

# QUERIES



How does the author make Jamie's dad look like a nice person?

How does this conflict with what Jamie is feeling at the moment?



In the highlighted section, why do you think the author used the phrase 'on top of the world'?



Why do you think the author used this phrase just before something goes wrong?



What effect is the author trying to create when he says that the colour had drained from Hayley's face?

## DEDUCTION

What do you think has happened at the end of the chapter? Why is Mum screaming out the single word 'No'?

# QUERIES - ANSWERS



Jamie's dad still says Happy Birthday to Jamie even though he is about to do a space-walk!

Jamie is doubting that his dad loves him because of his parents divorcing.



For two reasons:

- 1) he is actually on top of the world by being in space.
- 2) Jamie is incredibly proud of his dad's achievements.



Because it offers a big contrast between being incredibly good news and then the sudden worry of something going hideously wrong.



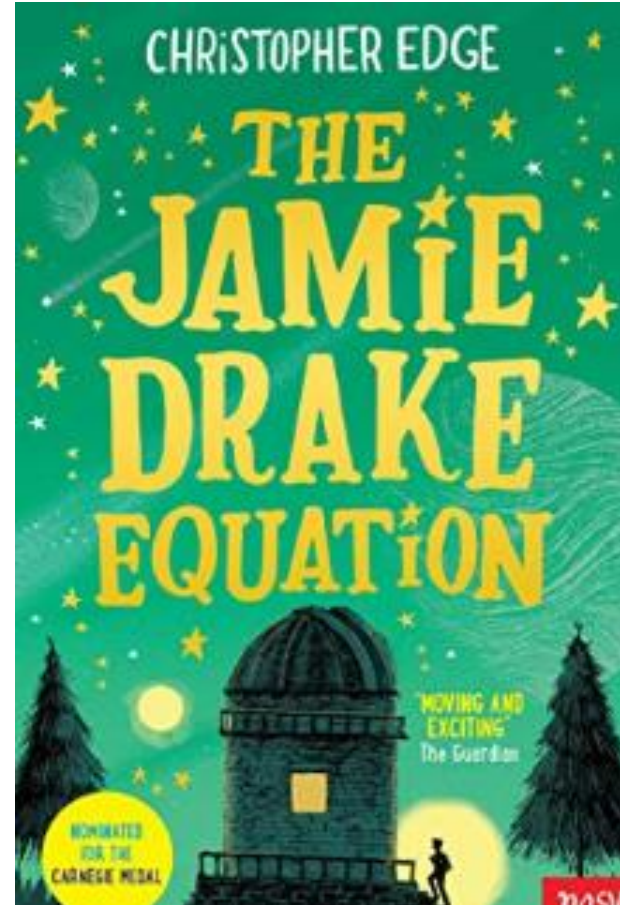
It adds to the worry as Hayley is an astronaut and she if she is worried then it must be really serious.

## DEDUCTION

A further problem has happened to Dad up in space and Mum thinks that he is in serious danger.

