

Rafferty's Rules

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

What does the cover image suggest?

Chapter 1 Pages 1-7

Vocabulary

haughty	p. 1
defections	p. 2
whetted	p. 4
sauntered	p. 7

Comprehension

- Who is Damien Berkinshaw?
- What information does Ben give Damien?
- How does Jimmy react when he learns about Evelyn's origins?
- What happened to Creepy Creevey?

Conversation

Do you like Damien Berkinshaw?

Chapter 2 Pages 8-14

Vocabulary

transcript	p. 9
imminent	p. 10
breakthrough	p. 11

Comprehension

- Why does Rodney's father turn pale?
- Who is Shuffy Nesbitt? Why is he nicknamed 'Shuffy'?
- What thought horrifies Sid and Muriel Smedley?

Conversation

Do people keep dangerous pets?
Find examples.



Worksheet 1 TR Page 15

Are there really carnivorous (meat-eating) plants?
Can you name some?

Chapter 3 Pages 15-22

Vocabulary

subduing	p. 15
pretentious	p. 20
arrogant	p. 22
patronising	p. 22

Comprehension

- Why is the chief inspector angry about Shuffy's photographs?
- What is 'poetic justice'?
- How does Miss Finchley feel about Damien?

Conversation

Do you think the manner of Professor Nettleforth's death is 'poetic justice'?



Worksheet 2 TR Page 16

Draw a picture of the two policemen restraining Chomper.

Chapter 4

Pages 23–28

Vocabulary

alliterative	p. 23
furtive	p. 24
trounced	p. 25
aftermath	p. 27

Comprehension

- What alliterative name does Evelyn suggest for the newsletter?
- How do Rodney's classmates feel about Damien?
- How is Damien 'disrespectful'?
- How does Evelyn convince Mr Rowbottom to help with the newsletter?
- What does 'don't push your luck' mean?

Conversation

Do you think Evelyn's suggestions to Mr Rowbottom are good?

Chapter 5

Pages 29–35

Vocabulary

complemented	p. 29
contemplating	p. 31
bartered	p. 34
callous	p. 35
exploiter	p. 35

Comprehension

- What 'breaking news' interrupts Evelyn's newsletter plans?
- What do Rodney and Evelyn suspect about the thieves?
- Why do Mr MacTavish's suspicions point to Rafferty?
- Can money become worthless?

Conversation

What makes Rafferty a 'callous exploiter o' human misery'?

Chapter 6

Pages 36–41

Vocabulary

heist	p. 36
envious	p. 38
scrumptious	p. 41

Comprehension

- Is Chief Inspector Fox's theory correct?
- What does the inspector's 'nose' tell him?
- What 'human-interest story' does the inspector offer the children?

Conversation

Do you think Inspector Fox will uncover the truth?

Chapter 7

Pages 42–48

Vocabulary

ethical	p. 43
quandary	p. 43
resourceful	p. 45

Comprehension

- Why does Dr Groper refuse, at first, to release Rodney's recording?
- How does the chief inspector obtain it?
- What is DS Hound's opinion after he listens to the recording?
- Does the chief inspector share DS Hound's opinion?

Conversation

Is Rodney right to tell the chief inspector what he knows?

Chapter 8

Pages 49–55

Vocabulary

calloused	p. 51
unkempt	p. 53
credibility	p. 55

Comprehension

- Why does DS Hound think the chief inspector might be 'losing it'?
- What does the story about Ratso tell us about the chief inspector?
- '... DS Hound couldn't swallow any of the revelations that accompanied it.' What does 'swallow' mean here?
- What causes DS Hound's 'nagging doubt'?
- What 'quick decision' does DS Hound have to make the next morning?

Conversation

Do you think DS Hound makes the right decision? What *might* he have done?

Chapter 9

Pages 56–63

Vocabulary

embryonic	p. 57
cloning	p. 59
longevity	p. 59
cynicism	p. 60

Comprehension

- What agreement does the chief inspector reach with Mr MacTavish?
- What does 'getting blood out of a stone' mean?
- To what famous children's story about a rabbit hole does the author refer?
- What does the chief inspector discover from reading *Llandringodd Made Easy*?

Conversation

Is dobbing good or bad? Does it depend on the circumstances?

Chapter 10

Pages 64–70

Vocabulary

vermiculture	p. 66
disgruntled	p. 67
compatriots	p. 68
opportunists	p. 68

Comprehension

- How does Evelyn foil Damien's spying attempts?
- Llandringodd has changed for the better, but are the people any happier?
- What agreement is reached at the meeting in Professor Clout's old office?

Conversation

Can you think of any reason why a police force shouldn't have 'independent powers'?

