



English

Year 6 Transition

The Good Thieves - Katherine Rundell

The Good Thieves is an exciting novel that we hope you will enjoy if you choose to read some or all of it, on your own or with your family.

All the activities in this booklet are optional, but we hope you'll have a go at something.

Write your answers in the booklet and bring this booklet and your text with you when you start at Copley, as we will discuss any activities you have done in English lessons.



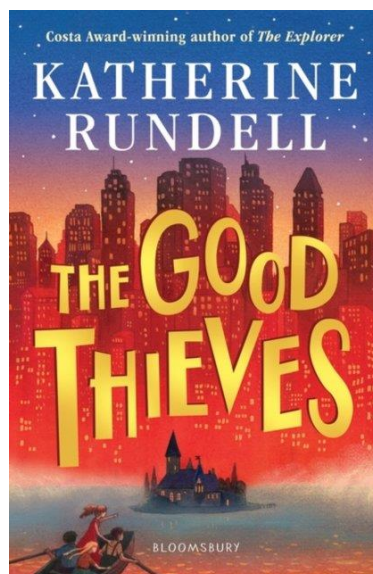
Speculation

What does the title *The Good Thieves* make you think about?

What can you see on the cover?

What does this cover tell us/suggest about the story?

What would we like to find out about the story? What questions do we have about the story?



Equipment = the necessary items for a particular purpose – e.g. map

Conditions = the things that have an effect or influence – e.g. darkness

Heist

What does the word heist mean?

If you were planning a heist what essential equipment and conditions would you need?
Write your own list.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



The Heroine



Vita set her jaw and nodded at the city in greeting, as a boxer greets an opponent before a fight. She stood alone on the deck of the ship. The sea was wild and stormy, casting salt spray thirty feet into the air, and all the other passengers on the ocean liner, including her mother, had taken sensible refuge in their cabins. But it is not always sensible to be sensible. Vita had slipped away and stood out in the open, gripping the rail with both hands as the boat crested a wave the size of an opera house. So it was that she alone had the first sight of the city. 'There she is!' called a deck hand. 'In the distance, port side!' New York climbed out of the mist, tall and grey-blue and beautiful; so beautiful that it pulled Vita forwards to the bow of the boat to stare. She was leaning over the railing, as far out as she dared, when something came flying at her head. She gasped and ducked low. A seagull was chasing a young crow across the sky, pecking at its back, wheeling and shrieking in mid-air. Vita frowned. It wasn't, she thought, a fair fight. She felt in her pocket, and her fingers closed on an emeraldgreen marble. She took aim, a brief and angry calculation of distance and angle, drew back her arm, and threw. The marble caught the seagull on the exact centre of the back of its skull. The gull gave the scandalised cry of an angry duchess, and the crow spun in the air and sped back towards the skyscrapers of New York.

(Chapter 1)

Retrieve

Where is Vita?

Where is she going?

Where are Vita's mother and all of the other passengers?

What does Vita throw at the seagull?

Does Vita hit the seagull?

What happens to the crow?

Vocabulary

What is a 'refuge'?

Find a phrase that shows Vita knows how to throw things with accuracy.

Define 'scandalised'.

Summarise

Summarise what happens in the extract in less than 50 words.

Infer

Why do you think Vita is on the deck by herself?

Can you find a phrase that suggests Vita doesn't follow the rules?

Why does Vita decide to throw something at the seagull?

Predict

Why Vita might be on the ship sailing to New York?

Will Vita like New York or not?

Castles



It looked like it had been designed by someone who had seen more castles in picture books than in the flesh; it looked like someone had sought the essence of castle. The ornamental lake was edged with trees, the water blue-black. Rising on stone foundations from the middle of the water was a wall, and beyond the wall a garden, surrounding on three sides a great block of brick and stone. The castle was topped with a single turret and battlements, silver-black in the moonlight. One wall of the castle dropped straight into the water, and its reflection glinted and shimmered, fairy-tale-like. Vita's whole body thrilled and shook at the sight of it. It was real.

(Chapter 18)

Imagine you are standing with Vita looking at the strange castle you are about to break into.

How would you feel?

