



Missing Uncle Izzy

by Wendy Milton

TEACHER'S RESOURCE

Using this resource

This resource is designed to be used as students read each chapter. Each section is divided into the following:

Vocabulary

This section highlights some of the trickier words or phrases that students will find in this chapter. Work through the list, or pick out a few words of interest, and ask students about each word using these questions:

- What is another word the author could have used instead of _____?
- What does the word _____ mean?
- Can you find the word _____ in a dictionary?
- Can you think of another word that means the same as _____?
- What is a _____?
- What does the author mean by _____?

Comprehension

This section includes questions to help gauge your students' understanding of the text. Some questions can be answered by a straightforward reading of the text, while others may involve students drawing on prior information or drawing conclusions.

Conversation

This section includes questions of a more interpretive, open-ended nature to encourage higher-order thinking. Questions may ask students to make predictions, use their imaginations and draw upon personal experiences.

Worksheets

Worksheets are included for some chapters.

Before you begin

In the title *Missing Uncle Izzy*, the word 'missing' could mean two things. What are these two possible meanings?

Chapter 1

Pages 1-2

Vocabulary

accessible	p. 1
intrepid	p. 2
bequeathed	p. 2

Comprehension

- Does anyone know what happened to Alfie Henderson?
- Why are the grounds of Farewell Manor described as 'a moonscape'?

Conversation

Have you ever visited a haunted house? Would you like to?

Chapter 2

Pages 3-8

Vocabulary

constrained	p. 6
intolerant	p. 7

Comprehension

- What part of Uncle Izzy's funeral upset Ben the most?
- What do we learn about Uncle Izzy, in this chapter?
- How does Ben's mother describe Mrs Bellamy?

Conversation

Do you have any out-of-the-ordinary or eccentric relatives?

Chapter 3

Pages 9-15

Vocabulary

registration	p. 9
appreciatively	p. 11
aversion	p. 12
alliteration	p. 13

Comprehension

- In history, who were the Luddites?
- Why does Ben's mother call Ben's father a Luddite?

Conversation

How would you describe Ben's father?

Chapter 4

Pages 16–23

Vocabulary

crustacean	p. 16
monstrosity	p. 17
bogan	p. 23

Comprehension

- Is the Big Prawn a monument or an advertisement?

Conversation

Have you ever visited any 'big' things or seen pictures of them?

Chapter 5

Pages 24–33

Vocabulary

desolate	p. 25
clichés	p. 25
genial	p. 26
humongous	p. 26
interred	p. 30

Comprehension

- Why is Ben feeling 'buoyant'?
- What theory about his uncle does Ben suggest to Sergeant Pryor?

Conversation

Have people faked their own deaths? Why?

Chapter 6

Pages 34–39

Vocabulary

infiltrated	p. 36
codename	p. 38

Comprehension

- What makes Ben think the poem is about Alfie Henderson?
- The Wizard calls the monument destroyers 'iconoblasters', but that's a made-up word. There's another. Can you find it?
- What does 'spilling the beans' mean?
- What does 'gone to ground' mean?

Conversation

Why does Abby think Ben might be in danger?

Chapter 7

Pages 40–46

Vocabulary

paranoid p. 43

Comprehension

- Why does Abby say Ben should tell his mother about 'Wizifreak'?
- Why might the wizards be using Ben as bait?

Conversation

Is it dangerous to communicate on the internet with people you don't know?



Worksheet 1 TR Page 13

Draw a picture of Ben, at his desk, talking to 'Wizifreak'.

Chapter 8

Pages 47–52

Vocabulary

scenario p. 47
condone p. 48
vandalism p. 49
adversity p. 51
colloquial p. 51

Comprehension

- Why does Ben's father think Ben is inventing 'scenarios'?
- What does 'a bug' mean in the context of this story?
- What does 'don't come the raw prawn' mean?

Conversation

Can you find other examples of Aussie slang?

Chapter 9

Pages 53–58

Vocabulary

derogatory	p. 54
idolatrous	p. 55
absurd	p. 57

Comprehension

- 'Stinker Wainwright calls you a shrink.' Does this please Ben's father?
- What does 'eating crow' mean and why is Ben's father having to eat crow?
- What did Uncle Izzy do that put Ben in danger?

Conversation

Do you think Ben should have an iPhone?

