimes? To...

- (a) warn Joshua about the steps
- (b) gauge the wind speed
- (c) hum along with their sounds
- (d) improve Joshua's listening skill

7. Number these sentences in order.

- (a) Then Nan got sick. fifth
- (b) Joshua got his kite from a storage cupboard.
- (c) *Flies like an eagle.*
- (d) He crept out the back door.
- (e) It was a high wind.

8. Why did Joshua creep through the back door? (write your answer)

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9. At what age did Joshua lose his sight?

- (a) 10
- (b) 8
- (c) 6
- (d) at birth

10. How did Joshua judge the speed of the wind? Write your answer.

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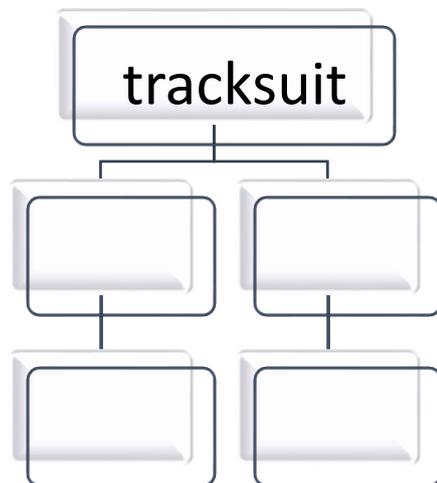
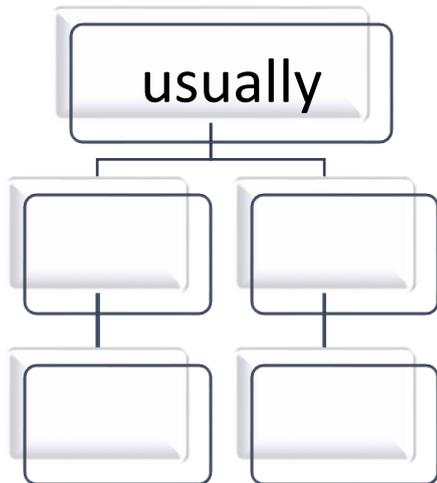
Spelling

1. Identify the misspelt words and write their correct forms.

Now, cluching the bridle, a groep of strings attatched to the flying line, he heded towards the winde chimes.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

2. Find smaller words inside.



- 3.

3. Alphabetical order:

- (a) sunrise
- (b) shown
- (c) shoved
- (d) shaped
- (e) asleep _____ 1st

4. Alphabetical order continued:

- (a) guided
- (b) learning
- (c) challenging
- (d) hazardous
- (e) music _____ 5th

5. From the excerpt, find words that don't change the base word when *ing* is added. e.g., soaring= soar + ing

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)

6. A spelling tip search:

C always softens to /s/ when followed by E, I, or Y. Find the word in the excerpt.

Write it here in fancy writing.

Vocabulary

1. Choose the word that has the nearest meaning to the word underlined.

- He soon had his kite soaring.

- (a) plummeting
- (b) flying
- (c) rocketing
- (d) dropping

- Spilling flowing tails.

- (a) dribbling
- (b) leaking
- (c) tipping out
- (d) absorbing

- It was a high wind.

- (a) twist
- (b) draught
- (c) breeze
- (d) squall

2. Circle the best word to fit the sentence.

- (a) Joshua woke at (daybreak, morning).

- (b) It was (quiet, quietly) and his parents were asleep.

- (c) He shoved back the covers and shivering, shivered.)

- (d) Joshua got his kite from a storage (cubbyhole, cabinet).

- (e) He (set out, followed) for the kitchen.

3. Write antonyms (opposites) for the following words.

- (a) quiet-.....

- (b) smiled-.....

- (c) asleep-.....

- (d) throw-.....

- (e) pulling-.....

4. Nonsense words. Use your imagination.

Make-up words that mean: Discuss it with a partner.

- (a) The kite's **tail**.