# THE JAMIE DRAKE EQUATION

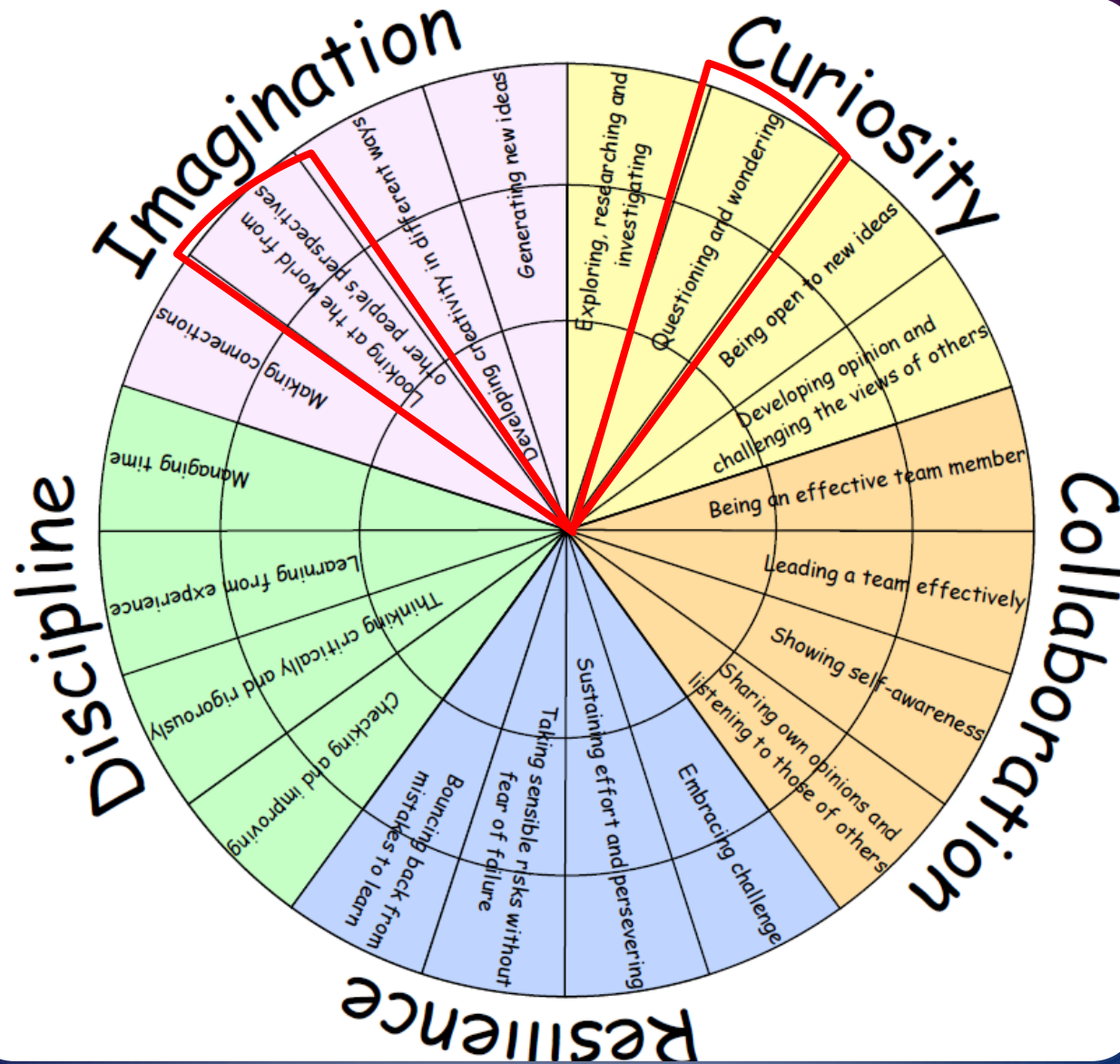
BY CHRISTOPHER EDGE



## RESPONDER (15II)

- I can articulate personal responses to literature, identifying how and why a text affects the reader due to authorial intent





# LEARNING HABITS

- What do you think is the most important Learning Habit?
- Is it one of your strengths or is it something you need to develop?
- How will you know that you have practised that Habit during the lesson?



Big Ben lies toppled, the ornate dome of the Taj Mahal crushed to smithereens. The White House, the Eiffel Tower, Brandenburg Gate – all shattered into hundreds of pieces, just like they’ve been blown to bits at the start of some sci-fi film.

I slump against the bed, my knees drawn up to my chest as I try to control my tears.

The Lego models lie where they landed. The landmarks of the world all turned to ruins with a swipe of my arm as I swept them from the shelf above my bed. No chance of Dad helping me to finish building them now.

Everything’s ruined.

From downstairs I can still hear the sound of Charlie crying, nobody able to comfort her. Hayley’s still on the phone to Mission Control seeing if they can restore the communications link with Dad on the launch platform. She says this will give us the chance to say goodbye.

I don’t want to say goodbye.

Pulling my mobile phone out of my pocket, I stab my finger hard against the screen. Buzz’s golden spiral starts to turn as the words pour out of me in a torrent.

“You’ve got to help me,” I plead. “My dad’s up there on the Lux Aeterna launch platform. The ISS has been abandoned and the Soyuz is returning to Earth. He’s stranded there in space and there’s no way to bring him back. Mission Control can’t even reach him any more. He’s only got six hours of oxyg—”

“Hush.” Buzz’s voice cuts me off mid-flow. “Show me.”

Hovering above the phone screen, the tip of my finger suddenly glows with a golden light. A strange tingling sensation washes over me as Buzz’s words vibrate in my mind.

“Synchronising.”

On the screen the golden spiral fades to be replaced by a brand-new picture. I see Dad staring back at me, his face drenched in sweat. The black hole inside my chest aches as I watch his gloved hand reaching out to me.

