



A Little Trouble in the Yorkshire Dales

Richard MacAndrew

Aims

- To interest students in the book.
- To think about the advantages and disadvantages of 'series' books.
- To anticipate what will happen in the story.

Pre-reading Activities

- 1 Tell students that the title of the book is *A Little Trouble in the Yorkshire Dales* and ask them to suggest what type of book it is. You could list some genres on the board (e.g. murder mystery, thriller, adventure story, comedy) for them to guess from.

Answer: Adventure.

- 2 Tell students that the book is one part of a 'mini series' – there are other titles with the same main characters. Ask students for their opinions on this: *Do you enjoy reading different stories with the same characters in them? Are they a good idea? Can you think of any disadvantages of having the same characters and the same type of story?*

Possible answers: If you enjoyed the first book and got to like the characters, you would look forward to 'meeting' them again and finding out what else they get up to. If you didn't enjoy the first book, you wouldn't want to read the second book.

- 3 Ask students to read Extracts 1, 2 and 3. Tell them that Andy and Mary are the main characters in the book. Now ask them to write down everything they have found out about Andy and Mary from the extracts – what they look like, what their personalities are like and their relationship with each other. Feedback to the whole class and highlight key facts about Andy and Mary's relationship and their personalities.

Possible answers: Mary and Andy are very close, even though they make fun of each other and drive each other crazy sometimes. Mary has wild ideas and Andy is more careful, but he always looks after Mary.

- 4 Ask students to look at Extract 2 again. Ask *Does anyone know twins? Andy and Mary feel they have a special connection – they often know what the*

other is thinking or feeling. Do you think this is true about twins or just as a result of people being close to each other?

- 5 Ask students to read Extract 4 (a newspaper story) and look at Illustration 1 (a map of where the events in the book take place). Working in pairs, ask students to discuss *What adventures do you think Andy and Mary will have in this story?* Feedback to the whole class.
- 6 Ask students to draw a similar map of the area where they live, showing key places. In pairs, ask students to talk about their maps to each other. Where possible, pair students from different areas together.
- 7 Ask students to read Extract 5 (a description of the Reeth Show). Elicit whether students have attended a similar show themselves: *Where was it? What was there to do there? Did you enjoy it? Was it more or less interesting than the Reeth show?*
- 8 Ask students to look at Illustrations 2 and 3 (pictures of two very different homes). Ask them to compare and contrast the two pictures, writing two different lists, one for Illustration 2 and another for Illustration 3. Ask *Which home do you prefer and why?*
- 9 Ask students to choose either Illustration 2 or 3 and write a caption for the picture. Share these with the whole class.
- 10 Ask students to choose either Illustration 2 or 3 and write some lines of dialogue to go with the picture. They can choose names for the characters they do not know. When they have finished, organise students into groups and ask them to act out their dialogue.

Post-reading Activities

- 1 Ask students to make a list of characters in the story and decide which characters are 'bad' and which are 'good'.
- 2 Ask students to write a 'monologue' from the point of view of one of the 'bad' characters.

The monologue should give direct access to the character's thoughts and feelings and show why he acts as he does.

- 3** Ask students to find a place in the book where the 'bad' character from Activity 2 above is not present in the action. They then discuss with a partner what the 'bad' character might be doing at that time.
- 4** Working in pairs, students change one 'good' character into a 'bad' character. Ask them to talk about how this would change this story. Students may find it useful to make notes. When they have finished, feedback to the whole class.

Extract 1 _____

Andy shook his head again and followed her in. He and Mary were the same age, fifteen – they were twins – but everything else about them was different. He was 180 centimetres tall; she was shorter. He had short red hair; she had long brown hair. He had blue eyes; she had brown eyes. And if they got into trouble, it was usually her fault. He didn't really want to go into the mine, but he thought he should go with her to make sure she was OK.

Extract 2 _____

When he had left over the top of the hill, the teenagers looked at each other. They both realized it had been a good idea not to tell the man where they had been. Sometimes they didn't need to speak. They just knew what the other one was thinking – perhaps it was because they were twins.

Extract 3 _____

'Ok,' said Andy. 'Tell me. What mad ideas are racing round that crazy brain of yours, sister?'

Mary turned and hit Andy's arm quite hard.

'I'm not crazy,' she said.

'Ouch!' said Andy for the second time that evening, holding his arm. 'Don't do that. I didn't say you were crazy, just that you had a crazy brain.'

