



A Stitch in Time

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

'A stitch in time saves nine' is a well-known proverb. What do you think this proverb means?

Chapter 1

Pages 1-8

Vocabulary

fleeting	p. 1
nanoseconds	p. 2
pulsating	p. 5
geriatric	p. 6
drivel	p. 7

Comprehension

- Why does Sam want to know if he's adopted?
- Why does Sam want to travel back in time?

Conversation

Are there relatives you don't like visiting? Why not?

Chapter 2

Pages 9-14

Vocabulary

remnants	p. 9
nuked	p. 12
peaky	p. 14
gastronomic	p. 14

Comprehension

- 'If it weren't for you, Sam, I think I'd ...'. Any idea what Sam's mother is thinking?
- Find three verbs suggesting that Aunt Pam is overweight.

Conversation

Have you ever been forced to eat something you didn't like?

Chapter 3

Pages 15-24

Vocabulary

feckless	p. 16
whippet	p. 21
smirking	p. 23

Comprehension

- Why is Aunt Pam crying?
- What does Sam discover about his grandfather?

Conversation

How would you describe Sam and why?

Chapter 4

Pages 25–37

Vocabulary

embezzling	p. 26
humongous	p. 30
fragrant	p. 32
eccentric	p. 33
catastrophic	p. 34

Comprehension

- What is time-skipping? What advantage do time-skippers have?
- Why does Sam think that going forward is 'scary'?

Conversation

Would you like to go time-skipping? Why or why not?

Chapter 5

Pages 38–46

Vocabulary

oblivious	p. 38
dilapidated	p. 40
conspicuous	p. 42
anachronism	p. 43

Comprehension

- What is 'one of the problems of time-skipping', according to the Professor?
- Who is the TWC and what does he stop time-travellers from doing?
- What does the Professor call his spaceship? Why?

Conversation

If you could access a wormhole in space, where would you go?

Chapter 6

Pages 47–59

Vocabulary

skulked	p. 49
contorted	p. 50
interrogating	p. 51
swarthy	p. 52
rampaging	p. 56
ominous	p. 57

Comprehension

- What prompts the Ferrett to punch and kick Sam?
- Who does Sam think 'the pig man' might be?

Conversation

Would you like Henry Pendlebury for a father?

Chapter 7

Pages 60–68

Vocabulary

tessellated	p. 60
antagonise	p. 63

Comprehension

- What does Sam do in *Search-and-Tell*?
- To what decision has Sam arrived – i.e. what does he plan to do?

Conversation

Do you agree with Mr Whittaker that bullying is everyone's responsibility?

Chapter 8

Pages 69–77

Vocabulary

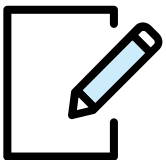
akubra	p. 72
keel	p. 73
sprog	p. 74
nobs	p. 77

Comprehension

- What was the America's Cup? Who was 'Bondy'? What was the 'winged keel'?
- Who is Vince Patterson trying to find? Why? What might he mean by: 'I won't be needing any [money] where I'm going.'

Conversation

What does Sam discover about money in 1983?



Worksheet 1

TR Page 11

Draw a picture of Sam arriving at Circular Quay.

Chapter 9

Pages 78–87

Vocabulary

cagey	p. 79
busk	p. 82
inhibition	p. 82
tabloid	p. 86

Comprehension

- How did Wicker acquire his nickname?
- What does 'You won't be so fussy when yer starvin'' mean?
- What does 'takin' the Mickey' mean?

Conversation

Are there still street children living like Wicker?

Chapter 10

Pages 88–97

Vocabulary

unadorned p. 89
unhygienic p. 91

Comprehension

- What does Wicker mean by 'a different place'?
- What are 'double standards'?

Conversation

If you could go back in time to 'mend' things, what would they be?

Chapter 11

Pages 98–105

Vocabulary

oblivious p. 98

Comprehension

- Alison's 'superb powers of observation weren't matched by superb powers of deduction'. What does this tell us about Alison?
- Why is Alison upset?
- What makes Emily believe that Holgate's agency is 'a front'?

Conversation

What does this chapter tell us about Emily?

Chapter 12

Pages 106–110

Vocabulary

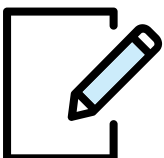
diddling p. 110
lair p. 110

Comprehension

- Sam's grandfather demanding 'the books' from Harry Holgate? What 'books' and why does Sam's grandfather want to see them?

Conversation

Did Alison do the right thing in dobbing Holgate? Would you have done the same?



