

To the Light

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Introduction

Welcome! This unit of work has been written to help teachers provide students with practical, positive reading and learning experiences. It is divided into three sections: Chapters 1-5, 6-10 and 11-16. Each section has a listening comprehension quiz, two-level questions, a 10-word spelling list, fill-in-the-blanks vocabulary and a language lesson. At the end of the unit are suggested major activities and an answer section.

The language sections cover apostrophes (they're, their, there) and choosing the right verb. The major activities include writing a book review, performing a role-play, and designing a poster.

This unit of work is available for free by downloading from the author's website www.patflynnwriter.com or the publisher's website: www.uqp.uq.edu.au. www.patflynnwriter.com includes other materials that may assist teachers and students, such as reviews, an author biography and Frequently Asked Questions.

Parts of this unit are interactive, including writing a book review to the author. To obtain a reply make sure students write "review" in the subject of the email. The email address is author@patflynnwriter.com. If students don't have access to the net and would like to send letters, please include a stamped addressed envelope to Pat Flynn C/O UQP, PO Box 6042, St Lucia, QLD, 4067.

Themes

To the Light examines the challenge of **being true to one's self** during adolescence, a time when fitting in is most important. Jamie, Mark and Sky all make choices as to how much they're willing to change in order to fit in with their peers.

Jamie feels different because she's not a typical girl. Being a surfer with no female friends, Jamie's aware that she's not like other girls. In fact, her being a girl at all comes as a surprise to young readers, who assume she's a boy right up to the final page. (Be sure not to give this twist away!) This can stimulate a discussion about **gender stereotypes**, and why readers believe that Jamie must be a boy even though this is never stated. Students can find examples in the book (pages 8, 21, 49, 79) where a careful reading will show that Jamie is most likely a girl.

Jamie has to decide how much she is willing to change in order to be accepted, and Mark and Sky provide two different examples. Mark is content with who he is, and would rather be on his own than act like someone he's not simply to have friends. Sky is the opposite, embracing popularity much like a dog chews on a bone.

Jamie eventually learns from Des – the Mal rider – that **respecting yourself** and **facing up to your fears** is the best way to contentment.

Other themes include the **fine line between popularity and exclusion**, the importance of **confidence** and the **wisdom of older people**.

CHAPTERS 1-5

Taking Notice. Listening Comprehension – Quiz 1

1. Where is Jamie coming in the Gromz-R-U's surfing series? (p.2)
 - a. First
 - b. Third
 - c. Tenth
 - d. Last

2. What does Jamie call Sky? (p.11)
 - a. Cloud
 - b. Miss Popular
 - c. Queen Bee
 - d. Catwalk

3. According to Candice Bullpit, where is Scott Weston rated in the Year 8 popularity list? (p.13)
 - a. Thirty-third
 - b. First
 - c. Third
 - d. He's not in it.

4. In Chapter 4, (p.24) Mark challenged Rory to a:
 - a. Surfing Competition
 - b. Payout Competition
 - c. Spelling Competition
 - d. Fight

5. In Chapter 5, (p.28) the Mal Rider tells Jamie to watch the:
 - a. Other surfers
 - b. Waves
 - c. Sunrise
 - d. Ball

Chapters 1-5

Spelling

List 1

avalanche
metal
imaginary
moustache
exaggerated
tsunami
surgeon
conjured
submission
knobbly

Vocabulary

Place the correct words from List 1 into the following sentences.

1. I sink the nose of the board with a _____ right knee and make it under the first breaker. (Chapter 1)
2. 'You gotta put the pedal to the _____ when you're in the barrel,' Mitch says. (Chapter 2)
3. 'The only time I _____ is when the priest asked me if I would "honour and obey" and I said yes!' Mum says. (Chapter 3)
4. It turns out his crazy streak is like a _____ – rare but very big. (Chapter 4)
5. Out of nowhere a wave appears, like it's being _____ up. (Chapter 5)

Chapters 1-5

Language Lessons— Apostrophes

Apostrophes have two main purposes:

1. To indicate that one or more letters have been left out
 - e.g. I'll = I will, don't = do not, you've = you have.
2. To show ownership, or possession, of something
 - Ben's feet are smelly = The feet that Ben own smell!

