



THE LANTERN MOON BY MAEVE FRIEL

About the Author

Maeve Friel was born in Derry and educated in Dublin where she currently lives. She is the creator of the popular *Tiger Lily* trilogy and the *Witch-in-Training* series and has been the recipient of many awards including the Hennessy Award, the Bisto Book Award and the Reading Association of Ireland Book Award. Her work has been translated into many languages. She once lived in Ludlow where *The Lantern Moon* is set. See www.maevefriel.com for more information.

About the Book

Life is not easy for children in 1811. Annie Spears is a maid in Dinham house where Lucien Bonaparte is on parole. Her brother, William, makes silk top hats for the mad hatter while her little sister works as a glove-maker for the despicable Leonard Evans. They have not heard from their father since he was transported to Australia years ago. When a fire destroys the Spears' home and William and Annie are accused of theft, they take to the hills with Sam, the chimney sweep, trying to make their way to the sea. However they are captured and sent to Australia where they make a new life, eventually making contact with their father again.

About this Guide

The guide comprises a series of ten worksheets which assist the reader in enjoying and understanding the book. Some activities require the reader to scan the text; others require a more detailed examination. Some require the reader to respond to the text either in written, oral or artistic form. Other activities explore the language of the text. Vocabulary extension and formal grammar are also included. A completed set of worksheets provides a revision tool for the reader and an assessment tool for the teacher.

Worksheet 1: What's the story? An examination of the physical structure of the book and the information contained on the covers and in the first few pages.

Worksheet 2: Setting the scene. Familiarisation with the characters (Chapters 1 and 2)

Worksheet 3: Events leading up to the fire (Chapters 3,4 and 5)

Worksheet 4: Annie is accused of theft (Chapters 6 and 7)

Worksheet 5: The three children run away (Chapters 8 and 9)

Worksheet 6: The journey (Chapters 10 and 11)

Worksheet 7: Taken and sentenced (Chapters 12 and 13)

Worksheet 8: The journey to Australia and the ending (Chapters 14 and 15)

