



A Ghost of a Chance

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 ghost of a chance' is an idiomatic expression, commonly used in conversation and literature. What does it mean? And what is an idiom?

Chapter 1 Pages 1-7

Vocabulary

appalled	p. 4
spawning ground	p. 7
thwart	p. 7

Comprehension

- What is Uncle Rex doing that Raddy's parents don't like?
- Does Raddy agree with his parents?
- How does Raddy regard Uncle Rex?

Conversation

What does the word 'ambitious' mean? How does it relate to Raddy?

Chapter 2 Pages 2-19

Vocabulary

heretical	p. 8
convulsive	p. 10
refurbished	p. 13
mutual	p. 18
optimistic	p. 19

Comprehension

- What does this chapter tell us about Raddy's relationship with his fellow pupils and his relationship with his teacher?
- What are Raddy and his friends trying to do?

Conversation

Do you like Raddy? If so, why?

Chapter 3 Pages 20-25

Vocabulary

presbytery	p. 20
unrepentant	p. 21
unshriven	p. 21
consecrated	p. 21
rustic	p. 25

Comprehension

- What are Raddy and his friends planning to do and why?

Conversation

Do you think Father Clitheroe is a likeable character? What is your impression of him?



Worksheet 1 Resource Page 10

Draw a picture of what Raddy saw the murderer doing in the garden of Wrinkley's shack.

Chapter 4

Pages 26–33

Vocabulary

morose-looking	p. 26
indoctrination	p. 27
fabricating	p. 28

Comprehension

- What impression does the reader get of Miss Allenby in this chapter?
- How are the children planning to attract more tourists?
- Why do the words of Emily Dickinson's poem mean something to Raddy?

Conversation

How does Father Clitheroe help Raddy and his friends?

Chapter 5

Pages 34–46

Vocabulary

sleuthed	p. 36
validated	p. 40
chameleon	p. 42
cache	p. 42
irrational	p. 44
superstitious	p. 44

Comprehension

- What 'competition' do the children wish to put into place? What does this competition involve?

Conversation

How does Uncle Rex help Raddy and his friends?

Chapter 6

Pages 47–59

Vocabulary

gavel	p. 47
embargo	p. 49
adjourned	p. 49
paranormal	p. 50
scaremongers	p. 51
extinction	p. 53

Comprehension

- What is Mayor Singleton trying to do in the Council meeting? Does he succeed? What is the outcome?
- Why does Raddy write to Channel 9?
- Who is Aileen Honeycut?

Conversation

Do you find this chapter frightening? Give reasons for your answer.

Chapter 7

Pages 60–67

Vocabulary

devastated	p. 60
sustained	p. 61
ill-gotten gains	p. 64

Comprehension

- Why do Dullgong's townsfolk stop complaining about the children's campaign?
- What new theory about Wrinkley's visit does Raddy suggest?

Conversation

Why is Lumpy's belief not the same as that of his friends regarding the existence of a ghost? What's the reason for Lumpy's disagreement?

Chapter 8

Pages 68–77

Vocabulary

ingratiating	p. 68
trumped-up	p. 69
notoriety	p. 70
exorcise	p. 72
jettisoned	p. 74

Comprehension

- What are Miss Allenby's feelings about Wrinkley?
- What happens to Miss Allenby in this chapter?
- What does Raddy decide to do and why?

Conversation

How would you describe Raddy's actions?

Chapter 9

Pages 78–89

Vocabulary

unnerving	p. 80
tremulous	p. 80
whirling dervish	p. 82
coordinates	p. 84
placated	p. 84

Comprehension

- What does Raddy discover when he visits Miss Allenby's cottage?
- What conclusion about her own behaviour does Miss Allenby reach when Raddy rescues her?
- How is Miss Allenby related to Wrinkley?

Conversation

Does this chapter arouse your curiosity? If so, why?

Chapter 10

Pages 90–99

Vocabulary

cynicism	p. 92
heirloom	p. 94
manifestation	p. 95
phasmophobia	p. 96
overzealous	p. 97

Comprehension

- How do Father Clitheroe and Reverend Wallingham differ in their views about Wrinkley?
- Why are people finding it difficult to know what Wrinkley might be searching for?

Conversation

Chapter 10 poses a question of whether Wrinkley has 'done the town a favour'. What do you think?

Chapter 11

Pages 100–109

Vocabulary

stunt	p. 100
phenomenon	p. 101
mollify	p. 101
belying	p. 103
implacable	p. 103

Comprehension

- What happens to Raddy outside Wrinkley's cottage?
- What does Raddy say when asked where he'd been?
- Are the children closer, now, to knowing what Wrinkley wants?

Conversation

If you could travel into the past, what would you like to witness or see?

Chapter 12

Pages 110–120

Vocabulary

tendrils	p. 113
paperweight	p. 116
gemologist	p. 117
prankster	p. 118
contemplate	p. 119

Comprehension

- Do Miss Allenby's answers shed light on what Raddy 'saw' outside Wrinkley's cottage?
- Why is Raddy's mother angry?
- What thought is 'too awful for [Raddy] to contemplate'?

Conversation

Has the finding of the rock answered all the reader's questions, or only some?



Worksheet 2 Resource Page 11

Write a short story in which you are a Dullgong policeman trying to piece together possible motives for Wrinkley's murder.

