

# Workbook – Chapters 4-6

Name: .....

Date started: .....

# Joshua: A pixie alliance

## **Chapter four excerpt – What a surprise**

*Joshua's love of the farm ruled his life. Each day after school, he'd put on his favourite tee, track pants and sneakers, then go exploring. His imagination, already set on some quest, dreamt up places and people found only in books. Imitating a ninjitsu warrior was his obsession. It boosted his listening skill.*

*Nan had taught him how to click his tongue and make clear sounds. He could tell how far things were away by listening to the echoes bouncing off hard surfaces. He could tell their size. It was how Joshua saw something. Finding out where he was and what was around him became simpler. Finding out who owned the voices was a greater test of his skill.*

*'We haven't met, but you know my name,' said Joshua. He followed his trail, shoes sinking in the grass. 'I wondered who's been in our garden,' he said. 'It's usually quiet apart from a possum stomping around, and birds flapping in the bird bath.' Joshua walked steadily along the path as he closed in on the visitors. 'I hope you'll talk to me.'*

*'Oh, my, oh, my, he can hear us,' said Pax, clinging to the fence. He swallowed hard then started down, not thinking how close Joshua seemed.*

*'Why not talk to him?' asked Peri. She'd thought about it for months and at last owned up.*

'Oh my, oh my,' said Pax, his unblinking eyes bulged. 'What are you saying?'

'I should have said it sooner,' said Peri. 'I'm sorry.'

'No-one's sorrier than me,' Pax grumbled, then shimmied to the ground.

Peri leapt from the fence. Holding her pixie hat as a parachute. It puffed out, quickly filling with air.

They scrambled across to a huge rock and crouched low.

Pax sat stiffly, glancing toward the door. 'Let's go now,' he said.

'Not yet, please?' asked Peri. 'I really believe it's time we introduced ourselves.'

## **1. Word hunt**

Find the words ending with *ing*.

Write them down.

How many did you find?

# Comprehension

1. **Who?** One-word answers.

- (a) Who put on his favourite tee, track pants and sneakers?
- (b) Who taught Joshua how to better listen for sounds?
- (c) Who swallowed hard when Joshua spoke to the pixies at the fence?
- (d) Who used a hat as a parachute?
- (e) Who scrambled to a boulder?
- (f) Who decided it was time to talk to Joshua?

2. List three things found in the garden.

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

3. How did pretending to be a ninja help Joshua? Write your answer.

4. Complete this sentence.

- (a) I really believe it's time we  
.....  
.....

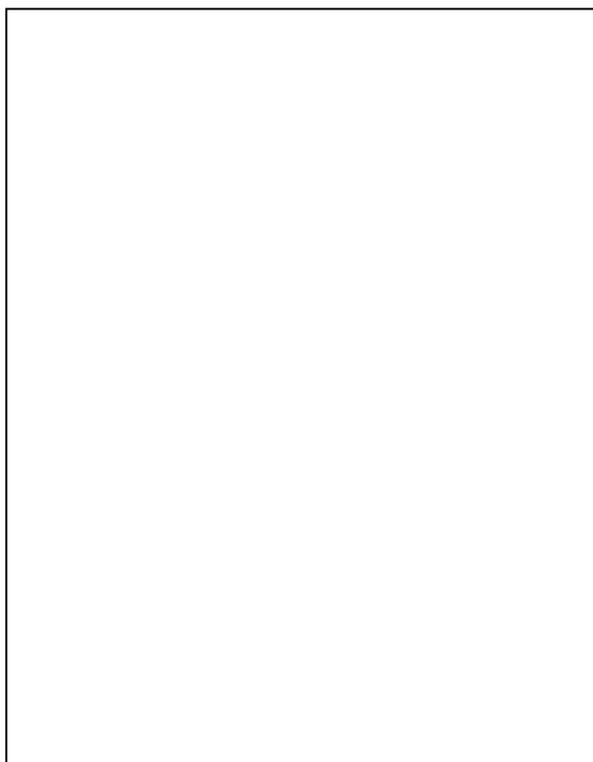
5. Number these sentences in order from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>.

- (a) Why not talk to him?
- (b) Pax sat stiffly, glancing toward the door.
- (c) Peri leapt from the fence.
- (d) Joshua's love of the farm ruled his life.

6. Write three words you would use to describe Joshua.

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

7. Create a sketch of Joshua's garden. Use the text for clues + imagination



# Spelling

1. Find smaller words inside.

(a) things

.....  
.....  
.....

