

Reading

Activity 1: Read 'Chapter 1: The Runcible Spoon' and prepare for a conversation. Underline/ write any words you're unsure of, list any questions or predictions you have and then finally summarise the text in less than 10 words.

Activity 2: Read a text or part of a text of your choice and complete one of the activities below.

Choose one of these to complete about a text you have read

<p><u>COMIC STRIP</u></p> <p>Choose the five most important events that happened in your book and turn them into a comic strip.</p>	<p><u>SUM UP</u></p> <p>Summarise the book in 100 words or less. Remember to include key information</p>	<p><u>KEY PLAYERS</u></p> <p>Rank the characters from most to least important and explain why.</p>
<p><u>MY FAVOURITE PART</u></p> <p>Write about your favourite part of your book and explain why you like it using evidence from the text</p>	<p><u>NEW COVER</u></p> <p>Design a new cover for the book. Include a picture, title, author and illustrator.</p>	<p><u>WRITE A LETTER</u></p> <p>Write a letter to one of the characters in your reading book. Include at least one question you want to ask them</p>
<p><u>POINT OF VIEW</u></p> <p>Retell part of the story from a different character's point of view.</p>	<p><u>QUIZ</u></p> <p>Make up at least five questions about your reading book. Make sure you know the answers! Test your friend.</p>	<p><u>SEQUEL</u></p> <p>Write 5 things that would happen if the book you've read has a sequel – Use evidence to support your ideas</p>
<p><u>MEETING</u></p> <p>If you could meet one character from the text, who would it be and why? Make sure you give enough detail.</p>	<p><u>REVIEW IT</u></p> <p>Create a book review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the plot • Explain why you like it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who would you recommend it to and why? 	<p><u>VOCAB</u></p> <p>Are there any words in the book you don't understand? Can you find them in a dictionary and write them in a different sentence?</p>

Chapter 1: The Runcible Spoon

Zam Zephyr woke early and climbed out of bed, careful not to disturb the other apprentice bakers of Bakery No. 9, who were still fast asleep around him.

It was the day before the Grand Duchess of Troutwine's Tea Ball and Zam was too excited and nervous to stay in bed. Today, they would bake for the tea ball tomorrow. All twelve bakeries in the city competed for the honour of making the most delicious treats for the ball. If anything went wrong again, after last year's disaster that put Bakery No. 9 at the bottom of the heap, Zam and his friends would be sent home in disgrace. The thought of his father's disappointed face was too much to bear. No, Zam thought. He would do anything he could to make sure that his baking was perfect.

In the corner of the attic dormitory, his best friend Langdale the goat boy was gently snoring. Beneath the flour-sack blanket, his hooves twitched as he dreamed of chasing blue butterflies through the summer pine forests of the Western Mountains. In the other corner, the two Shellac sisters clutched the comfort shawl they shared. In the cots in between, the gnome boys from the Grey Hills slept soundless and still, five to a blanket, their small grey-tufted heads just visible.

Looking out of the window, Zam could see the golden roofs of the palaces glittering in the early morning sunlight. He gazed up at a billowing cloud and made a wish: 'To bake the best gingerbread ever, he whispered. 'Cloud horse, cloud horse, far from view, make this wish of mine come true.'

Zam took his apron and cap from the hook and crept out of the attic, leaving his friends to their dreams.

Zam ran all the way down the stairs to the basement, opened the door to the flavour library, and stepped inside. This was his favourite place. He loved how precise, tidy and ordered everything was here. He smiled to himself. With everyone asleep upstairs, it was the perfect time of day to practise without any interruptions.

Shelves lined the basement walls from floor to vaulted ceiling. Looking up through the glass paving stone, Zam could see the shadows of feet walking overhead as people passed the doors of Bakery No. 9.

The shelves around him were stacked with jars of all shapes and sizes, each clearly labelled. Zam selected the jars he needed, opening each one in turn and taking pinches of the powders they contained. Carefully, he placed the spices on little squares of baking parchment, which he folded neatly and placed in different pockets of his apron. Satisfied with his choices, Zam crossed the stone floor to a large chest of drawers set in an alcove. He opened a drawer labelled 'Index of Crusts' and selected one with crinkle-cut edges and memorized the baking instructions written in small lettering on the underside.

'For a crumbly texture, short, intense mixing and slow bake in quiet oven ... Zam read. The memory of the calm, reassuring sound of the head baker's voice filled his head, as it always did when Zam read his recipes. 'For a more robust biscuit, easeful mixing with broad, generous spoon and a short, fierce bake in busy oven...

'Broad, generous spoon,' Zam repeated to himself, returning the crinkle-cut crust to the drawer and closing it. He looked up and was about to select one of the wooden spoons, which hung from the hooks in the ceiling, when he trod on something. It was a large spoon he hadn't noticed lying on the flagstone floor. 'That is so careless,' Zam muttered, picking it up. The spoon was broad and long handled, carved from a single piece of wood, by the look of it. Zam turned it over. It was a slotted spoon, full of small holes, with three large ones near the base of the handle.

'Easeful mixing with broad, generous spoon,' the head baker's voice sounded in Zam's head.

'Perfect,' he said, wiping the spoon on his apron before slipping it into a pocket.

He selected a favourite battered old book from a shelf: The Art of Baking. "There you are," he said happily and climbed the back stairs to the kitchen.