

Ark Pioneer Reading Booklet

Cirque du Freak *by Darren Shan*



Well done for taking up the extra reading to support your curriculum booklets.

Answers will be revealed later so use your best judgement to write in full sentences for these questions. You can print this booklet and write your answers on the booklet or complete this work in your Home Learning exercise book or on some paper.

Email your form tutor or Ms Chaggar if you require extra support .

Name:

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Paperback book details:

- Publisher: **Harper Collins Children's Books**
- ISBN: **978-0006754169**

Kindle details:

- Free if you have an Amazon Fire for Kids Unlimited subscription or £0.99 if you do not

Introduction

1. What has the narrator always been fascinated by? Why did this annoy his mother?

Chapter 1

2. Who is the narrator's best friend? How is his best friend described?

3. Why was Mr Dalton angry with Darren and how did Steve calm Mr Dalton down?

4. What was the bad news Steve told the group of friends and how do you think they would feel about this?

Chapter 6

5. How did Darren get a ticket to go to the freak show?

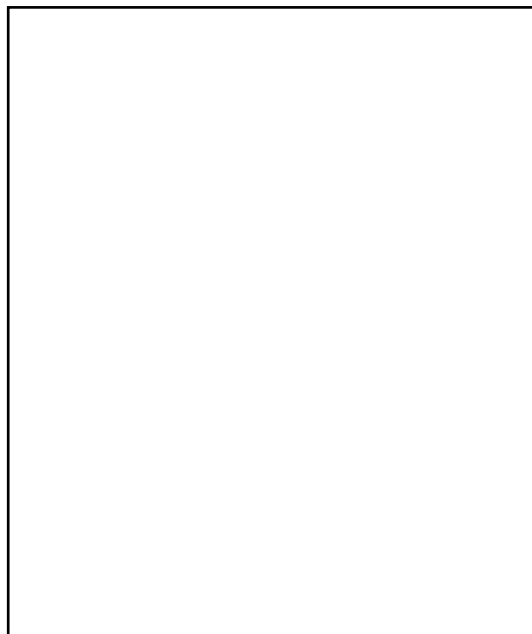
Chapter 7

6. What did the outside of the building where the freak show was happening look like?

Chapter 8




7. What did the tall man look like? How do you think Darren felt towards him?

Draw a picture of him here:



Chapter 10, 11 and 12

8. Match up the name of the act to the description of their act.

<p>Rhamus Twobellies</p> 		<p>'He pointed to a huge clock being lowered from ropes above...The clock started to tick and... started to eat like the wind. His arms moved so fast you could hardly seem them. His mouth didn't seem to close at all. He shovelled food in, swallowed and moved on...He had eaten all that food in less than 5 minutes.'</p>
<p>Alexander Ribs</p>		<p>'was very beautiful dressed in flowing red robes...stepped closer to the edge of the stage then said something that sounded like a seal barking. She put her hands on her face one at either side and stroked the skin gently. Then she held her nose shut with two fingers and tickled her chin with the other hand. An extraordinary thing happened. She began to grow a beard.'</p>
<p>Hans Hands</p>		<p>'...he was a contortionist...somebody with bones like rubber who can bend every which way. First, he tilted his head back so far it looked like it had been cut off. He turned around so we could see his upside-down face then went on leaning backward until his head was touching the floor. Then he put his hands around the backs of his legs and pulled his head through until it was sticking up in front of him. It looked like it was growing out of his stomach. He straightened up and began twisting his body round like a curly-wurly straw.'</p>
<p>Truska</p> 		<p>'a creepy looking man...turned and face us. He bowed and smiled...."Madame Octa has been with me for several years...some of her kind live to be 20 or 30 years old. She is an incredible creature, both intelligent and poisonous"...Mr Crepsley produced a shiny tin whistle. He called it a flute...and blew a few sharp notes. Madame Octa immediately leaped through the air and landed on the goat's neck."</p>
<p>Mr Crepsley and Madame Octa</p> 		<p>'sat down pulled up his legs and wrapped his feet around his neck he stood on his hands walked up and down the stage then hopped off and challenged four men, picked at random, to a race. They could race on their feet he would race on his hands he promised a bar of gold to anyone who could beat him.'</p>

Chapter 14

9. How can you tell that the audience feared the snake?

Chapter 19

10. What tricks does Darren get the spider to do?

Chapter 22

11. Using the numbers 1-5, order/sequence the events from this chapter, where '1' shows this event happened first:

	Darren had to leave the hospital – it was late.
	At the hospital, Annie and Darren went to get a drink. Annie tried to convince Darren to tell them the truth.
	An ambulance arrives and takes Steve away. Darren, his mum and Annie follow behind in the car.
	Darren starts to hate Madame Octa and threw her cage. It flies out the window.
	Steve's mum arrived at the hospital and is angry about what happened to Steve.
	Darren ran outside to see where the cage landed but he finds Mr Crepsley who takes the cage, and Madame Octa, away.

Chapter 25

12. What are the duties of a vampire's assistant and what else does it involve? Detail at least 4 things.

Chapter 27

13. What changes did Darren notice about himself and how do you think he feels about them?

Chapter 27 and 28

14. Why did Darren give in and become the Vampire's Assistant?

Chapter 28

15. How do you think Darren felt knowing he was leaving his human life behind? How can you tell?

Chapter 33


16. Prediction

The book is the first in a series of books. What do you think might happen in the next few books?



Aim High

These tasks are only here if you want to aim high and really impress your teachers and possibly get rewards! You can do as many or as little as you like of these tasks.

- Research and find out more about Victorian freak shows. Make a poster to present what you have learnt.
- Write a story imagining what life was like for one of the freaks before they joined the show. You could even include how they joined the freak show in your story.
- Write your own spooky story.
- Read the other books in the Cirque du Freak series. You could even design some questions about one of the books.
- Look at the description of the first freak in chapter 9. Draw a picture of him and Madame Octa, labelling it to explain your choices.
- Design a film poster for a film adaptation. You could include the following on it:
 - Pictures of the main characters: Darren, Steve, Mr Crepsley and Madame Octa
 - A clear title of the film.
 - Decide what age rating you will give the film. E.g. 
 - A film slogan. This is a short phrase to make the audience want to watch the film. E.g. 'Meet Darren. He's sixteen going on immortal.'
 - A spooky background
- Write a book review including:
 - Your opinion of the book
 - Your favourite part
 - Your favourite character
 - Any other comments about the way the story is written