What would you notice? Complete the following sentences:

I can see

I can hear

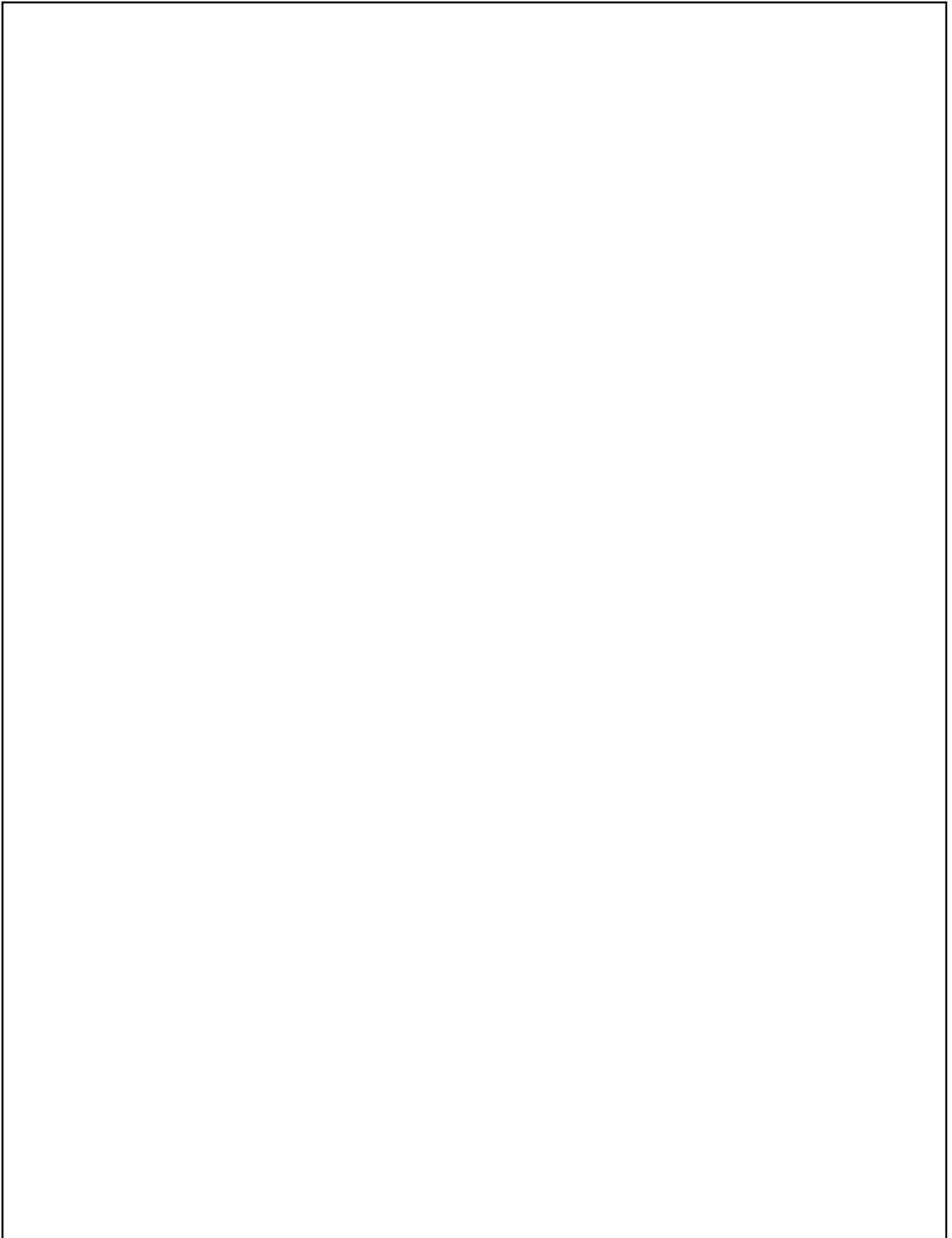
I can smell

I can touch

I can taste



Draw a picture of what you think the castle looks like (use clues from the text to help you).



If you want some support with reading the novel or prefer to listen to someone else reading, use the QR code below to take you to recordings of each chapter of the novel, read by members of staff.