Chapter 10

Pages 59–68

Vocabulary

allegations	p. 60
consensus	p. 61
noxious	p. 61
executor	p. 65
trepidation	p. 66

Comprehension

- What is Ben's father's opinion of Uncle Izzy?
- To what 'triple whammy' does Ben's mother refer?
- What do Ben and Abby suspect about the bikies?

Conversation

What's a Harley Davidson? What's a Harvey Wallbanger?

Chapter 11

Pages 69–75

Vocabulary

rambunctious	p. 69
formidable	p. 70
nefarious	p. 71
credence	p. 73
eminent	p. 74

Comprehension

- Why does Mrs Bellamy confuse 'Himmler' and 'Heimlich'?
- What does Mrs Cosgrove mean when she says: 'This is all getting a little far-fetched'?

Conversation

Do you find it strange that a bikie saved a young boy's life?

Chapter 12

Pages 76–83

Vocabulary

bogus	p. 77
peripheral	p. 81
garrulous	p. 82

Comprehension

- Would bikies have codenames? Who are these men, really?
- Why does Tinker threaten to leave?

Conversation

Do you find the exchanges between these warehouse dwellers amusing?



Worksheet 2 TR Page 14

Write a short story in which you are an undercover agent. For whom are you working and upon whom are you spying? Do you succeed?

Chapter 13

Pages 84–90

Vocabulary

unenlightened	p. 87
gallivanting	p. 87
humongous	p. 90

Comprehension

- Why are the 'bikies' blamed for the archaeologists' disappearance?
- What does Birdie reveal to Sergeant Pryor?
- What is Intersnitch?
- What does 'blown their cover' mean?
- What was Mrs Bellamy's relationship with Alfie Henderson?

Conversation

Tunnels? Secret entrances? What do you think happened to Alfie Henderson?

Chapter 14

Pages 91–97

Vocabulary

poppycock	p. 91
cynical	p. 93
patronising	p. 94
hapless	p. 97

Comprehension

- What's a 'fall-in'?
- Why won't Sergeant Pryor accept what Ben's mother is saying?

Conversation

Is Sergeant Pryor a reasonable man?

Chapter 15

Pages 98–105

Vocabulary

testy	p. 98
cadaver	p. 99
credence	p. 104

Comprehension

- Why is Commissioner Blake angry with Sergeant Pryor?
- Where do rumours in Mangrove start? What is the source for the unofficial information that flows through Mangrove's 'grapevine'?

Conversation

Do you remember the poem that was on Ben's computer? Was it about Alfie, do you think?

Chapter 16

Pages 106–114

Vocabulary

gibberish	p. 106
gesticulating	p. 111
encroached	p. 112
unnerving	p. 113

Comprehension

- What 'clue' does Mrs Bellamy now see in Alfie's poem?

Conversation

What do you think is meant by 'Something in Ben's mother snapped'?

Chapter 17

Pages 115–121

Vocabulary

grotesque p. 116
protuberance p. 117

Comprehension

- What is an inglenook?
- How do Ben and his mother become trapped?

Conversation

Have you ever been in a cold, dark, spooky place?

Chapter 18

Pages 122–128

Vocabulary

bullion p. 122
transfixed p. 122
cue p. 125

Comprehension

- What does Ben see in Alfie's tomb?
- Why does Ben not tell his mother and the students about Alfie's tomb?
- Why does Birdie show his ID (identity card) to Ben's mother?

Conversation

Have you ever had to watch something you didn't particularly want to see?



Worksheet 3 TR Page 15

Write a plot summary for a story about finding hidden treasure. Your 'treasure' doesn't have to be gold and jewels; it can be anything to which people attach value.

Chapter 19

Pages 129–136

Vocabulary

compromised p. 132
jeopardise p. 134

Comprehension

- Why is Mrs Bellamy attracting media attention?
- What does Mrs Bellamy decide to do?
- What piece of jewellery goes missing from Alfie's tomb?

Conversation

Are there things you wished you hadn't seen, or memories you'd like to erase?

Chapter 20

Pages 137–144

Vocabulary

notoriety p. 141
inadvertently p. 142

Comprehension

- Why is Ben finding it difficult to talk about his grisly discovery?
- How was Mr Hornery planning to cast doubt upon the Crown's case? Why does he have to 'eat his words'?