- (b) Non-rip nylon **stretched** across the frame.

- (c) The massive body was **shaped** like an arrow.

- (d) Their music usually **floated**.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

1. Find the verbs. (across,
diagonal, down, backwards)

d	e	v	o	h	s
w	e	r	t	u	m
a	s	o	d	f	i
s	l	t	y	u	l
d	a	g	a	v	e
b	e	s	e	n	d

Word list- told, smiled, shoved,
gave, send, was

Draw a scene from Chapter 1
excerpt

2. Find the nouns.

r	o	w	e	c	m
p	o	d	l	o	a
f	d	o	n	n	o
t	c	t	f	a	d
k	h	f	a	l	a
a	r	r	o	w	y

Word list – roof, clock, wind,
arrow, day, month

Label a sketch that shows sounds,
sights, smells, tastes, textures and
sensations (what is the character
feeling?) Colour if you have time.

Joshua: A pixie alliance

Chapter two excerpt – Meet the Peri-winkles

Joshua came to a small unused door at the back of the shed, so warped it scraped as it opened. He took in a long slow breath. It was a habit of his to centre his mind, sense his surroundings. Like a ninja! He smiled.

Making his way steadily, he held a short tree branch. Shaped from oak, it was sturdy. It helped him detect the heights of plants and measure dropdowns. Never for finding obstacles on the ground. Hazardous. The end would get stuck. Losing his balance, he'd go head over heels. That would bring an end to his solo treks.

Fluttery cobwebs stuck to his face. 'Oh, drat!' He wiped them on his shirt. Joshua felt something crawling on his neck and flicked it. He wondered what he was doing out there, chasing a silly hunch. Right at that moment, far-off voices ruffled the air. They grew louder as he walked toward an old dead tree.

He pictured it in his mind. Moss-covered, the roots still in the soil. Just a few more steps and he'd reach it. He sat down, trying to figure it all out.

The voices went from the tree's roots to the top. Something unusual was happening. Something so fantastic Joshua could hardly believe it. Tiny creatures lived in the stump. And yet, he couldn't have imagined this

decaying old tree was a comfortable house for a family of five pixies, the Peri-winkles.

Inside the stump, Pa Peri-winkle had made it like a pixie house with curved ceilings and snug rooms full of furniture. The pixie family made it their home and went about their daily chores.

The pixie-siblings, Pax and Peri, had gone from the bright morning light into a tunnel, where solar lights glimmered.

'Do you suppose he heard us?' asked Peri.

'I don't know,' said Pax. 'We can't tell Pa...not yet. He'll make us move.'

'Waiting until we're sure, makes sense to me,' said Peri, nodding.

The pixies slowed their pace entering a sky-blue dome. They dropped into the cool soft grass cloaked by colourful green leaves and bursts of flowers. Pa had replicated a pixie garden where they felt safe from the humans.

Peri didn't believe humans were so monstrous that they frightened her. Pax insisted all humans were cruel. Arguments would happen all the time.

'I disagree with you about this,' said Peri. 'Joshua is kind.'

'You're wrong, he's like all the others,' said Pax. 'If he catches us, we're goners.' The pixies accepted that neither of them was going to change the other's mind. That's when they stopped quarrelling and moved on.

Comprehension

1. Joshua found an unused door in the

- (a) chook pen
- (b) tree house
- (c) tractor shed
- (d) garage

2. Joshua centred his mind like a

- (a) long distance runner
- (b) religious leader
- (c) competitive swimmer
- (d) Ninja

3. Why did Joshua hold a branch?

- (a) so, he wouldn't fall
- (b) to measure the heights of plants
- (c) to push stones away
- (d) for finding obstacles

4. The tree branch cane was made from

- (a) oak
- (b) plastic
- (c) aluminium
- (d) recycled cardboard

5. List two more types of trees

6. What was the purpose of the old dead tree? To...

- (a) provide a home for lizards
- (b) conceal the pixie house
- (c) build a fairy garden
- (d) use it as fire wood

7. What do you think was crawling on Joshua's neck? Explain.

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8. Number these sentences in order

- (a) Something unusual was happening.
- (b) Tiny creatures lived in the stump.
- (c) He sat down, trying to figure it all out.
- (d) He pictured it in his mind.