(b) visitors

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. Alphabetical order:

(a) imitating

(b) imagination

(c) introduced

(d) ninjitsu

(e) clinging ————— 1st

3. Alphabetical order continued:

(a) simpler

(b) steadily

(c) school

(d) shoes

(e) swallowed ————— 5<sup>th</sup>

4. Add ing to verbs that ends with e.

Replace the e with ing.

(a) bounce = bounc + **ing** = bouncing

(b) come =

(c) leave =

(d) inhale =

(e) glance =

5. Practice counting syllables:

**Step 1.** Count the vowels -little **2 vowels**

**Step 2** Add 1 for letter y. **+ 0**

**Step 3.** Subtract 1 for silent letters. Letter e is silent. **- 1**

**Step 4.** Subtract 1 for each diphthong or triphthong  
**none - 0**

**Step 5.** Does the word end with le? **Yes**

**Step 6.** Add 1 only if there is a consonant before the le. **Yes letter t. + 1**

***The word little has 2 syllables.***

• **Introduced**

**Step 1.** Count the vowels **4 vowels**

**Step 2.**

**Step 3.**

**Step 4.**

**Step 5.**

**Step 6.**

**The word introduced has**

.....

# Vocabulary

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

- It **boosted** his listening skill.

- (a) improved
- (b) knocked
- (c) build up
- (d) discouraged

- It was how Joshua **saw** something.

- (a) cut
- (b) got
- (c) viewed
- (d) told

- He could tell their **size**.

- (a) amount
- (b) volume
- (c) magnitude
- (d) importance

2. Circle the best word to fit the sentence.

- (a) Imitating a ninjitsu warrior was his (obsessive, obsession).
- (b) She'd thought about it for months and at (last, lastly) owned up.
- (c) They scrambled across to a huge rock and (crouching, crouched) low.
- (d) Pax sat (stiff, stiffly), glancing toward the door.

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

- (a) quickly-

.....

- (b) scrambled-

.....

- (c) friends-.....

- (d) mistake-

.....

- (e) nervous-

.....

4. Nonsense words. Use your imagination.

Make-up words to replace the word in **bold** text. Discuss it with a partner.

- (a) I've done nothing **wrong**.
- (b) It was a **mistake** to tell him.
- (c) The pixies **sprang** to their feet.
- (d) The sunlight **shone** again.

### 1. Find the adjectives.

(diagonal, down, backwards)

Word list- blue, great, our, huge,  
hard, clear

b	a	r	o	c	g
a	l	d	u	l	r
h	e	u	r	e	e
a	f	g	e	a	a
r	h	l	u	r	t
d	s	f	j	h	l

Draw a scene from Chapter 4  
excerpt

### 2. Find the nouns.

(across, diagonal, down,  
backwards)

Word list – school, quest, echoes,  
books, skill, fence

l	e	s	u	o	q
s	o	k	k	f	u
d	h	o	l	e	e
a	g	o	h	n	s
b	m	b	l	c	t
e	c	h	o	e	s

Label a sketch that shows sounds,  
sights, textures and sensations

Colour if you have time.

# Joshua: A pixie alliance

## *Chapter five excerpt – The chase*

Joshua followed his usual track. The garden seemed full of activity. Hens scratched in the dirt, a sprinkler hissed, and hints of light sparked. It was a sunny day.

‘Joshua! We’re up here,’ called Peri.

The pixies stood on the roof of a secure hutch with six windows for good airflow.

Joshua gave them a thumbs-up and a nod. ‘Do you see anyone?’

‘Not yet,’ Pax shouted down.

They saw the wide covered veranda and rows of vegetable crops. Then came the treehouse, a single room with open shutters and a slide that went to the ground.

‘Down here,’ said Joshua, ‘in the garden.’ A skittering noise shot out of the shrubs and hurled itself past him.

The pixies hurried down their rope ladder. It snapped. Pax went flying head-first into a bale of hay. Peri soared through an open window and landed underneath a hen. The squawking hen, all stressed out, her feathers fluffed up. Going at top speed, Pax ran to the door just as Joshua arrived.

‘Our ladder came down. Peri’s inside,’ said Pax.

‘Hens are mighty warriors protecting their chicks,’ said Joshua. ‘Peri needs to bail.’

It was too late. The agitated hen flapped and pecked at Peri. Bwok bwok bwok tap-tap.

‘I’m going in,’ shouted Pax. Then drawing the hen’s attention, he made the sound of an angry hen. Bwak- bwak.

‘You sound like a dog, with a sore throat,’ shouted Peri. She jumped to dodge the strikes. ‘Run for the door!’ Pax yelled. ‘Hey Ma hen! I’m over here.’