Conversation

Why does Stinker Wainwright make accusations against Ben?

Chapter 21

Pages 145–151

Vocabulary

affidavit p. 145
corroborating p. 146
tainted p. 146
benignly p. 147

Comprehension

- What is Mr Hornery hinting could have happened to the missing ring? How does Ben demolish his 'theory'?

Conversation

Do you think Ben did well?

Chapter 22

Pages 152–158

Vocabulary

testimony p. 153
waned p. 156
beneficiary p. 157

Comprehension

- According to Mangrove residents, what are Mrs Bellamy's chances of getting her hands on Alfie's treasure?

Conversation

Is what Abby proposes a better option than reconstructing the Big Prawn?

Chapter 23

Pages 159–167

Vocabulary

speculating	p. 159
scrumptious	p. 162
de facto	p. 165
backlash	p. 172
remorseful	p. 173

Comprehension

- Why is Mrs Bellamy suffering?
How does Ben make her feel better?
- Mrs Bellamy finds Mr Patterson QC's 'fallback position' offensive. Why?
- What does she finally reveal, when pressured by Mr Snoddy QC?

Conversation

Why did Mrs Bellamy feel she had to keep her family relationship with Alfie a secret?

Chapter 24

Pages 168–176

Vocabulary

traumatised	p. 171
dereliction	p. 176

Comprehension

- Why does the commissioner say Security has made a 'monumental botch-up'?
- Whose mouth is 'bigger than Tickhole Tunnel'?
- Where does Birdie place the blame for Ben's kidnap?

Conversation

Is Birdie right, do you think?

Chapter 25

Pages 177–183

Vocabulary

speculated	p. 181
tentative	p. 182

Comprehension

- What does Birdie mean by 'we're officially off the case'?
- Why does Abby say Stinker is 'sick'?
- What plan does Mrs Bellamy suggest to Ben's mother?

Conversation

Do you think this plan will work?

Chapter 26

Pages 184–191

Vocabulary

bush tucker p. 187
resurrect p. 190

Comprehension

- What does Ben's father think of Mrs Bellamy's bribery scheme?
- Tinker and Constable Dwyer independently discover information about the kidnappers' vehicle. How does Mrs Bellamy learn of it?

Conversation

'You won't be giving yourself up while the six of us are still breathing, Oz.' What does Birdie mean?

Chapter 27

Pages 192–199

Vocabulary

ponderous p. 193
balaclavas p. 193

Comprehension

- What do the kidnappers want Ben to do?
- What does Ben say into the camera?

Conversation

What are the rules of pig Latin? Can you try saying something in pig Latin?

Chapter 28

Pages 200–208

Vocabulary

simpered p. 201
consensus p. 204
ricocheting p. 206

Comprehension

- 'You will if you examine his teeth.' What does Mrs Bellamy mean?
- What does Uncle Izzy say to Ben at the end of this chapter?

Conversation

Why does Uncle Izzy say he can 'live with' his security career coming to an end?

Chapter 29

Pages 209–217

Vocabulary

spiked	p. 210
flak jacket	p. 211
circuitous	p. 213
retrospective	p. 213
turbulence	p. 214
fatigues	p. 215

Comprehension

- How does Constable Dwyer ensure that no one finds out about Sergeant Pryor's fudge eating?
- What lesson has Constable Dwyer learned?

Conversation

Do you like the ending of *Missing Uncle Izzy*?



Worksheet 4

TR Page 16

Write a review of *Missing Uncle Izzy*.

After you finish

Do characters in *Missing Uncle Izzy* behave heroically?

Is there a difference between a nickname and a codename? What names appeal to you in this story?