9. Pax and Peri are

- (a) cousins
- (b) friends
- (c) siblings
- (d) enemies

10. How was the house inside the stump like a pixie house? Write your answer.

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Spelling

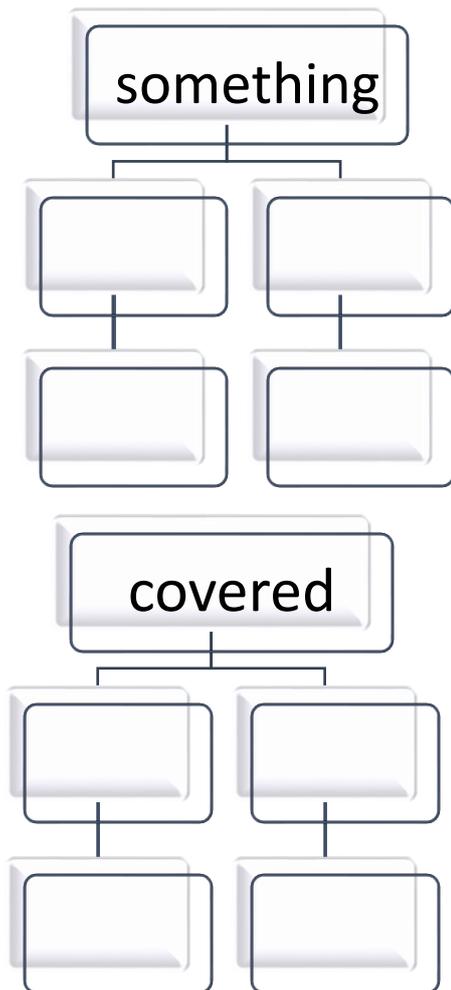
1. Identify the misspelt words and write their correct forms.

Inside the stump, Pa Peri-winkle had made it like a pixie house with cerved ceilings and snuge rooms full of furnature.

The pixie famly made it their home and went about their daily chores.

- (a)
(b)
(c)
(d)

2. Find smaller words inside.



3. Alphabetical order:

- (f) wiped
(g) insisted
(h) voices
(i) wonder
(j) where ——— 3rd

4. Alphabetical order continued:

- (f) tunnel
(g) obstacles
(h) replicated
(i) quarrelling
(j) made ——— 5th

5. From the excerpt, find words that don't change the base word when *ing* is added. e.g., soaring= soar + ing

- (a)
(b)
(c)

6. A spelling tip search:

The 'or' sound after a 'w' is usually spelt as 'ar' Find the word in the excerpt.

Write it here in fancy writing.

Vocabulary

5. Choose the word that has the nearest meaning to the word underlined.

- He wondered what he was doing out there, chasing a silly hunch.

- (a) stoop
- (b) guess
- (c) bug
- (d) hurdle

- Just a few more steps and he'd reach it.

- (a) ladders
- (b) stages
- (c) moves
- (d) paces

- Pa had replicated a pixie garden where they felt safe from the humans.

- (a) protected
- (b) harmless
- (c) kind
- (d) hidden

2. Circle the best word to fit the sentence.

- (a) He followed his (guide, guiding) rope.

- (b) Dad had (cleared, clear) a spot for camp-outs.

- (c) He liked (stay, staying) outside.

- (d) That would (bring, brought) an end to his solo treks.

- (e) He took a long slow (breathe, breath).

3. Write synonyms (similar meaning) for the following words.

- (f) remote-

.....

- (g) habit-.....

- (h) guide-.....

- (i) hazardous-

.....