The protective mother aimed her jabs at Pax, more forceful this time. He drew back breathless, racing for the door to take cover with the others.

There was another stressful squawk.

‘Oh, what now?’ gasped Pax.

It didn’t take Joshua long to work out. Running across the pen was Ryker. ‘That rooster has a lot to say. He’s warning the hens about me. But he’s late.’ It was then that Ryker’s call to safety grew loud, and the hens in the garden scattered.

Joshua held his arms in the air and took one step forward. Then, listening for the rooster’s raspy breath, he aimed a stare.

‘What’s that you’re doing?’ asked Peri, hiding with Pax behind a seed tray.

‘I’m staring. He needs to know I’m not afraid.’ He took another step.

‘You can’t see him,’ said Pax.

‘He doesn’t know that,’ Joshua said, laughing. He stood firm.

# Comprehension

1. What happened to the rope ladder?

2. Where did Peri land?

3. What happened to Pax?

4. What did Joshua say the hens were like when they protected their chicks?

5. List three things the pixies saw from the henhouse roof

6. The agitated hen pecked at ...

- (a) Joshua
- (b) Pax
- (c) Ryker
- (d) Peri

7. What did Pax do to get the hen's attention?

.....  
.....

8. Number these sentences in order

- (a) A skittering noise shot out of the shrubs.
- (b) There was another stressful squawk.
- (c) The Pixies hurried down their rope ladder.
- (d) Joshua followed his usual track. 1st

9. Joshua stared at

- (a) Pax
- (b) Ryker
- (c) the hens
- (d) Peri

10. What makes a comfortable henhouse for hens and chicks?

Make a list of three items.

.....  
.....  
.....

11. Draw a comfortable henhouse.



# Spelling

1. Find a word and write it down.

(a) agedgarde**garden**engar

garden

(b) vegevegetabvegetablevege

(c) lladderladeladerladdelader

2. Write in the missing letters.

(a) shut...e...s

(b) w...rr...ors

(c) ...y...e...r

(d) s...r...ss...u...l

3. Alphabetical order: Write these words in correct order.

hurled, hissed, held

(a)

(b)

(c)

4. Alphabetical order continued:

Why is this order incorrect?

1<sup>st</sup> stood

2<sup>nd</sup> shrub

3<sup>rd</sup> sprinkler

.....

5. What is the base word for each of the following words?

(a) protective

(b) scratched

(c) skittering

(d) windows

(e) mighty

6. Choose one base word and write it in a sentence.

7. Illustrate your sentence.

8. How many words can you make from the word **protect**? Write them down.

9. Tick the words you can spell.

1. down

2. shouted

3. flapped

4. agitated

5. arrived

# Sentences

1. Referring words keep the flow and avoid repetition.

(a) Noun-pronoun chains:

**Joshua** was in the garden. **He** followed his trail. **His** pace was fast.

### Joshua-He-His

Make up your own Noun-pronoun chain and write it.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(b) Noun-pronoun chains continued.

**Joshua** held **Joshua's** arms in the air and took one step forward. Then, listening for the rooster's raspy breath, **Joshua** aimed a stare.

Replace two Joshua's with pronouns.

Write the Noun-pronoun chain on the line.

.....

2. More referring words: **Articles** (a, an, the)

The definite article, **the**, comes before a noun. It limits the meaning of the noun to one particular thing.

**The** garden seemed full of activity.

The sentence is talking about one particular garden. The reader knows it's Joshua's garden that is full of activity.

(a) Circle the **definite article** and underline **its noun or noun group**.

They saw the wide covered veranda

Pax ran to the door just as Joshua arrived.

She jumped to dodge the strikes.

Running across the pen was Ryker.

(b) **Indefinite articles** (a, an) indicate that a noun refers to a general idea.

Pax went flying head-first into **a bale of hay**. The reader pictures an idea of what a hay bale might look like. The text does not refer to any particular hay bale. There are probably many hay bales around, on a farm.

Circle the indefinite article and underline the generalised noun or noun groups.

You sound like a dog, with a sore throat.

Ryker let out a loud crow.

He made the sound of an angry hen.

# Vocabulary

Words we understand and actively use in everyday speaking and writing.

**1.** garden - What is a garden?

Write your definition.

Now, write the dictionary meaning.

Draw a garden



**2.** hutch – What is a hutch?

Write what you think.

Now, write the dictionary meaning.

Draw a hutch.



**3.** Word usage.

(a) Write a sentence with the word garden.

(b) Write a sentence with the word hutch.

