

***The Nothing To See Here Hotel* by Steven Butler and Steven Lenton**

Age 7-9

Reasons for selection and synopsis

When a goblin messenger arrives at The Nothing to See Here Hotel, announcing the imminent arrival of the goblin prince Grogbah, Frankie and his family rush into action to get ready for their important guest. But it soon becomes obvious that the Banister family are going to have their work cut out with the demanding prince and his never-ending entourage, especially when it turns out the rude little prince is hiding a secret...

The first book in a fabulously funny series by bestselling author Steven Butler, with a host of whacky characters brought to life with illustration from the wonderful Steven Lenton!

Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

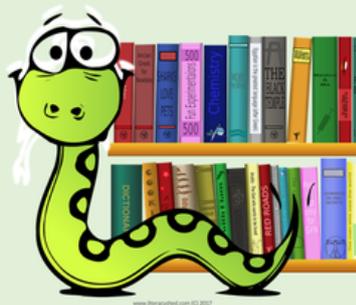
What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?

Why do people say 'there's nothing to see here'? What message does it send?

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Sequence or Summarise



The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way!

Chapter 1 and 2

Vocabulary	<p>What sort of physical stature does 'dumpling' suggest?</p> <p>Find examples of onomatopoeia in Chapter One.</p> <p>What word tells you that the narrator was pleased to get his granny being a troll off his chest?</p> <p>What do you think slobberchopsy means?</p>
Infer	<p>What is the big bad wolf that the author is referring to?</p> <p>Why do you think Frankie assures the reader that the rest of the story is not lovey dovey?</p> <p>Why does no one go into the nothing to see here hotel?</p> <p>Why is dad proud of the zero star rating?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict how things might get interesting.</p>
Explain	<p>What is your first impression of granny and why?</p> <p>What is the effect of Frankie constantly addressing the audience directly?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What is the narrator's granny?</p> <p>Who is the narrator?</p> <p>What did Grandad Abraham used to collect?</p> <p>Why is Frankie a quarterling?</p> <p>What is the first sign of having troll blood?</p> <p>Where is the nothing to see here hotel?</p> <p>How many steps are there to Granny Regutgita's room?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise your first impression of the nothing to see here hotel by writing a tripadvisor review about it, using no more than 200 words.</p>

Chapter 3 and 4

Vocabulary	<p>What does the phrase 'once in a blue moon' mean?</p> <p>Find an example of onomatopoeia.</p> <p>Define 'slobbering'.</p> <p>What does 'clomped' tell you about the way that Granny moves?</p>
Infer	<p>Why did Frankie need to catch his breath?</p> <p>What makes Granny frightening?</p> <p>What happened to all the cats that were bought for Granny?</p> <p>Find and copy phrases and words that show that Granny is shocked.</p>
Predict	<p>Predict why Granny gasps.</p> <p>Predict what the message will be.</p>
Explain	<p>Why does the author use big bold letters sometimes when Granny is speaking? What effect does this have on the reader?</p> <p>How do the pictures contribute to these chapters?</p>
Retrieve	<p>How does visiting Granny Regurgita make Frankie feel?</p> <p>What does granny smell like?</p> <p>Why can Frankie seen in the dark?</p> <p>What is Granny's pet called?</p> <p>Who is outside?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise these chapters in less than thirty words.</p>

Chapter 5 and 6

Vocabulary	Define 'clambered'. What does 'in a jiffy' mean?
Infer	Why is Nancy such a good cook? Why do you think it might be bad etiquette to run through a ghost? Why does Nancy jump off the stairs? Why don't Nancy and Frankie smash into the floor? Mum calls Frankie, Francis. What does this tell you? Why does the hotel need two doors?
Predict	Predict what the goblin's message will be.
Explain	How does the author create tension in Chapter 7?
Retrieve	What sort of things does Frankie say arrive by Goblin post? Who does Frankie run into? What do ghosts rent when they go to hotels? What does Nancy say she might use the string for?
Summarise	Summarise the trip through the hotel, by writing a tripadvisor review about it, from the perspective of a guest.