To show possession, the general rule is to add an apostrophe and an S to nouns that do not end in S (tree's branches - meaning the branches of one particular tree) or to just add the apostrophe to words that end in S (trees' branches - meaning the branches of more than one tree).

For singular nouns that end in S, you can either add an apostrophe and an S (Eg, Jess's book, the Jones's car) or just add an apostrophe (Jess' book, the Jones' car). Either is okay.

Exercises

1. Place the apostrophe in the correct position then write out the missing letters underneath. (Eg, wouldn't- would not)
 - Ive just turned 13 but get the feeling that life cant get much better.
 - They dont wait for me to change my mind.
 - She doesnt say it but I know what she means. Hes not popular enough.
 - Its true that Mum exaggerates.
 - Mark looks up and to the left. Its like hes debating alternative answers in his head.
2. Add the apostrophe to represent ownership in the appropriate place.
 - Apparently, Marks mother hit the bottle hard after her husbands death.
 - According to Candice Bullpits list, Scott Weston is the 33rd most popular kid in Year 8.
 - The moments hesitation means I stand under the falling lip.
 - Skys new walk makes me want to throw up.
 - My mums advice is not something I always listen to.

Chapters 6-10

Taking Notice. Listening Comprehension – Quiz 2

1. Rory's best mate is: (p.31)
 - a. Allan Clarkson
 - b. Andrew Clarkson
 - c. Alex Clarke
 - d. Andrew Clarke

2. Sky asks Shani to buy her and Melissa: (p.29)
 - a. Donuts
 - b. Twisties
 - c. Diet Cokes
 - d. Gameboys

3. In order to improve, the Mal Surfer has Jamie ride on a: (p.41)
 - a. Boogey Board
 - b. Mini-Mal
 - c. Shortboard
 - d. Skateboard

4. Jamie finds out that the Mal Rider's name is: (p.47)
 - a. Jack McGrath
 - b. Des Smith
 - c. Des Turner
 - d. Kelly Slater

5. Mitch's new girlfriend is: (p.53)
 - a. Sky
 - b. Candice Bullpitt
 - c. Shani
 - d. Melissa

Chapters 6-10

Questions

What's It Mean? Explain the following quotes in your own words.

1. 'I walk away from the ringing of laughter, the saddest laughter I've ever heard.'
(p.33)

2. 'Sky gives Melissa a dazzling smile and speaks to her in the hushed tones she reserves for the chosen ones.' (p.37)

Have Your Say

1. 'It's no secret that my sister and I aren't the best of friends. In fact, I don't think I even like her. But I love her. She is my sister, after all.' (p.51)
Is it possible to love someone without liking them? Explain.

Chapters 6-10

Spelling

List 2

coffee
incredulously
pirouette
philosophy
sigh
sleek
scurries
occasionally
photocopy
ally

Vocabulary

Place the correct words from List 2 into the following sentences.

1. Mark _____ past. (Chapter 6)
2. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. That is the _____ of the Queen Bee. (Chapter 7)
3. I breathe a _____ of relief. (Chapter 8)
4. Dad makes Mum a cup of freshly brewed _____. (Chapter 9)
5. She'll start by gaining the support of her most trusted _____. (Chapter 10)

Chapters 6-10

Language Lessons—There, Their, They're

Some words sound the same but have different meanings. **There**, **Their** and **They're** are three such words.

Their is a possessive pronoun for more than one owner of something. Unlike the possessives you practised earlier in this unit, it doesn't need an apostrophe and an 's'.

- Jamie and Mark are working on **their** science assignment.

They're is short for they are.

- They think **they're** so cool, but **they're** not.

For all other uses **There** is correct. It often has to do with a place or location.

- Jamie went **there** by car.

It can be used in other ways.

- Mr Forzatti said **there** is no fighting allowed in the science lab.
- **There** is a boy named Rory who is good at paying people out.

Exercise

Place the correct there, they're, or their in the following sentences.