For a second I think that Buzz has managed to restore the communications link with the Lux Aeterna platform. Then the picture on the screen disintegrates into a blur of coloured pixels and I realise that this is just a memory.

But instead of the pixels fading to be replaced by a blank blue screen, new images now flicker into life on my phone.

I see Dad dressed in his astronaut’s suit at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, waiting to board the Soyuz rocket that will blast off for the ISS at the start of his mission. He’s on the other side of the quarantine window, holding his hand up against the glass that separates us as I press my hand back against his. I’m not just seeing these images, it’s like I’m reliving the emotions too – feeling the ache inside my

heart as I wave goodbye to Dad.

The buzzing vibration inside my brain seems to quicken as Buzz rifles through my memories, their images filling the screen.

I see Dad sitting on my bedroom floor as we build the Taj Mahal together, Dad smiling as I slot the final Lego brick into place in the dome. Then I'm riding alongside him on Space Mountain at Disney World, the blue-white flashing lights illuminating Dad's grin as the roller coaster swoops into the blackness of space. I remember his arm slung around my shoulder, holding me tight as we barrel around another bend.

The images are speeding up as the memories reach back further in time.

The picture wobbles as on the screen I glance back over my shoulder to see Dad's proud expression as I pedal furiously. I remember this moment now. The first time I ever rode my bike without stabilisers. Then the picture shifts and I'm looking up at my dad, his face younger now as he smiles encouragingly. The picture on the screen wobbles again as I take my first faltering steps, Dad's hands held out ready to catch me.

I didn't think I could remember these things, but as the images flit across the screen of my phone, I remember everything.

A blurry image appears on the screen before the picture sharpens to show a tiny hand. This looks like it belongs to a baby and, as I look at it, I realise that it's mine. Dad's face swims into view, his features even younger than before.

"Hey, Jamie," he says, his voice soft and gentle. On the screen Dad reaches out his hand, his fin-

gers tracing the shape of my tiny fingers as he gently touches his hand to mine.

Then the picture slowly fades to black.

I can't stop myself from crying, my tears splashing on to the mobile phone as Buzz's golden spiral fills the screen.

"Why did you show me this? It hurts too much."

"You are connected."

"Of course we're connected!" I cry, a sudden jet of anger erupting from the black hole inside me. "He's my dad! You don't know what this means – you're not even real any more."

For a second there's silence then my phone gently vibrates.

"We – I understand," Buzz replies, the words almost too soft to hear. "The light inside you is the light that binds you. To bring him back, you must go into the light."

"What do you mean?" I ask, my thoughts flickering between hope and fear.

"Inside the atoms of your body is a library of instructions," Buzz replies. "When you step into the light, the photons that bind every atom of your being will be unleashed and beamed to the Lux Aeterna platform."

"You're talking about teleportation?" I say, almost unable to believe that this could be possible.

"Like on *Star Trek*?"

"Your star will guide you, but it will transform you too."

On the screen of my phone, a picture of the sun appears – the same sun I can see outside my bedroom window.

"You must go into the light," Buzz repeats as sunlight flares on the screen. "And then you will swarm."



# DEDUCTION



Why is Big Ben lying toppled?



Why does Jamie not want to say goodbye to Dad?



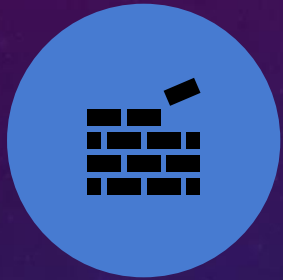
What does 'Buzz' realise after looking back through Jamie's memories of Dad?



What is the plan that 'Buzz' has thought of?



# QUERIES



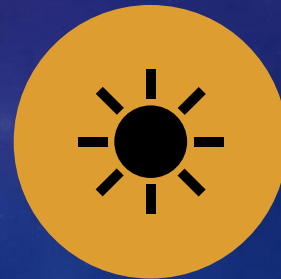
Why do you think that the author makes Jamie destroy his Lego models?



Why do you think that the author chooses to use the word 'Synchronise'?



Why does the author describe memories like when Jamie first rode a bike in the sequence?



Why do you think the author chose to make sunlight the method of saving Jamie's dad?

# HOMEWORK

LISTEN TO CHAPTER 23 ON PODBEAN:

<https://www.scotholme.com/podcasts>

