Silas and the Marvellous Misfits

Activity Pack

TOM PERCIVAL

“I would have loved this book as a child” Marcus Rashford MBE

Silas and the Marvellous Misfits

A fantastic Dream Defenders adventure!

“I absolutely love Silas and the gang!”
MARCUS RASHFORD, MBE

SILAS AND THE MARVELLOUS MISFITS:
A Fantastic Dream Defenders Adventure
by Tom Percival

A MARCUS RASHFORD BOOK CLUB CHOICE

A Marcus Rashford Book Club resource created by the National Literacy Trust.
Hi everyone, MARCUS here.

We’ve included some great challenges and activities in this pack inspired by *Silas and the Marvellous Misfits* by Tom Percival, the exciting new book in the Marcus Rashford Book Club, and I’m really looking forward to hearing how you get on.

Have fun and enjoy! MR x

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**Read Chapter 1 of**

**SILAS AND THE MARVELLOUS MISFITS.**

Then complete the challenges.

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Erika swam upwards through a cloud that smelled strongly of marshmallows. She glanced over at Beastling, swimming along beside her. He smiled and mumbled, ‘Heebie Jeebie,' through the thickening cloud.
As he spoke, a speech bubble popped out of his mouth, showing a picture of a thumbs up and a smiley face. Erika grinned and looked down at her timer. Twenty-five seconds. That was all they had before the cloud turned into a marshmallow and plunged to the ground in a deadly (but completely delicious) mess. This was not something that Erika wanted to happen — at least, not with them still inside the cloud!

BZZZZZZTT!

Erika’s communications device buzzed and a gravelly voice spoke. ‘Hey, Erika.

Listen, while you’re back at Head Quarters getting that truth cannon, can you bring me a couple of doughnuts please?’

‘What?’ gasped Erika, struggling not to breathe in too much marshmallow.

‘Look, Wade, I’m kind of busy right now!’

‘Oh yeah, of course,’ replied Wade. ‘Sorry. And good luck!’ There was a pause. ‘But don’t forget the doughnuts.’ Then he ended the call.

Erika shook her head and swam faster.

Seventeen seconds later, Erika and Beastling popped out the top of the cloud, just as it became too thick to swim through. They sprinted to the edge and leaped off as the marshmallow cloud began to tumble towards the ground far below. Beastling followed close behind her. He had to. Erika and Beastling were bonded together, which meant that they could only ever be a few metres apart from each other. It had been that way since Erika’s first adventure in the Dreamscape. Well, technically, it was ever since Beastling had first bitten her that they’d been bonded together — but that was a long time ago, and there was no point getting upset about it now.

Cold wind tore at Erika’s skin as Beastling manoeuvred himself through the air and grabbed her shoulders. She thrust her arms and legs out in a star shape and glowing sheets of light spread between her hands and feet like wings, creating a flying suit that Erika could steer and control.

‘Only the best for the DREAM DEFENDERS, right?’ yelled Erika, grinning.

If she tried to tell her friends at school
dangerous for a human’s heartbeat to become too elevated. Do you want me to hum some soothing music?’ The disembodied voice stopped speaking and started humming. Badly.

‘Silas?’ interrupted Erika. ‘Is that you? Why are you invisible? And please stop humming.’

The humming stopped. ‘Oh. Am I still invisible?’

‘Yes!’ replied Erika.

‘Ah! Right. Give me a second . . .’ The air shimmered and suddenly the drifting, insubstantial figure of a boy appeared. Swirls of light covered his face and body, and even when he was fully visible he still faded away to nothing just below the knees.

Erika twisted her body around, steering them towards the flattened top of an upside-down mountain in the distance. She looked at the impossible world around her as they shot through the air: far below a forest grew on the underside of a nearby cloud. The Dreamscape really was an amazing place.

A couple of seconds later they landed on the top of the mountain.

‘Heebie Jeebie!’ cried Beastling, punching the air excitedly. A speech bubble appeared with a picture of a female sheep and a cheese grater in it. Erika smiled and ruffled Beastling’s fur.

‘Ewe grate too!’ she said with a grin. ‘Let’s get inside and find the others!’

Erika and Beastling crept down a roughly carved set of steps leading deep within the mountain. Damp, stale air drifted lazily down the corridor as Erika peered around.