- (j) obstacles-

.....

4. Finish the sentence. Make your own endings

- (a) Fluttery cobwebs

.....

- (b) He wiped them on

.....

- (c) Inside the stump

.....

Pick a sentence and illustrate.



1. Find the verbs.

(across, down, backwards)

Word list- reach, went, grew,
walked, made, was

r	e	t	s	a	w
e	d	a	m	u	a
a	o	a	g	o	l
c	u	r	e	i	k
h	e	a	s	l	e
w	e	n	t	e	d

Draw a scene from Chapter 2
excerpt

2. Find the nouns

(across, backwards, diagonal)

Word list- warped, shed, rope, idea,
tent, farm

w	a	t	n	e	t
l	a	h	g	d	s
i	m	r	e	s	e
d	r	s	p	h	o
e	a	r	o	e	p
a	f	i	r	d	d

Label and sketch the sounds,
sights, smells, tastes, textures and
sensations (what is the character
feeling?) Colour if you have time.

Joshua: A pixie alliance

Chapter three excerpt – Priya's dragon

Peri wandered up a twisting staircase to her sister's room. The sunlight filtered through silken windows covered with tree sap, and gentle rainforest sounds whispered from Priya's soundbox.

'I don't like it when you don't play with me,' said Priya. As they played, Peri told her stories of the wondrous things outside. The huge birds that walked and pecked at the dirt and things called kites with wings and tails, not even alive, yet they flew in the sky.

'I can't play the whole time,' said Peri.

'Why?'

'Because Pax and I find Joshua's toys.'

'I'm playing with toys. They get lost.'

Priya sat on a hand-made rug with a soft spongy dragon, lifting it high to make it fly.

'Have you lost a toy?' asked Peri.

Pressing a finger to her lips Priya nodded. She picked up the dragon, hiding it behind her back. 'Kazane is lost.'

The Peri-winkle family, gifted with different powers, had kept this secret for ten generations. Peri, empowered with telekinesis, moved small objects with her mind. She imagined Kazane floating to the ceiling. As she did, the toy drifted above her sister's head. Priya pulled her from the air and hugged her dragon.

'Play more games with me,' said Priya.

'Kazane can fly. Did you know that?'

Peri gazed at her little sister. 'Don't be scared,' she said. 'I know what's happening. You're a form changer.'

'I'm making dragons with my marker,' said Priya. She phased in and out of a remarkable change. 'I'm a really good artist, right?'

'I like your drawing,' said Peri softly.

'Does Ma know?'

'No. Don't tell Ma. I really mean it. I'm making this dragon for you, because I love you so much.'

'I love you, too,' said Peri, leaning forward. She brushed away a loose strand of Priya's hair. 'Can you tell me how you do it?'

'Want me to show you?'

Peri nodded. 'I'd like that,' she said.

'Shush!' whispered Priya.

'Why?'

'Ma doesn't know, or Pa. You know. I'm making pictures. Do you like this one?'

'I do like it. Priya, will you show me?'

'Oh yeah! I forgot. Like this...' Priya hugged her dragon and closed her eyes.

At first, her face and arms changed.

Then, she grew a long-padded tail, squashy legs and bulgy feet, looking just like her dragon. 'Don't tell Ma. She won't let me. I want to hug you now,' said Priya, changing back to a pixie, four and a half years old.

Comprehension

1. Why did Priya like playing with Peri and Pax?

- (a) They told her about the land of pixies.
- (b) She always won games.
- (c) They told her stories about the human world.
- (d) They played the games she wanted to play.