Chapter 7 and 8

Vocabulary	What are peepers? Define 'rummaging'. What words in the letter show you that the guests are very important?
Infer	Why does dad nearly drop his pile of books? Why do goblins infrequently stay at the hotel?

	Why does everyone hold their breath?
Predict	Predict if they will get the hotel ready in time. Predict what will happen when the prince gets there.
Explain	Why does the author choose to get the narrator to address the audience directly? Do you like this method of storytelling? Why?
Retrieve	What was in the goblin's mouth? What is the goblin's name? Who is the letter from? When is the prince arriving?
Summarise	Summarise the thoughts everyone was having at the end of Chapter 8, using less than 20 words per character.

Chapter 9 and 10

Chapter 9 and 10	
Vocabulary	What does the word 'mound' suggest about Frankie's clothes? What is a combination? What is a 'blender' in the monster world? What does 'princely' mean? Define 'geriatric'.
Infer	Why do you think Frankie wishes he could meet Abe? Why will Hoggit go from being a cool pet to a hot pet? Why did Frankie destroy the codes to his room? Why do the Molar Sisters lisp?
Predict	Predict why the lawn is screaming.
Explain	How does the author create humour in these chapters?
Retrieve	How does dad get Frankie's attention? What is on Frankie's wall?

	<p>What type of pet does Frankie have?</p> <p>What hits Frankie in the face?</p> <p>Why does it take Dad so long to start his speech?</p> <p>Who are the Molar Sisters?</p>
Summarise	Summarise these chapters in less than forty words.

Chapter 11 and 12

Vocabulary	<p>What is a mound?</p> <p>How big is a clod?</p> <p>Define 'tardy'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why does the lawn awaken?</p> <p>Why does the goblin grimace at Dad?</p> <p>Why were pellets thrown onto the floor?</p>
Predict	Predict where mum will put all the unexpected guests.
Explain	Explain how these chapters are made humorous.
Retrieve	<p>What was the only odd thing you might notice about the lawn?</p> <p>What was within the boulder?</p> <p>Who first stepped out of the doors?</p> <p>Why has the prince yes to turn up?</p> <p>What is mum's main worry?</p>
Summarise	What are your first impressions of the Barrow Goblins? Summarise why you think this in less than twenty words.

Chapter 13 and 14

Vocabulary	What does 'unworthy' mean? What does this tell you about the goblins?
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	<p>What does it mean if you are humbled?</p> <p>Define 'potty'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why did the chariot look empty?</p> <p>Why do you think the prince insists everyone bow lower?</p> <p>Why does the prince start screaming?</p> <p>Do you think Frankie was right to go and get the frog grog? Why?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what will happen on the rest of the stay.</p>
Explain	<p>What is your first impression of Prince Grogbah and why?</p>
Retrieve	<p>How long were goblins coming out of the doors?</p> <p>What was Grogbah wearing? What happens to Grogbah at the end of chapter 13?</p> <p>Where does Grogbah want to stay? Why would that be difficult?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise the character of Grogbah in one word and explain your choice of word.</p>

Chapter 15 and 16

Vocabulary	<p>What do you think Granny means by sneakerish?</p> <p>What does it mean to waft someone?</p>
Infer	<p>Why won't Granny come down?</p> <p>Why is Frankie searching frantically?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what the noise was.</p>
Explain	<p>How does the author create a sense of chaos in these chapters?</p>
Retrieve	<p>Who rings on the yell-a-phone?</p> <p>How long had Frankie taken to get the grog?</p> <p>What was mum being made to do?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise Grogbah's effects on the hotel so far in less than thirty</p>

	words.
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Chapter 17 and 18

Vocabulary	<p>What does 'painful silence' tell you?</p> <p>What does it mean if you're deranged?</p> <p>Define 'agog'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why is Grogbah angry at the hotel when he looks out of the window?</p> <p>Why can't Grogbah have the sea?</p> <p>Why do you think the Molar Sisters dress up as men?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what will happen when Grogbah orders the humans out of the sea?</p> <p>Predict how Grogbah will react to being grabbed.</p>
Explain	<p>How does the author create tension in these chapters?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What sound was trickling in?</p> <p>How did it trickle in?</p> <p>How did Grogbah see through the window?</p> <p>How does mum save the day?</p> <p>What did the Molar Sisters do to the beach?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise the events of these chapters in less than thirty words.</p>