‘Where is everyone?’ she muttered. ‘This is where we were supposed to meet.’

‘Psst . . . Erika!’ a voice suddenly whispered from behind her.

Erika yelped and spun around – there was nobody there.

‘Sorry!’ continued the voice. ‘I didn’t mean to startle you. I know it can be
‘Ta–daaaa!’ exclaimed Silas.
‘Better?’
‘Much better!’ said Erika.
‘So, have you worked out how to solve Miles’s problem yet?’

Silas shook his head. ‘Not yet, but hopefully the truth cannon will help! Did you get it?’

Erika nodded and Beastling pointed to the weighty backpacks they were both carrying.
‘Great!’ exclaimed Silas. ‘Wade and Sim have gone ahead to the centre of the mountain with Miles. That’s where all the negative energy is coming from.’

‘So, what are we waiting for?’ asked Erika. ‘Let’s go!’

WELL DONE!
You’ve finished the first chapter!
Now complete the challenges.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
Do you remember what happened in Chapter 1? Let’s find out!

FILL IN THE GAPS
Fill in the gaps using these words.

- Silas
- problems
- dreams
- together
- Dreamscape
- Heebie
- organization
- invisible
- Jeebie

a. The Dream Defenders are a top-secret ____________ that help children solve any ____________ they’re having in their ____________.

b. Erika and Beastling have been bonded ____________ since Erika’s first adventure in the ____________ when Beastling bit her.

c. The two words that Beastling normally says out loud are ____________ ____________.

d. Erika gets a shock when she meets ____________ because he is ____________.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Do you remember what happened in Chapter 1? Let’s find out!

TRUE OR FALSE?

Is the sentence true or false?

a. Erika’s school friends know that she’s part of the Dream Defenders.  
True/False

b. Wade’s favourite food is marshmallows.  
True/False

c. In the Dreamscape, forests grow from the underside of clouds.  
True/False

d. Erika’s uncle doesn’t own a Ferrari.  
True/False

e. At the end of Chapter 1, Erika leaves Beastling at the top of the mountain.  
True/False
WHY DO YOU KNOW?

Do you remember what happened in Chapter 1? Let’s find out!

ORDER IT

What happened in Chapter 1?
Someone has got into our story and messed up the order! Can you re-tell the story in the correct order?

Number each sentence from 1-6 to put them in the order that they happened in the story.

1. Silas checks that they have the truth cannon.
2. Erika and Beastling swim through a cloud that is turning into a marshmallow.
3. Erika, Beastling and Silas decide to head into the centre of the mountain to help Miles.
4. They burst out of the cloud and land on an upside-down mountain.
5. Wade calls Erika to ask her to bring him some donuts.
6. They walk deep into the mountain to meet Silas. At first they can’t see him because he’s invisible.

How did you do? Did you get the same answers as your friends? Go to p. 20 to see the correct answers.
CREATE YOUR OWN QUIZ

Well done for doing the quiz! Now you can create your own fun quiz inspired by Chapter 1 for your friends to answer.

First, read Chapter 1 again and write down three things that happened in the story.

Example: Erika swims through a cloud that smells of marshmallows.

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________

Now let’s turn each of those things into a question. There are loads of different types of questions to choose from, such as:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Fill in the gaps
1. MULTIPLE CHOICE:

These are questions that give four possible answers, only one of which is correct.

*Example:* What does the cloud Erika is swimming through smell of?

A. Cabbage  B. Marshmallows  C. Donuts  D. Gravy

Now write your own multiple choice question. Turn one of the things that happened in the story into a question. Your question might begin with the word ‘What’.

Write four possible answers. Remember – only one can be correct!

**Question.**

Answer A: __________________________ Answer B: __________________________

Answer C: __________________________ Answer D: __________________________
2. TRUE OR FALSE:

These are questions that ask someone to work out whether a sentence is true or is a lie.

To write a true or false question, either....

• Write a sentence about something that really happens in the book
  Example: Erika is a member of a secret organization called the Dream Defenders.

  True or False?

• Or write a lie about the book that you think someone might believe
  Example: Erika is a member of a secret organization called the Sleep Protectors.

  True or False?

