

Crow Thief of Magic Fiona Dixon



"A glorious adventure, glittering with dream magic, danger, and truest friendship. Crow's tale is sure to capture the imaginations of readers everywhere, and linger long after the final page – it is a phenomenal piece of storytelling." (Source: Aisling Fowler, author of Fireborn)

COMPREHENSION PACK

Pre-teach: Vocabulary (Pages 1–9)

(Introducing around 3-5 new words is ample before reading. Pre-teaching helps to avoid cognitive overload.)

Top Tip: Pre-teaching vocabulary before reading allows for greater understanding and keeps the pace of the story. Good practice is to introduce the vocabulary and then to have it and/or any pictures displayed throughout the session for children to refer to. Even better – SWAG the vocabulary to 'read as a writer' later.

gilded – covered thinly in gold



wares – the goods or products a merchant would sell

curtail – reduce or stop something

sanctioned – something is approved or accepted

eyrie – a location, high up with good vantage point

camaraderie – shared friendliness amongst others

Before reading, show map, the front cover and blurb.
  first impressions.

Read – Pages 1–9

(Best practice is to read the text to your class, before any choral or repeated reading. You are the expert who can model fluency and expression. It also gives them chance to use the 'pre-teach' information as you are reading.)



Quick Retrieval

1. On page 2, what **three** colours 'streaked across the sky'?
2. What **word** do the friends say to 'keep the hope alive'? [page 7]
3. How many years ago did the plague break out in Starsgard? [page 2]



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2a Vocabulary in Context

1. **Find** and **copy a word** on page 3 that means *to open*.
2. Find a copy a **word** on page 2 **closest in meaning to** *climbing quickly*.
3. **Find** and **copy a word** on page 2 **closest in meaning to** a small, scattered amount.
4. What does the phrase "*beating heart of the city*" tell us about the importance of the market?



Similes are a literary device, which use *like* or *as* to compare.



metaphors are a literary device, which states something *is/are* another thing

2b Retrieval

1. On page 3, name **three** feast items.
2. What is the name of the comet? [page 4]
3. What age will Crow be on the *next* comet? [page 5]
4. Find a **simile** on page 1.



5. Can you find a **metaphor** on page 1?

Based on the whole text, put one tick or cross against each statement.

statement	True	False
The festivities start on All Souls' Eve.		
Crow's friends are Val and Jonas.		
The comet is Oros the Change giver.		
The cake was smothered in orange-flavoured icing.		



Prove it - How can you prove your answers are correct?

Make your own retrieval true or false question, based on the whole text. Quiz your partner.



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2c Summarise

Number the events below from 1–4 to show the order they happen in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Sal's eyes widened as she took in the feast.
- ☐ Crow picked up a boiled egg and peeled the shell.
- 1** Traders come from neighbouring countries.
- ☐ Jonas thrust his fist out declaring, "All or nothing!"

2d Inference

1. On page 6 it states, "*the cake disappeared in seconds.*" What does this imply about the characters?
2. What does the author mean by, "*It had made a dent in the coin.*" ? [page 4]
3. What does "They'd learned the lesson the hard way" on page 7 suggest?

2e prediction

1. Based on what you have read so far in chapter one and the final statement "*All or nothing*" What do you think will happen next in the text and why? [2 marks]

2f authorial language

1. On page 4, phrase does the author use to tell you that Sal enjoyed the taste of the pie.
2. On page 7, in the phrase "*nooks and crannies all over the city,*" what does the author's choice of the words "nooks and crannies" suggest about the setting?
 - A) It is large and empty
 - B) It has many small, hidden spaces
 - C) It is bright and modern
 - D) It is noisy and crowded

2g authorial intent

1. Why might the author have chosen the phrase "*nooks and crannies*" instead of just saying "places"? Explain how this affects the reader's understanding.
2. How does the author use language to present Crow in the description "*dark eyes glowed*" and "*dark eyes dancing*"? Explain the effect on the reader. [3 marks]

2h Comparison

1. How is Crow presented differently from the other characters in Chapter 1? Use **evidence from the text** to support your answer. (2–3 marks)



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Suggested Answers

Quick Retrieval

1. coral **pink** / burnt **orange** / deep **red** (also accept **bold** answers)
2. someday
3. 15 / fifteen

2a vocabulary in context

1. uncorked
2. scrambled
3. smattering
4. it is vital / really important / central / relied upon to survive or live.

2b retrieval

1. loaf of freshly baked **bread** / wedge of **cheese** / boiled **eggs** / meat **pie** / bunch of **grapes** / bottles of ginger **cordial** / small **cake** (also accept **bold** answers)
2. Oros the Changebringer / Oros (accept Changebringer)
3. eighty-seven / 87
4. like a map / like a flock of birds
5. Challenge: "beating heart of the city" (saying it is that thing/noun)

True or False?

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. False

2c sequencing

2,3,1,4

2d inference

1. Anything to suggest the characters are eating on impulse, rather than etiquette
e.g. They were ravenous / really hungry / starving / it was a rare treat for them because they are poor / excited to have cake, which is a luxury / not had cake in a very long time so they were desperate to eat it
2. **metaphorical** It had been expensive / a great expense / it was an unexpected luxury / they had spent a lot / their money has reduced significantly.
3. They had been too trusting before / made mistakes that they had to learn from / had unpleasant experiences / they were not taught or told (by a parent/adult) and gained knowledge from their own experiences.



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Suggested Answers



2e prediction

'All or nothing' suggests that the characters are going to take part in their mission to escape fully. They are 'all in' and united and will not stop until they succeed. There is no middle ground or compromise. It will be done completely or not at all.

2f authorial language

1. her 'eyes lit up'
2. b - it has many small, hidden spaces

2g authorial intent

1. the space is full of small, hidden places. This makes the setting seem more detailed and interesting, as if there are places to explore or secrets to discover. It also creates a slightly mysterious atmosphere, helping the reader imagine a place that is unusual. The characters have to be secretive and hide their goods/riches from other thieves. Maybe they have been robbed before when leaving it all in one place.
- 2.

2 mark answer. The author uses "dark eyes" to make Crow seem mysterious and possibly dangerous. The words "glowed" and "dancing" suggest his eyes are unusual or magical, which makes the reader curious about him.

3 mark answer. The author describes Crow's "dark eyes" to create a sense of mystery and hint that he might be dangerous or not entirely trustworthy. The verb "glowed" suggests something unnatural or magical, while "dancing" shows movement and energy, possibly hinting at mischief or unpredictability. This makes the reader feel curious and slightly uneasy about Crow, encouraging them to read on.

2h comparison

1. **Various answers** - comparing his personality, physical appearance, his goals or ambition, his skills e.g. lockpicking, his name

point + evidence = 2 marks

2 points + evidence = 3 marks