Chapter 11

Pages 71–77

Vocabulary

deficiency	p. 74
dehydrated	p. 76

Comprehension

- Describe the countryside through which Rodney travels.
- How does Rodney persuade his mother to let him continue searching for Rafferty?

Conversation

Is Rodney's mother too trusting when she says: 'Nothing dangerous now'?

Chapter 12

Pages 78–85

Vocabulary

thwarted	p. 78
susceptible	p. 79
reconnoitre	p. 83
credence	p. 84

Comprehension

- What happens to Damien? Is *this* poetic justice?
- What is 'profiteering' and why is it a crime?

Conversation

What 'theory' is Fiona inventing to explain Damien's tree climbing? Why does Evelyn encourage her?

Chapter 13

Pages 86–91

Vocabulary

gibberish	p. 86
scrutiny	p. 88
oblivious	p. 89

Comprehension

- How does Damien's tale-telling backfire?
- Do Damien's classmates applaud his pursuit of Rodney?
- What did Rodney neglect to tell his mother about homing-in?

Conversation

What cartoon villains do you know who conduct pursuits doomed to failure?

Chapter 14

Pages 92–97

Vocabulary

fallow	p. 94
polythene	p. 95
concussed	p. 96

Comprehension

- Why doesn't Rafferty believe Haines?
- What does Rodney find in the small bedroom?

Conversation

How would Rodney's mother feel if she knew about the risks he's taking?

Chapter 15

Pages 98–103

Vocabulary

dishevelled	p. 99
lair	p. 100
dodgy	p. 102

Comprehension

- Why does Damien say: 'Got him'?
- What is Rodney's opinion of Llandringodd's fledgling police force?
- Why is 'the food chain' important?

Conversation

They say, 'the camera never lies', but does it?

Chapter 16

Pages 104–111

Vocabulary

Perspex p. 105
corpulent p. 107

Comprehension

- How does Evelyn weaken Damien's photographic evidence?
- Explain the trick called Pepper's Ghost Illusion.
- Why does Rodney confess to knowing where the chief inspector and DS Hound are?

Conversation

Has trick photography been used to convince people of things that don't exist?



Worksheet 3 TR Page 17

Find some examples of trick photography. If possible, take a photograph – the sort of photograph Evelyn and Charmaine might have included in their exhibition.

Chapter 17

Pages 112–117

Vocabulary

adverse p. 114
speculation p. 117

Comprehension

- Is Mrs Rowbottom's criticism of Rodney's father justified?
- Why doesn't Superintendent Haggarsley react 'adversely' when DS Barker repeats what Rodney has said?
- How is Rodney's departure, in a police vehicle, interpreted by Damien and Ben?

Conversation

What is meant by:
'If revenge is sweet, Ben suffered sugar overload.'

Chapter 18

Pages 118–124

Vocabulary

hearsay	p. 119
snide	p. 120
exasperated	p. 121

Comprehension

- Who establishes a link between Rodney and the missing detectives?
- Why does DS Barker ask to speak with Rodney?
- Why does Rodney's father accuse him of lying?

Conversation

Is Rodney's father being unfair?

Chapter 19

Pages 125–130

Vocabulary

emaciated	p. 128
cowed	p. 128
presided	p. 129
priorities	p. 129

Comprehension

- What has happened to Evelyn?
- Why does Rodney send a message to his mother's phone?
- How has Miss Tremblechin changed?
- Does Rodney recognise any of the dungeon occupants?
- Why are some prisoners wearing metal collars?

Conversation

Does Rutherford like what Rafferty has become? What *has* Rafferty become?

Chapter 20

Pages 131–136

Vocabulary

gorge	p. 131
inhibits	p. 132
irrefutable	p. 134

Comprehension

- What is a SWAT team?
- What sensible suggestion does Mrs Strangeways make?
- How does the chief inspector's letter affect DS Barker, and what action does DS Barker take?

Conversation

Have you ever struggled to convince someone of something you knew to be true? Did you succeed?

Chapter 21

Pages 137-141

Vocabulary

wailing	p. 138
ammo	p. 139
grudgingly	p. 141

Comprehension

- Why does Mrs Strangeways roll her eyes?
- Does Wilbur's father believe Rodney can help?

Conversation

Do you find it stressful that Rodney is delaying his return to Earth? Why?

Chapter 22

Pages 142-148

Vocabulary

frogmarched	p. 143
jeopardised	p. 143
silhouetted	p. 144

Comprehension

- Why can't Rodney reactivate his transfer?
- What prompts Miss Tremblechin to release Rodney?
- Who is Archie?
- How have Miss Tremblechin's fortunes changed?