Now write your own true or false question using something that happened in the story.
3. FILL IN THE GAPS:

These are questions where you have to work out what the missing word is to complete a sentence.

To write a fill in the gap question, write something true about the book but miss out an important word. Make sure you show where the missing word goes by leaving a large space.

Example: The ____________ Defenders are a top-secret organization.

Now write your own fill in the gap question using something that happened in the story.

Challenge your friends to do your quiz!
Did they find it too difficult, too easy, or just right?
CHALLENGE 1:

USE THIS PAGE TO WRITE LOTS MORE QUIZ QUESTIONS.

You could even write a quiz about something else that you enjoy.
How about you write a quiz about football, gaming or your favourite music?
Beastling speaks using pictures. For example:

Ewe Grate = “You are great”

**WHAT IS BEASTLING SAYING?**

A. Hint: A football tournament.

   Answer: 

B. Hint: A book and a film.

   Answer: 

C. Hint: A very catchy song and dance.

   Answer: 

D. Hint: A cartoon on TV.

   Answer: 

CHALLENGE 2:

NOW CREATE YOUR OWN!

Think about something you like and draw it in the speech bubble. Can your friends guess what it is?

Fancy a challenge? Pick a song, book or film title and try to draw a picture for each word.

Challenge a friend. Can they crack your code?
Can you create your own skill card? What do you think you are really good at? Are you kind? Fast? Good at sharing? Let the world know! If you want some ideas, use the skills bank. Or ask a friend!

Skills Bank
Here are some ideas to help you think of your skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personality</th>
<th>Things you are good at</th>
<th>Things you like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kind</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Reading comic books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funny</td>
<td>Asking questions</td>
<td>Relaxing with friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoughtful</td>
<td>Singing</td>
<td>Playing football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring</td>
<td>Remembering facts</td>
<td>Baking cakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passionate</td>
<td>Handstands</td>
<td>Running</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHALLENGE 3:

NOW MAKE SKILL CARDS FOR YOUR FRIENDS!

Make sure you include all the things that make them really great.

SKILLS

SKILLS

SKILLS

SKILLS
CHALLENGE 4:

BEST DREAM EVER

Imagine you had an amazing adventure in your dreams. You can’t wait to tell everyone about it! One way to do this would be to share your story on social media. This is what Marcus does when he has an important announcement to make, or he wants to share something that has happened to him with his fans. Why don’t you try that?

Have a go at planning your social media story, telling everyone about your Best. Dream. Ever!!!!

Your story can have images, film and text. Take a look at this example, then plan your own on the next page.

Remember – it’s a dream, so anything can happen!

**POST 1**

![A photo of me travelling into space.](image1)

**POST 2**

![A video of me scoring a goal.](image2)

**POST 3**

![A video of some aliens flying towards me.](image3)

**POST 4**

![A photo of the cake that I ate with the aliens.](image4)
Write your name here

Draw your icon here

Draw your picture here

Write what happened here
MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKMARK

Cut out this bookmark and use it while you read *Silas and the Marvellous Misfits*.

As you are reading, write on the bookmark anything you really enjoyed or any words you are unsure about. You can always find out the meaning of a word later!

**CHALLENGE 5:**

**MARCUS RASHFORD**

Cut out this bookmark and use it while you read *Silas and the Marvellous Misfits*.

As you are reading, write on the bookmark anything you really enjoyed or any words you are unsure about. You can always find out the meaning of a word later!

**MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKMARK**

My favourite parts of the book...

I like what happened on page ____________

because ______________________________________

I like what happened on page ____________

because ______________________________________

**Words I didn’t know:**

1. ____________________________

What it means: ____________________________

2. ____________________________

What it means: ____________________________

3. ____________________________

What it means: ____________________________

**Fill in the gaps:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cut the code:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>e</th>
<th>f</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Order it:**

- a: organization
- b: problems
- c: dreams
- d: Silas
- e: invisible
- f: true
- g: a在一起
- h: Dreamscape
- i: aorganisation problems dreams
- j: false

**Crack the code:**

- a: true
- b: false
Also in the Marcus Rashford Book Club

Silas and the Marvellous Misfits

A Dinosaur Ate My Sister

A Marcus Rashford Book Club resource created by the National Literacy Trust.