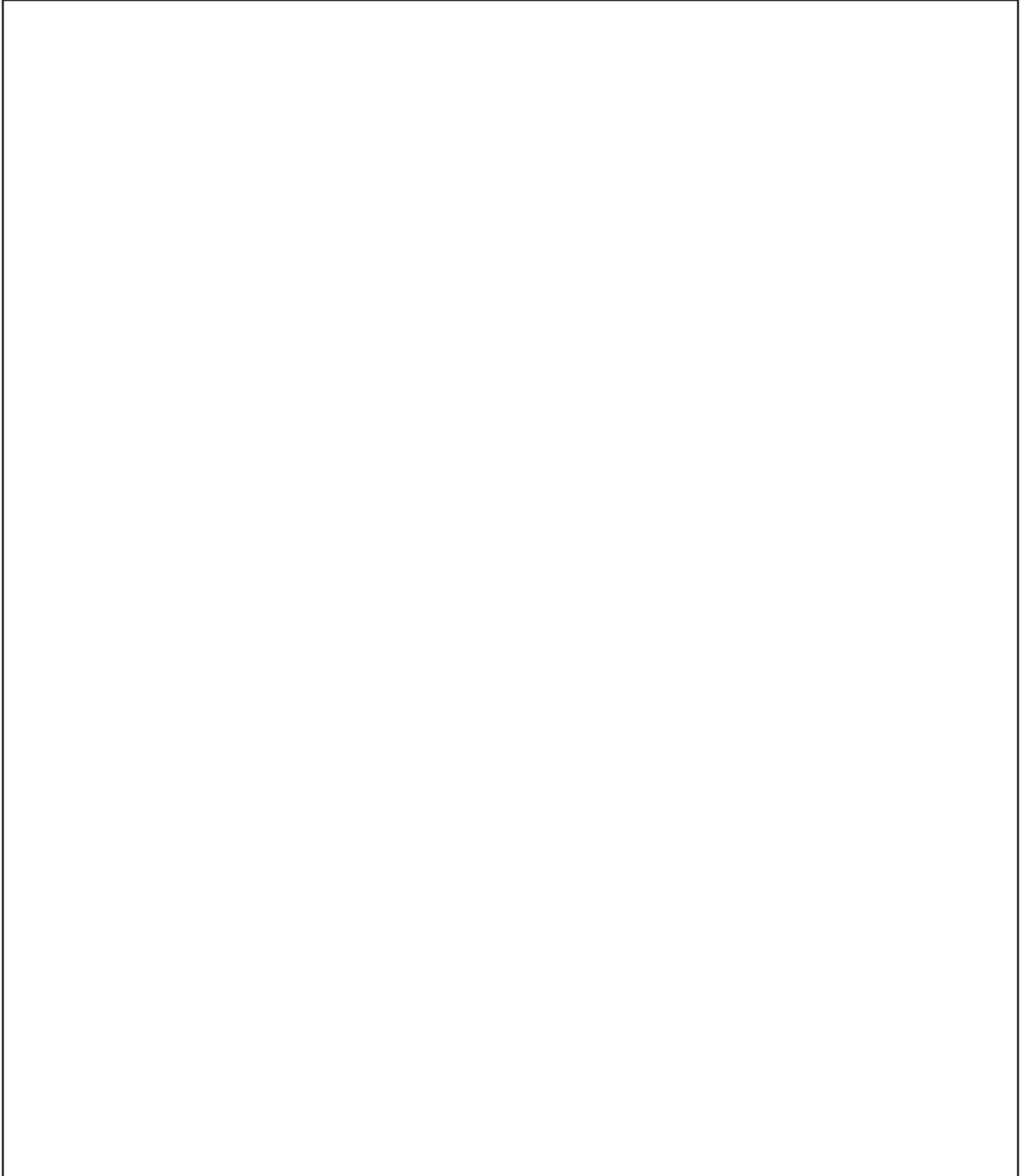
Now that you've finished the story, is there another possible meaning for the word 'missing'?

How does 'Better late than never' apply to this story?

Name: _____

Worksheet 1

Draw a picture of Ben, at his desk, talking to 'Wizifreak'.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing. It occupies the majority of the page below the instructions.

Write a short story in which you are an undercover agent. For whom are you working and upon whom are you spying? Do you succeed?

[illegible]

Write a plot summary for a story about finding hidden treasure. Your 'treasure' doesn't have to be gold and jewels; it can be anything to which people attach value.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Worksheet 4: Book review

Name: _____

Is *Missing Uncle Izzy* a mystery, an adventure, fantasy fiction, realistic fiction, non-fiction . . . ?

Plot outline: *What happens in the beginning, middle and end of this book?*

Characters: *Who are the 'goodies' and who are the 'baddies'? Are there characters who fall somewhere in between?*

Opinion: *What was your favourite part and why?*

My rating: 