**4.** Make a list of words connected with a garden.

...leaves.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**5.** Brain storm a list of animals that might find shelter in a hutch.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**6.** A garden is a busy place. How is it busy? Write down some ideas.

Compare / contrast with a friend.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

# Joshua: A pixie alliance

## Chapter six excerpt – intruder alert

Believing he'd made a good impression on the pixies, Joshua hurried to the old iron gate. He hoped they were there, fingers crossed. Joshua moved faster than usual along his trail and smiled, hearing their voices. They waited on the gate post and, from there, leapt across to his shoulder.

As Joshua went to open the gate, a happy humming sound drifted over the fence right before a furry face appeared.

'Alpaca!' cried, Pax. The pixies looked up at great flaring nostrils and a wide mouth. Pax's eyes boggled. He searched for a place to hide. Then, seeing a pocket in Joshua's backpack, he pulled Peri along, and they jumped.

'You won't let it eat us?' called Peri.

'Alpacas are harmless, just chill,' said Joshua. He reached for the alpaca's fluffy head and scratched his long neck. Short spear-shaped ears, upright and turned forward, a sign of contentment. 'They eat green grass and snack on apple. Not big bits or they'll choke.'

'He's so cute,' said Peri. Adoring eyes gleamed. 'Does he have a name?'

'Alvie. It means noble friend.' Alvie's monstrous nose nuzzled Joshua's cheek.

'Oh, gross!' said Pax. 'Did he just kiss you?'

'Alvie won't kiss everyone. He has to like you first.'

'He sure likes you,' said Peri.

'We're family. I've known Alvie since he was a cria. That's a baby.'

'Does he live in the paddock?' asked Peri.

'If he's away from the herd too long, he gets sad.'

The gate swung open without any effort as Alvie nibbled the green grass, waiting.

'Alpacas, don't rip it out. Instead, they trim off the tops like lawnmowers,' said Joshua. He strolled to a cable he helped set up with Uncle Brad. It went through the paddock, all the way to the cornfields. Suddenly, Alvie shrieked.

'What's up with him?' asked Pax.

1. Fill this space with words about Alvie.

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

# Spelling

1. Identify the jumbled letters. Rearrange to write their correct forms.

As Joshua went to open the **teag**, a happy humming sound **detfird** over the fence right before a **yrrfu** face **redaapp**.

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

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

(a) lawnmowers

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(b) everyone

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(c) drifted

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

I can spell these words. (Tick)

paddock, pocket, searched

1. Alphabetical order:

- (f) pixies  
(g) pocket  
(h) post  
(i) place  
(j) pulled ——— 5th

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

(a)

(b)

3. 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 -dangerous **4**

**vowels**

- (b) Add 1 for letter y. **+ 0**

- (c) Subtract 1 for silent letters. Letter e is silent. **- 0**

- (d) Subtract 1 for each diphthong or triphthong diphthong **ou - 1**

- (e) Does the word end with *le*? **No**  
Add 1 only if there is a consonant before the *le*. **No. + 0**

**The word dangerous has 3 syllables.**

**Try the word generations.**

# Vocabulary

1. Choose the word that best replaces the underlined word.

Joshua hurried to the old iron gate.

- (a) quick
- (b) speedy
- (c) rushed
- (d) sudden

A happy humming sound drifted over the fence.

- (e) wandered
- (f) gliding
- (g) flow
- (h) floated

They waited on the gate post.

- (e) stayed
- (f) lingering
- (g) continue
- (h) remaining

2. Circle the best word to fit the sentence.

(a) The pixies (leapt, leaping) across to his shoulder.

(b) He (scratch, scratched) his long neck.

(c) The gate (swung, swing) open without any effort.

(d) It went (threw, through) the paddock.

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

(a) gleamed-

.....

(b) monstrous-

.....

(c) nuzzled -

.....

(d) cute -.....

(e) rip-.....

4. Finish the sentence. Make your own endings

(a) Pax searched for

.....

(b) The pixies looked up at

.....

(c) Dis he just

.....?

Draw a cute Alvie the alpaca picture.

**Find the verbs.**

(across, down, backwards)

Word list- hoped, moved, leapt,  
open, make, moved

t	d	e	p	o	h
f	m	n	e	p	o
m	o	v	e	d	c
e	v	i	v	e	k
l	e	a	p	t	e
t	d	m	a	k	e

Draw a scene from Chapter 6  
excerpt

**Find the nouns**

(across, backwards, diagonal,  
down)

Word list- trail, gate, fence, mouth,  
head, room

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

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