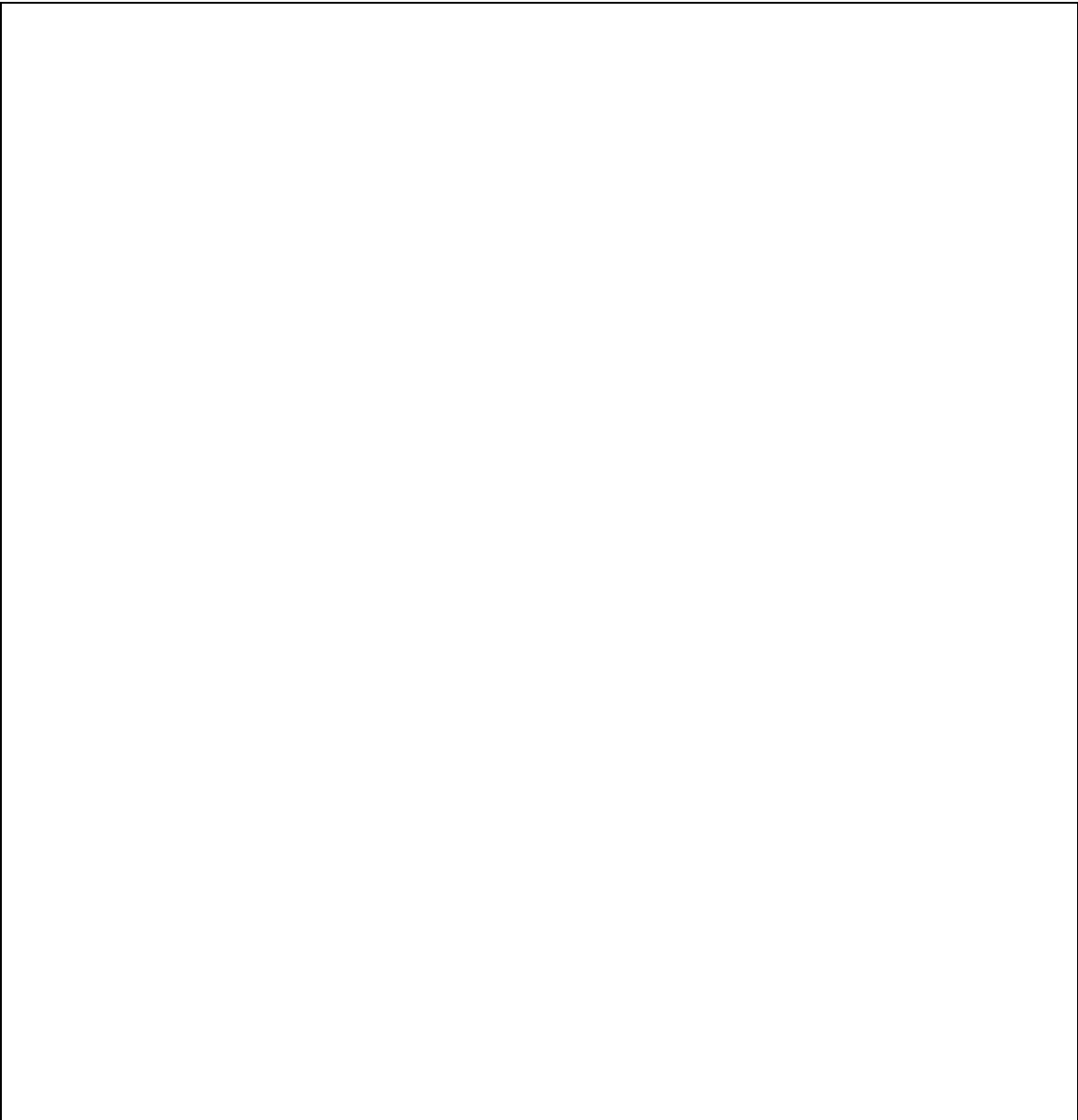
Worksheet 9: Quiz

Worksheet 10: Letter to the author



WORKSHEET 1

1. Who wrote this book?.....
2. Where does she live?.....
3. Name a trilogy and a series she has written.
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4. To whom is this book dedicated?.....
5. What is this book's International Standard Book Number (ISBN).....
6. In what year was this book first published in Ireland?.....
7. What is the name of the publisher of this edition?.....
8. What images are on the title page of the book?
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9. What three pieces of information are on the spine of the book?
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.....
10. The blurb mentions eight characters in the book. Can you list them below?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.



Copy the cover and colour it in. Who designed this cover?.....



WORKSHEET 2

Read to page 30 and see how much you can remember.

1. Match the character to the description. Use a different colour for each line you draw.

William Spears

Emperor of France

Napoleon Bonaparte

Housekeeper

Samuel Price

Drunkard

Lord Powis

Parlour Maid

Leonard Evans

Apprentice Hatter

Annie Spears

Master Glover

Mrs Stringer

Chimney Sweep

Master Bessell

Owner of Dinham House

2. Read one of the descriptions listed below and sketch the character on the back of this sheet. Get a classmate to guess which character you have drawn.

Lucien Bonaparte (page 9) or Leonard Evans (page 14)

3. List 5 jobs undertaken by children in the first two chapters of this book. Give the page number as proof you have found it between pages 1 and 30.

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4. Circle the correct answer: Annie's father was

(a) hanged in Ludlow

(b) imprisoned in Shrewsbury jail

(c) transported to New South Wales



5. Put these nouns in alphabetical order and write out the meaning of each one. Use a dictionary to be sure you are accurate: shackles, tatters, eaves, tanner, castors, scullery.

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WORKSHEET 3

Read to page 54 and have a go at these activities.

1. You might have heard someone say you were ‘as good as gold’ or ‘as happy as Larry’. These expressions are called similes. ‘As mad as a hatter’ is also a simile. Why might a hatter go mad? (See pages 32 and 33.)

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2. Complete a family tree for the Spears family.

3. If there was an internet site *Rate My Boss* in 1811, how might Mr Evans or Mr Smart have been rated? Complete a rating for either employer.

I would/would not like to work for

because.....

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4. The fire in the Spears’ house was caused by

- (a) an overturned candle
- (b) protests against the Bonapartes
- (c) the river freezing over



5. Put these adjectives in alphabetical order and write the dictionary explanation for each one: noxious, odious, keen, lopsided, lewd.

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WORKSHEET 4

Read to the end of page 76 and complete the following activities.

1. Divide into groups of six or more and create a drama around the Cemetery scene described in pages 55 and 56. You will need volunteers to play the following characters: William, Annie, Mrs Stringer, a shoemaker, a sexton, a laundress, other mourners. End with Mrs Stringer declaring 'Life must go on' Practise in small groups and then perform for the class.

2. 'Well, Spears, perhaps you would like to explain to us what you are doing carrying a silver tray outside at first light?' Explain clearly why Annie had the tray

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3. Arthur warned Annie that if she was caught she would be (a) jailed
(b) hanged
(c) transported to Australia.

4. Put these adverbs in alphabetical order and write their dictionary meanings: brusquely, indignantly, gingerly, impassively, abruptly.

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5. Read pages 75 and 76 again. Tick the adjectives which best describe Annie's reaction when Arthur advised her to run away:

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|--------------|------------|
| Delighted | Anxious |
| Enthusiastic | Inadequate |
| Fearful | Excited |
| Confident | Concerned |



WORKSHEET 5

Read chapters 8 and 9 and then try to complete these assignments.

1. Who said :

- 'I would rather give myself up to the sergeant-at-arms and let myself rot in jail then climb mountains for four days all alone'
- 'Stop that boy'
- 'It's not possible. Annie is no thief'
- 'Wills, you play your cards right by me and I'll see you don't go short.....
- 'Walk properly – and don't make a sound'

2. Write about all the ways in which Arthur helped Annie.

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Why did he help her?