2. What came from Priya's sound box?

- (a) rock music
- (b) stories
- (c) rain forest sounds
- (d) flute melodies

3. Who went to see Priya?

- (a) Ma
- (b) Pax
- (c) Joshua
- (c) Peri

4. The windows in her room were made from silk and covered in...

- (a) honey
- (b) tree sap
- (c) paint
- (d) maple syrup

5. List three characters' names

6. Priya was sitting on

- (a) a wooden chair
- (b) her bed
- (c) a hand-made rug
- (d) Kazane

7. Number these sentences in order.

- (a) Peri gazed at her little sister mouth opened to speak. 2nd
- (b) Priya hugged her dragon and closed her eyes.
- (c) *'Play more games with me,' said Priya.*
- (d) At first, her face and arms changed.
- (e) Peri, empowered with telekinesis, moved small objects with her mind.

8. How did Kazane, the toy dragon, float in the air? (write your answer)

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9. How old is Priya?

- (e) five and a half
- (f) five
- (g) four and a half
- (h) six

10. Why didn't Priya want Ma to know she could change into a dragon? Write your answer.

Spelling

1. Identify the jumbled letters. Rearrange to make the correct word forms.

Then, she wreg a long-padded lait, squashy legs and ubgly feet, looking just like her gonrda.

- (a)
(b)
(c)
(d)

2. Use the letters in the following words to make new words.

(a) telekinesis

*
*
*
*

(b) twisting

*
*
*
*

(c) wandered

*
*
*
*

I can spell:

telekinesis, wandered, twisting

3. Alphabetical order:

- (k) gentle
(l) gazed
(m) generations
(n) grew
(o) ground ——— 5th

4. From the excerpt, find words that don't change the base word when *ed* is added. e.g., jumped= jump + ed.

(a)

(b)

5. How many syllables?

A syllable is a single, unbroken vowel sound. It contains one or two vowels + consonants. The vowels are a, e, i, o, u and the letter that wants to be a vowel (letter y).

Tip for counting syllables:

- (a) Count the vowels -little **2 vowels**
(b) Add 1 for letter y. **+ 0**
(c) Subtract 1 for silent letters. Letter e is silent. **- 1**
(d) Subtract 1 for each diphthong or triphthong **none - 0**
(e) Does the word end with *le*? **Yes**
Add 1 only if there is a consonant before the *le*. **Yes letter t. + 1**

The word little has 2 syllables. Try the word generations.

Vocabulary

1. Choose the word that has the nearest meaning to the word underlined.

Pressing a finger to her lips, Priya nodded.

- (a) urging
- (b) pushing
- (c) compressed
- (d) pursuing

Peri, empowered with telekinesis, moved small objects with her mind.

- (e) travelled
- (f) turned
- (g) shifted
- (h) ran

As she did, the toy drifted above her sister's head.

- (e) flowed
- (f) coasted
- (g) wandered
- (h) floated

2. Circle the best word to fit the sentence.

- (a) I'm playing with toys. They get (lose, lost).
- (b) The Peri-winkle family was (gifting, gifted) with powers.
- (c) They kept this a (secret, unknown).
- (d) She picked (at, up) the dragon.
- (e) Her arms (changing, changed).

3. Write synonyms (similar meaning) for the following words.

(a) dreams-

.....

(b) hug-.....

(c) change-.....

(d) draw-.....

(e) ramp-.....

4. Finish the sentence. Make your own endings

(a) Priya hugged

.....

(b) I'm making

.....

(c) Can you tell me how

.....?

Choose a sentence and illustrate

1. Find the verbs.

(across, down, backwards)

Word list- told, flew, pecked, lost,
make, moved

t	o	l	d	m	p
f	t	e	m	a	e
l	t	u	o	k	c
e	s	i	v	e	k
w	o	o	e	o	e
t	l	a	d	u	d

Draw a scene from Chapter 3
excerpt

Find the nouns

(across, backwards, diagonal)

Word list- sounds, sky, dirt, birds,
rug, room

s	s	a	v	b	d
o	k	g	l	i	r
u	h	y	r	r	u
n	j	t	o	d	g
d	k	d	o	s	p
s	u	r	m	o	d

Label a sketch that shows sounds,
sights, smells. Colour if you have
time.