1. Anyone who says () cool probably isn't, and if they say () uncool they probably are!
2. () is a mean boy named Rory who pushed Mark off the bridge.
3. Scott and Jamie sat on () surfboards and talked.
4. () is a new girl at school named Melissa. You should hear the boys, () all crazy about her.
5. Jamie and the Mal rider take () boards to the other side of the Point. It's a long walk ().

Chapters 11-16

Taking Notice. Listening Comprehension – Quiz 3

1. The shed at Mark's house seems to double as a: (p.57)
 - a. Science Lab
 - b. Gym
 - c. Library
 - d. Bedroom

2. In Chapter 12, what happens to Jamie's surfboard? (p.69)
 - a. It gets stolen
 - b. It gets lost
 - c. It snaps in two
 - d. Nothing

3. Who is Mark and Jamie's science teacher? (p.76)
 - a. Mr Carmichael
 - b. Mr Forzatti
 - c. Mrs Smith
 - d. Miss Dawson

4. In Chapter 14, who comes to visit Jamie at home? (p.78)
 - a. Scott
 - b. Mitch
 - c. Melissa
 - d. Des

5. How old is the surfboard that Jamie rides in the comp? (p.84)
 - a. Brand new
 - b. Five years old
 - c. Ten years old
 - d. Twenty-nine years old

Chapters 11-16

Questions

What's It Mean? Explain the following quotes in your own words.

1. 'Panic starts grabbing me by the throat, squeezing the life out of me like a boa constrictor.' (p.69)

2. 'My face is burning, and not from the sun.' (p.85)

Have Your Say

1. On page 62, Mark says, 'I'd rather be alone than try and be someone I'm not, just to fit in.' Would you be able to survive at school without friends? Describe a time when you felt really alone.

Chapters 11-16

Spelling

List 3

buoyancy
squatting
whizzes
peek
ridiculous
saviour
humungous
barrelling
dye
unique

Vocabulary

Place the correct words from List 3 into the following sentences.

1. 'I can't think of anything more _____.' (Chapter 11)
2. Mark was _____ down beside me. (Chapter 11)
3. A school of fish _____ past and the sun takes its first _____ of the day. (Chapter 12)
4. It now seemed about as smart as the time I let Sky _____ my hair blond. (Chapter 13)
5. 'I'm sure you've noticed that this competitor is _____ among the surfers here. (Chapter 16)

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

The following are suggested major activities to accompany the book.

Book Review

The main task of a book review is to tell the reader whether the book is worth reading.

In a review you should:

- Give your opinion clearly
- Support your opinion by referring to specific good and bad things about the book. For example, how realistic were the characters? Did you enjoy the plot (which is what happens in the story)? What about the major issues or themes covered?
- Draw your ideas together in a clear and concise conclusion
- Mention at least some positive points.

In a review you should not:

- Simply describe the item without saying why you liked or disliked different parts
- Tell the reader the ending of the book
- Make negative comments without giving a good reason.

Activity: Check the author's website www.patflynnwriter.com and read reviews of *To the Light* and other books by Pat Flynn.

Exercise: Write your own review of *To the Light* and if you wish, send it to the author, Pat Flynn (author@patflynnwriter.com). He'll be interested to hear your comments and will send you a reply. Make sure in the subject of the email you write 'Review'.

Role Play

In groups of three to six present a short role-play from *To the Light* based on Chapter 6. Read the passage carefully and add material of your own if you think it's needed.

Activity—Design a Poster

Design a poster advertising the Gromz-R-Us surfing final. Remember that the main aim of a poster is to catch the reader's attention, which can be done with a colourful picture and a large headline. You also should include all the important details, such as when and where the event is taking place.

Answers

Chapters 1-5

Listening Comprehension

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. B

Vocabulary

1. knobbly
2. metal
3. exaggerated
4. tsunami
5. conjured

Chapters 6-10

Listening Comprehension

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. D

Vocabulary

1. scurries
2. philosophy
3. sigh
4. coffee
5. ally

Chapters 11-16

Listening Comprehension

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. D

Vocabulary

1. ridiculous
2. squatting
3. whizzes
4. peek
5. dye
6. unique