Worksheet 2 TR Page 12

Write a short story about a character who 'dobs'. In your story, say whether dobbing is a good thing or a bad thing.

Chapter 13

Pages 111–119

Vocabulary

anonymous	p. 111
appraisal	p. 113
cavernous	p. 115
obscenities	p. 117

Comprehension

- What makes Sam think that Vince might be Holgate's murderer?
- Why does Sam reason that something must have happened to Vince?

Conversation

With what 'evidence' do the children make their escape from Holgate's lair?

Chapter 14

Pages 120–125

Vocabulary

prised	p. 120
stowing	p. 121
philosophical	p. 124

Comprehension

- What's 'wrong', according to Sam?
- How did the children change history?
- Why does Sam think they still need to talk to Vince?

Conversation

If you could change the past, what changes would you make?

Chapter 15

Pages 126–134

Vocabulary

intoxicating	p. 126
tousled	p. 129
delegation	p. 129

Comprehension

- How do Emily and Sam prove to Vince that they're from the future?

Conversation

'Not without his passport,' said Emily. What might Vince think of Emily at this point?

Chapter 16

Pages 135–141

Vocabulary

incriminating p. 136
aliases p. 137
furtively p. 138

Comprehension

- Why did Sam's grandfather get the blame for Holgate's murder?
- What saves Vince in the new universe?
- What does Vince want the Professor to do?

Conversation

Could there be another 'you' in a parallel universe?

Chapter 17

Pages 142–144

Vocabulary

guardian angels p. 144

Comprehension

- Why does the Professor say he can't help Vince?
- What suggestion does Sam make to Vince about the future?

Conversation

Vince 'didn't look back'. Does this have a metaphorical meaning?

Chapter 18

Pages 145–149

Vocabulary

sparsely p. 148

Comprehension

- Why do Wicker's eyes shine?
- Why does Wicker insist on wearing Emily's green parka?
- What does Sam's grandmother mean by: 'I call you my "other" Sam'?
- Does Sam lie? Why?

Conversation

Are there relatives you've known only from photographs? Would you like to meet them?



Worksheet 3 TR Page 13

Write a plot summary for a story in which the hero visits a long-dead relative and discovers something about his family that he didn't previously know.

Chapter 19

Pages 150–156

Vocabulary

forlorn	p. 152
subdued	p. 153
disconsolately	p. 153
wheedled	p. 155

Comprehension

- What does it mean to 'bend the truth'?
- What is Sam's grandfather trying to 'put right'?
- What must the TWC to do as a result of Sam's grandfather's actions?

Conversation

Do you feel sorry for Wicker? Why?

Chapter 20

Pages 157–159

Vocabulary

disconsolate	p. 158
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Comprehension

- What is written on the café serviette that Emily gives Wicker?
- Why can't Wicker return with Sam and Emily?

Conversation

Do you find the ending of this chapter sad? How would you feel if the story ended now?

Chapter 21

Pages 160–166

Vocabulary

tentacles	p. 160
dock	p. 161
mollify	p. 161
maniacal	p. 162
conjured	p. 165

Comprehension

- Why is the TWC angry with the Professor?
- Why is the TWC called Hermes?
- What punishment does the Professor receive?

Conversation

How will the universe to which Sam and Emily are returning be different?

Chapter 22

Pages 167–173

Vocabulary

fugitive	p. 168
monosyllabic	p. 169
avalanche	p. 170

Comprehension

- What has changed in the TWC's universe and why is Sam frightened, at first?
- What delights are in store for Sam?
- What is Sam's main concern about having a baby brother or sister?

Conversation

If you could make one big change in your life, what would it be?

Chapter 23

Pages 174–178

Vocabulary

conviction	p. 175
insignia	p. 176
grieved	p. 177

Comprehension

- How has school changed for Sam and Emily?
- What is in the pocket of Emily's faded, green parka?
- Why is Mr Whittaker mystified?

Conversation

In what way is the ending of Chapter 23 better than the ending of Chapter 20?

Chapter 24

Pages 179–181

Vocabulary

tarantula p. 180

Comprehension

- How different is Auntie Pam in the TWC's new universe?
- How would you now describe Sam's father's relationship with his sister?

Conversation

What sort of changes would you like the TWC to make for you?

Postscript

Pages 182–185

Comprehension

- Who is 'young Henry'?
- What do Sam, Emily and the Professor plan to do?



Worksheet 4

TR Page 14

Write a review of *A Stitch in Time*.

After you finish

Do characters in *A Stitch in Time* have faults? What are these faults and how do characters change for the better in the TWC's universe?