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3. Match the charge to the child:

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|--|---------|
| Ran away from his/her employer | William |
| Took money belonging to her/his employer | Annie |
| Stole silver from his/her employer | Sam |

4. Maeve Friel's writing style is very descriptive. She uses adjectives to describe people, things and places. She uses adverbs to describe actions. In each of the following sentences, say whether the underlined word is an adjective or an adverb.

- The final brushing made the hat lustrous
- Bessell belched loudly.....
- She could smell the throat-tightening smell of the tannery yards.....
- He raced blindly on down towards the river.....
- She lazily picked out a few notes of a dance tune.....



5. Suggest different adverbs for each of the following sentences:

She spoketo her attacker

He spoketo his mother

She spoke.....to her best friend

He spoke.....to his audience

She spoke.....to her rival



WORKSHEET 6

These exercises are based on Chapters 10 and 11. Chapter 10 tells us about the children's journey and chapter 11 tells us about the events which led up to their capture.

1. Number these events in the order in which they occurred:

They sleep in a stable.

They reach King Offa's Dyke.

They sleep in the crypt of a ruined abbey.

They see a team of drovers and a herd of cattle in the distance.

They see the clergyman hammering at the rock cliff.

2. On the back of this sheet write Oliver Waring's account of his meeting with Reverend Charles Lewis. Begin like this:

I sat in the corner of the inn so that I would not be seen but I could observe all who passed.

3. What do you think will happen in the next chapter?

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4. What nouns are described by the following adjectives in chapter 11. The first one is done

Exposed:

Rockface

Inquisitive, short sighted and good-natured:

Faultless:

Ruined:

Lambing:

Unimaginative:

5. Read the first paragraph on page 111. Is Oliver Waring's account of what happened accurate? Yes or no? Discuss your answer with a classmate.



WORKSHEET 7

These activities are based on Chapters 12 and 13 and deal with the part of the story where the children are captured and sentenced.

1. The answers to all these questions are all numbers between 1 and 10.

How many horses surrounded the children?

How many penny loaves were given to the children?

How many gold sovereigns had William in his pocket?

How many judges sat in court?

What was the value of the goods 'stolen' by Annie?

2. At what address had the Spears family lived in Ludlow?

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3. Hanging and deportation to Australia were the most punishments at that time. List five crimes mentioned in Chapter 13.

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4. 'Is there any one in the court to speak for you?' demanded the judge. Pretend you were a brilliant barrister and you made a passionate speech in the children's defence.

Write your notes on the back of this sheet. Begin 'My Lords, ladies and gentlemen of the court...' Use verbs like: implore, beseech, entreat. Use adjectives like: orphaned, erroneous, impoverished. Be as persuasive as you can be. Feel free to be critical of the system of justice as described in this chapter. Deliver your speech to the class.

5. Put these words in alphabetical order, write their dictionary meaning and say if they are nouns(n), verbs(v), adjectives(adj) or adverbs(adv).

Gallows, assizes, squalid, furiously, absconded.

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WORKSHEET 8

This worksheet is based on the last two chapters of the book. These chapters tell the story of the children's journey to Australia and of their early experiences there.

1. 'Life on board the hulks was indescribable' The hulks were rotting battle ships where the prisoners waited for weeks for the transport ships to take them to Australia. Refer to pages 131-133 and find words to describe each of the following:

The air below deck.....
The bedding.....
The haircuts.....
The clothes.....
The food.....

2. For what reasons did Arthur and Sam make contact with Annie and William before the ship sailed for Australia?

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3. Number these events in the order in which they occurred:

Robert Traylor was sent from England in 1790. 1
He built up a successful beef farm and married an Irish woman....
He escaped into the bush but later gave himself up....
He was given thirty acres of bush and convicts to help him work it....
He built a raft and tried to escape to China....

4. Circle the correct answer: John Spears was
 - (a) lost in the bush
 - (b) sick with typhus
 - (c) murdered
 - (d) a sheep farmer



5. What was the image that gave John comfort when he was separated from his family.

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Draw it here:



WORKSHEET 9

All these statements are true or false. All the answers are in the book but see how many you can answer on your own. If you are unsure, make your best guess.

1. This book is set in England in the 20th century.
2. Children's rights in England are much the same now as they were in 1811
3. England was at war with France in 1811.
4. Mr Evans did not give John Spears' letters to Kezia
5. Because of fires Annie and William first lost and then found members of their family
6. The fire at the Spears' house was started deliberately.
7. Kezia left Libby alone because she wanted to have a look at Alexandrine Bonaparte
8. Annie was not stealing the silver, she was putting it back.
9. Mr Smart was a kinder employer than Mr Evans.
10. Even though food was scarce when they were on the run, Sam threw pizza to the ducks
11. English lawmakers thought that thieves were a greater threat to society than murderers
12. Transportation means sending to prison in England
13. Life on the Dunlavin was tough but fair.
14. All the Spears family were re-united at the end of the book
15. The Lantern moon appears in the title and in the last sentence of the book.



WORKSHEET 10

Write a letter to Maeve Friel telling her what you thought of the book.

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Dear Maeve,

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Yours sincerely,