Extract 4 _____

YORKSHIRE EVENING NEWS

Arkle House papers sold for £75,000



A suitcase full of old papers dating from the nineteenth century was sold this morning for £75,000.

The suitcase was discovered last year in a farmhouse near Reeth, North Yorkshire.

Inside it were photographs, letters, bills and other papers that once belonged to Sir Francis Goodwin.

Sir Francis, the owner of Arkle House in Arkendale from 1802 to his death in 1866, was always thought to be extremely rich. However, after his death, his children and grandchildren were surprised to discover that he had left almost no money. There are many stories of undiscovered money, or even gold, hidden somewhere in the grounds of Arkle House, or possibly in the house itself. But nothing has ever been found.

The suitcase was bought by Lord¹ Fitch, the present owner of Arkle House. Thomas Goodwin, the great-great-grandson of Sir Francis, was also interested in the papers. However, he was unable to offer as much for them as Lord Fitch.

My notes _____

Extract 5 _____

The next day was the day of Reeth Show. The village of Reeth was in Swaledale, the next dale to Arkendale, and it was the nearest village with any shops. Every year at this time of year there was a show in a field just outside Reeth. At this show were all sorts of competitions: competitions to see who had grown the biggest vegetables, who could make the best cakes, who could take the best photographs; competitions to see which farmer had the best sheep and which had the cleverest sheepdog. There was a running race to the top of the nearest hill and back. There were tents where people sold things: clothes, boots, shoes, flowers, photographs of the dales, Yorkshire cheeses, cakes, Swaledale honey, hot dogs, ice creams, all sorts of things.

My notes _____



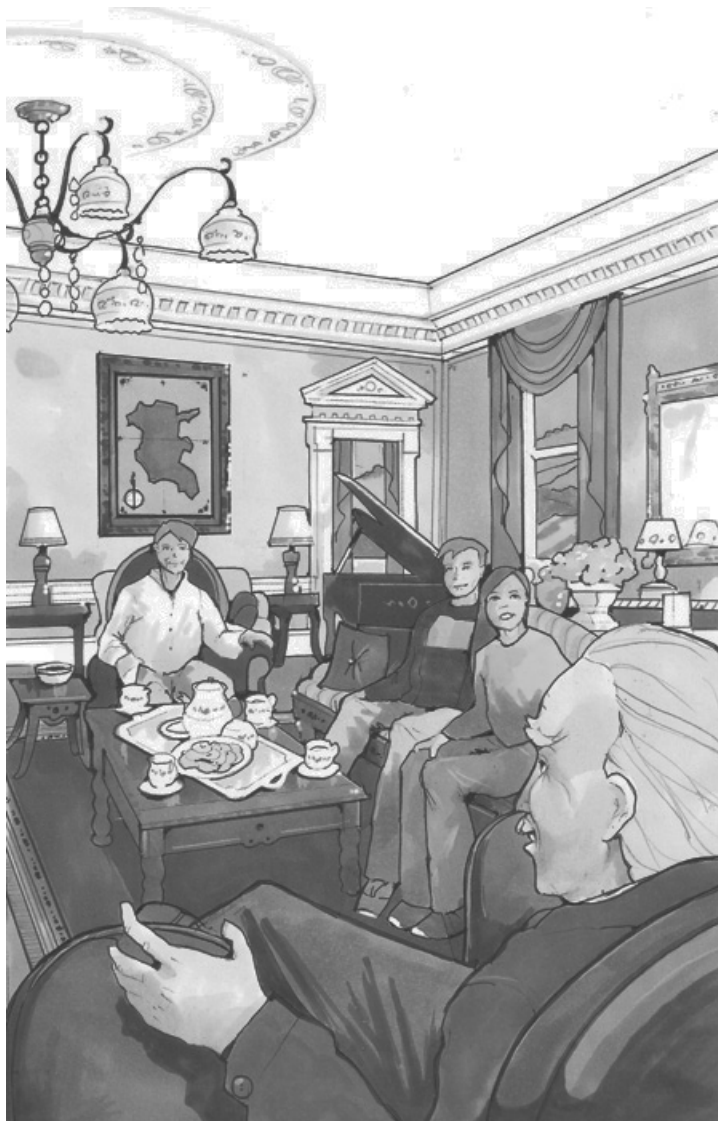


Illustration 3 _____