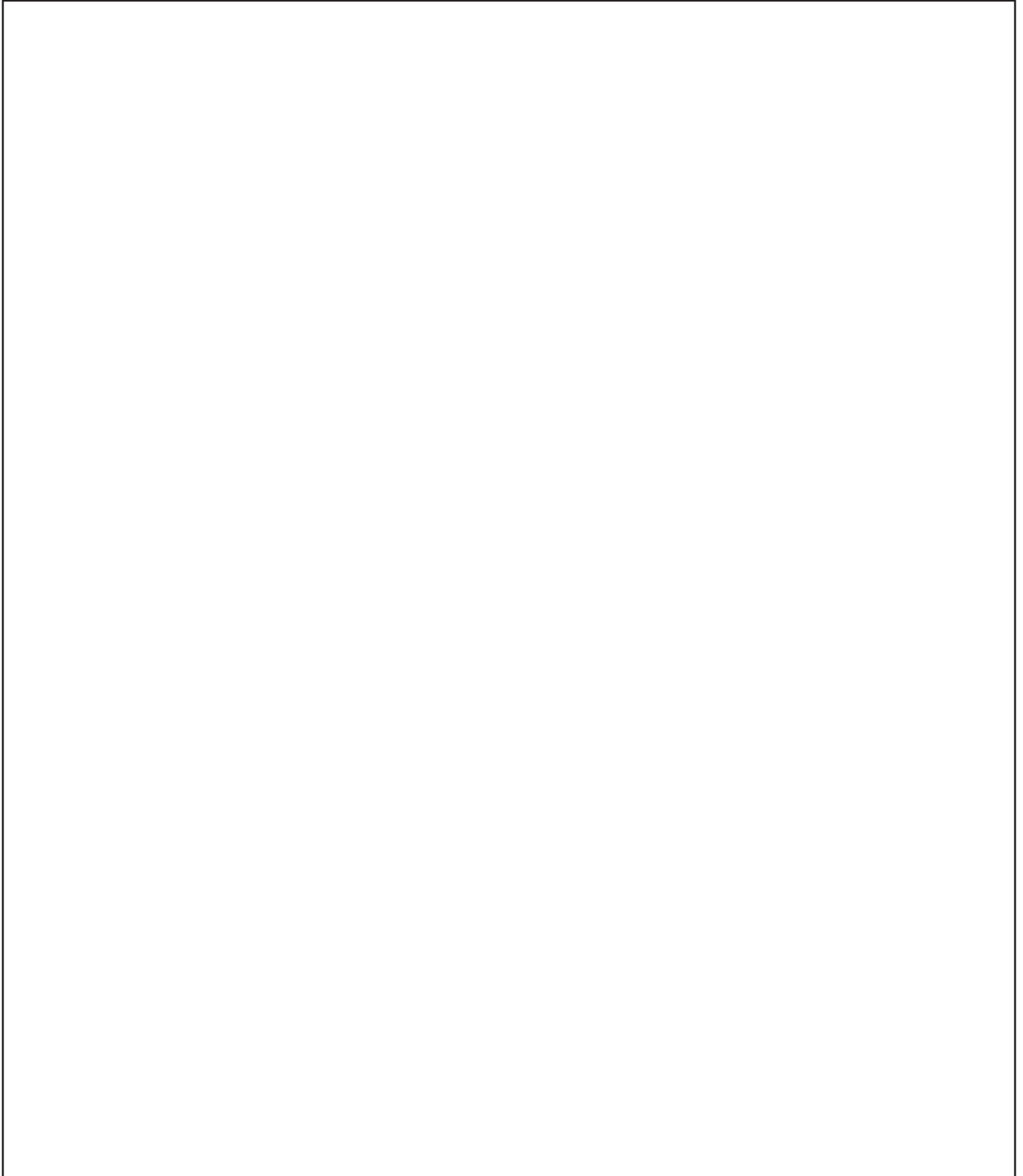
Was the final advice that Emily gave to Wicker sound?

What does the proverb 'Time is anger's medicine' mean? Does it hold true for this story?

Name: _____

Worksheet 1

Draw a picture of Sam arriving at Circular Quay.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of Sam arriving at Circular Quay.

Write a short story about a character who 'dobs'. In your story, say whether dobbing is a good thing or a bad thing.

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.

Write a plot summary for a story in which the hero visits a long-dead relative and discovers something about his family that he didn't previously know.

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 A Stitch in Time 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 were your favourite characters and why?*

Opinion: *What was your favourite part of A Stitch in Time and why? Did the story have a moral, do you think?*

My rating: 