Chapter 19 and 20

Vocabulary	<p>What does it mean when a plot thickens?</p> <p>Define 'pouting'. Can you do a pout?</p> <p>What is a silhouette?</p> <p>Define 'vengeful'.</p>
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Infer	<p>Why do you think Prince Grogbah was in a foul mood?</p> <p>How does everyone react to finding out Grogbah is in hiding?</p> <p>Why do you think the girl fires her gun into the air?</p> <p>Why does Frankie become awestruck by Tempestra?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict whom Grogbah stole from and what the consequences will be.</p> <p>Predict what Tempestra will do to Grogbah.</p>
Explain	<p>Do you like Tempestra thus far? Why?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What does Grogbah accidentally reveal to everyone during his fit of rage?</p> <p>Why are they hiding?</p> <p>Why were Frankie's ears ringing?</p> <p>What is the girl's name?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise Tempestra's entrance in less than forty words.</p>

Chapter 21 and 22

Vocabulary	<p>What does 'grotty' suggest?</p> <p>What is snivelling?</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think Grogbah pretends to never have heard of the diamonds?</p> <p>Why did they need the diamond dentures?</p> <p>What happens initially when the Captain spits his teeth out? Why might this happen a lot?</p> <p>Why is Granny Regurgita annoyed?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict how Granny will react to being woken up.</p> <p>Predict what will happen in the battle.</p>
Explain	<p>How is bold typeface used to effect in these chapters?</p>

Retrieve	<p>What had Grogbah stolen?</p> <p>Where was Grogbah hiding the diamonds?</p> <p>What is Captain Plank?</p> <p>What has happened to Granny Regurgita?</p> <p>How did Calamitus lose his skin?</p> <p>What does Calamitus find is the biggest problem with his dentures?</p>
Summarise	Summarise the events of these chapters in less than forty words.

Chapter 23 and 24

Vocabulary	<p>What does demented rhinoceros tell the reader about Granny?</p> <p>There is a 'gaggle of goblins' described. What other collective nouns could be used for the creatures in this book?</p> <p>Find synonyms for throwing.</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think Frankie immediately notices the absence of Grogbah?</p> <p>Which members of the clan are good at battling and why?</p> <p>Why does Frankie abandon his post at the boulder?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict who will win the battle.</p> <p>Predict how everything goes really crazy.</p>
Explain	<p>How does the author create humour in Chapter 23?</p> <p>Do you think Frankie was right to leave the doors of the boulder? Why?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What does Granny do to the charging guards?</p> <p>Which weapons do Frankie and his mum use?</p> <p>Where does Frankie head towards?</p> <p>Where is Grogbah heading?</p>

	What wakes the lawn up this time?
Summarise	Summarise the battle so far using less than 40 words.

Chapter 25 and 26

Vocabulary	<p>Define 'climactic'.</p> <p>What does it mean to engulf something?</p> <p>What does it mean to be bamboozled?</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think Hoggit chose this time to first properly breathe fire?</p> <p>Why do you think Grogbah assumes he has won the battle?</p> <p>Do you think the prince deserved what happened to him?</p>
Predict	If there was a sequel, predict what would happen in it.
Explain	<p>Do you think the punishment fit the crime?</p> <p>Did you like this book? Why?</p>
Retrieve	<p>Why did the doors begin to open?</p> <p>What does Hoggit do to the boulder?</p> <p>What is Grogbah sentenced to?</p> <p>What happens to Prince Grogbah?</p> <p>How does Calamitus reward Frankie?</p>
Summarise	Summarise the whole story in less than 150 words.