Conversation

Do you feel sorry for Miss Tremblechin?

Chapter 23

Pages 149-155

Vocabulary

purloined	p. 149
filched	p. 149
paralytic	p. 151
scarpered	p. 152

Comprehension

- What does Miss Tremblechin write down for Rodney?
- Why is it important that Rodney rescues DS Hound quickly?
- How does Rodney rescue DS Hound?

Conversation

Have you ever fired a rifle? Do you think it's right to shoot living things?

Chapter 24

Pages 156–162

Vocabulary

squadron	p. 157
prerequisite	p. 157
literally	p. 160

Comprehension

- Why is DS Barker angry?
- How does Sergeant Cummings react to DS Barker's temper tantrum?
- Who is the Scarlet Pimpernel and why is Rodney likened to him?
- What threat does Rafferty make?

Conversation

Rafferty's threat poses a 'dilemma'. Do you think Rodney makes the right decision?

Chapter 25

Pages 163–169

Vocabulary

pulsating	p. 163
apoplexy	p. 163
unconventional	p. 165
academic	p. 169

Comprehension

- What does Rodney wish about the helicopter?
- Do the assault troops believe DS Barker?
- How do you think DS Barker feels when Rodney takes over the briefing?

Conversation

'Either I go or nobody goes,' says Rodney. Why is this pleasing?

Chapter 26

Pages 170–176

Vocabulary

contingent	p. 171
reassurances	p. 171
nobbled	p. 173
ominous	p. 176

Comprehension

- What effect does the SWAT team's disappearance have on Constable Brennan?
- How does Dave Blakelaw describe Rafferty's guards?
- Why does Sergeant Cummings give Rodney 'the thumbs-up'?

Conversation

What is your opinion of DS Barker?

Chapter 27

Pages 177–184

Vocabulary

sights	p. 177
brandishing	p. 180
traumatised	p. 182

Comprehension

- What is Rodney's 'masterful stroll into thin air'?
- How do Mr MacTavish and the chief inspector belittle (make fun of) DS Barker?
- Who takes over command of the assault troops?
- What does the simile 'like spare sausages at a barbeque' mean?
- How are Miss Tremblechin and the chief inspector getting along?

Conversation

Why does Miss Tremblechin ask the chief inspector if he can tango?

Chapter 28

Pages 185–190

Vocabulary

scrutinising	p. 185
guise	p. 187
humiliation	p. 188
perceptible	p. 188

Comprehension

- Why won't Wilbur's father accept Rodney's advice?
- Why doesn't Rodney identify Rutherford?
- How would you describe the ending to Chapter 28?

Conversation

Would you have identified Rutherford?

Chapter 29

Pages 191–195

Vocabulary

basked	p. 191
devotees	p. 191
portal	p. 192

Comprehension

- What weird rumours are circulating in Frogmore?
- Is there a condition called 'temporomandibular joint disorder'?
- How does Evelyn ridicule Fiona for saying Rodney isn't normal?
- Why does Jimmy come to Rodney's defence?

Conversation

When something can't be explained, how do superstitious people sometimes react?

Chapter 30

Pages 196–202

Vocabulary

incredulous	p. 196
fêted	p. 197
intrepid	p. 199
adulation	p. 200
disabuse	p. 201

Comprehension

- Why isn't everything 'back to normal'?
- Why is Fiona Winchcombe 'green with envy'?
- Why do the police need Rodney's help?

Conversation

Name two of your favourite fictional heroes and heroines.

Chapter 31

Pages 203–208

Vocabulary

terrain	p. 205
eclipsed	p. 206

Comprehension

- For what purpose does Sergeant Cummings conduct a 'hide-and-seek' exercise?
- How does Jimmy defend Rodney?
- Why is it obvious that Ben Houlihan is lying?
- Is Fiona's reaction another 'performance'?

Conversation

Do you agree that using someone like Rodney could 'revolutionise missing persons'?

Chapter 32 & Postscript

Pages 209–215

Vocabulary

hallucinations p. 211

rampaging p. 212

jeopardise p. 214

Comprehension

- How do local police convince Mr Berkinshaw that rumours about people disappearing are untrue?
- 'There must be some sort of medication you can take . . .' Would Mr Berkinshaw's well-meaning remark please Damien?
- How does Evelyn avoid explaining what really occurred?
- What happens to DS Hound and Chief Inspector Fox?

Conversation

Does *Rafferty's Rules* satisfy your idea of poetic justice?

After you finish

Write a story about what you would do if you were a switcher.

Debate the topic: 'Seeing is believing.'

Draw a picture of your favourite scene from *Rafferty's Rules*.



Worksheet 4

TR Page 18

Write a review.

Find out whether there really are carnivorous (meat-eating) plants. If there are, can you name some of them?

[illegible]

Name: _____

Subduing Chomper

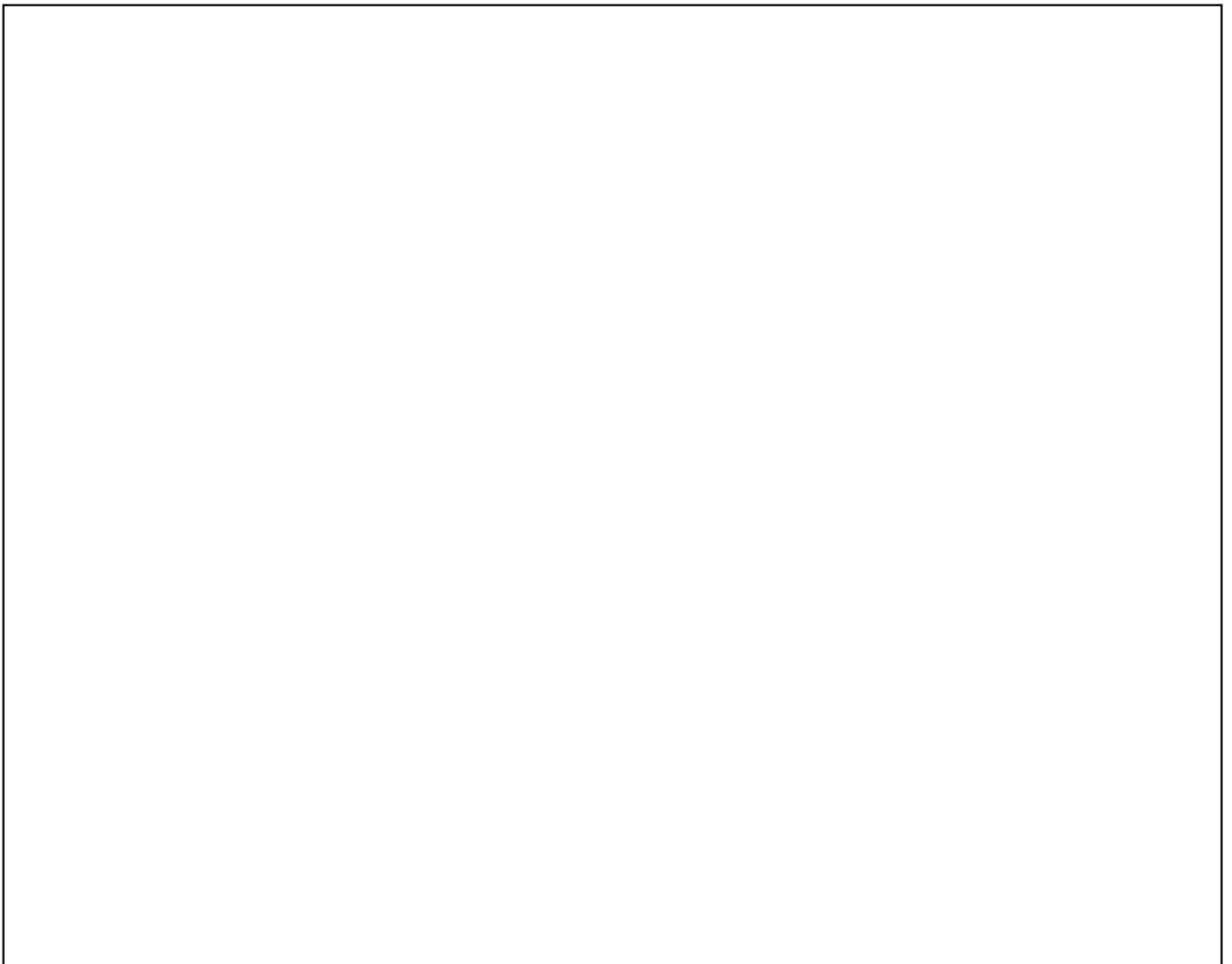
Draw a picture of the two policemen subduing Chomper.

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

Name: _____

Trick photography

Find some examples of trick photography. If possible, take a photograph – the sort of photograph Evelyn and Charmaine might have included in their exhibition.



Name: _____

Book Review

Write a book review of *Rafferty's Rules*.

Story type: *Was this story a mystery, an adventure, fantasy fiction, realistic fiction, non-fiction . . . ?*

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

Characters: *Describe the appearance and personality of two of the main characters.*

Opinion: *What was your favourite part and why? Did the story have a moral? What was it?*

My rating: 