Chapter 13

Pages 121-127

Vocabulary

plausible	p. 123
kerfuffle	p. 124
bemused	p. 125
psychic	p. 126

Comprehension

- What secret plan does Raddy put into action in this chapter?
- What does Uncle Rex think about Raddy's plan?

Conversation

Raddy has trouble getting people to believe his story. At the end of Chapter 13, Raddy's mother expresses fears. What are these fears? Do you agree with her?

Chapter 14

Pages 128-134

Vocabulary

construed	p. 128
loony	p. 131
irked	p. 133

Comprehension

- Why is Raddy unhappy?
- What does he do to improve his situation?
- What makes Miss Allenby 'a Wrinkley too'.

Conversation

Do you feel sorry for Raddy? Why?

Chapter 15

Pages 135-140

Vocabulary

authenticated	p. 136
preservation	p. 137
archivist	p. 137
plausible	p. 138
dubious	p. 138

Comprehension

- What does 'gone to ground' mean?
- Who is Henry Beckinstall and what does he have that the children would like to get their hands on?
- How does Uncle Rex help the children succeed in obtaining it?

Conversation

In Chapter 15 the plot moves away from the rock and towards 'other stuff', which turns the story into a treasure hunt. Is this a good move on the author's part?

Chapter 16

Pages 141-146

Vocabulary

Purgatory	p. 141
booty	p. 142
avidly	p. 142
sheaves	p. 143
blab	p. 145
logical	p. 146

Comprehension

- Father Clitheroe (a Catholic) and the Reverend Wallingham (a Protestant) hold differing beliefs. Can you say what these differences are?
- Why are Raddy and his other friends angry with Lumpy?

Conversation

Lumpy states that 'Bringing In the Sheaves' is a song. Does anyone know this song? Is it just a song, or is it a clue, as Raddy believes?

Chapter 17

Pages 147-152

Vocabulary

adamant	p. 147
alluded	p. 147
plausible	p. 149
sap	p. 153

Comprehension

- What is Raddy's theory that the Headmaster, Mr Westgate, secretly agrees with?
- What advice does Father Clitheroe give Raddy?

Conversation

Raddy's mother says: 'You stick with what you believe, Raddy. You have my support.' Do you agree with Raddy's mother?

Chapter 18

Pages 153-162

Vocabulary

dedicate	p. 154
extolling	p. 154
jibes	p. 156
dislodging	p. 157
demented	p. 159
traumatised	p. 160
onerous	p. 161

Comprehension

- What does Raddy wish Wrinkley would do?
- What happens in Mayor Singleton's Council meeting?
- How does this pose a problem for the Reverend Wallingham?
- Why does Reverend Wallingham blame Raddy?

Conversation

Does the action in this chapter support Raddy's ideas? Is this something the reader enjoys? Why?

Chapter 19

Pages 163–171

Vocabulary

wrath	p. 164
engulfed	p. 166
haphazardly	p. 166
evacuation	p. 168
diagnosis	p. 169

Comprehension

- Why is Raddy keen to photograph headstones?
- Where is Uncle Rex?
- What does Raddy fear during his stay in the Community Hall?

Conversation

What does this chapter tell us about Raddy? Would you like to have him as a friend? Why?

Chapter 20

Pages 172–180

Vocabulary

tangible	p. 173
sarky	p. 174
sniping	p. 174

Comprehension

- On the way back home, how do the thoughts of Raddy's parents differ?
- Why is Raddy's father annoyed when his mother says: 'It's a *miracle*'?
- Which parent supports Raddy in his fears?

Conversation

'I didn't have your address,' said Raddy. What do you think this tells us about Raddy? Do you find it amusing? What aspects of Raddy's personality emerge in Chapter 20?

Chapter 21

Pages 181–187

Vocabulary

berserk	p. 183
inscriptions	p. 183
adamant	p. 183
grouch	p. 184

Comprehension

- How does Uncle Rex's attitude differ from that of Raddy's father?
- Why is there no record of any cave?
- What gift does Uncle Rex bring Raddy? How do they use it?

Conversation

Do you know someone whose surname has to do with an occupation? Apart from those mentioned, can you find others?

Chapter 22

Pages 188-196

Vocabulary

perpetuity	p. 188
interment	p. 188
insistent	p. 192
grudgingly	p. 192
stash	p. 193

Comprehension

- Why does Reverend Wallingham try to prevent the search for Wrinkley's treasure and how does Uncle Rex overcome this?
- What device helps Uncle Rex uncover the site?
- What is the atmosphere like on the day of the dig?

Conversation

Raddy doesn't want to be interviewed or appear on television. Does this concur with what you already know about Raddy? Is Normie wanting to 'take a look' a good idea?



Worksheet 3 Resource Page 12

What words in Wrinkley's final diary entry might provide proof of buried treasure?

Chapter 23 & Postscript

Pages 197-207

Vocabulary

trajectory	p. 200
winch	p. 202
rigid	p. 204
accolade	p. 205

Comprehension

- How do the boys leave a trail?
- What does Raddy find? What is he hoping it is?
- 'He was indeed coming, whether he liked it or not.' Coming where?
- What does the Postscript tell us about Raddy?

Conversation

What geographical feature is Raddy looking for when he and Normie head into the bush? How does he know what to look for? Is Raddy's story a success story? Why?



Worksheet 4 Resource Page 13

Write a book review of *A Ghost of a Chance*.

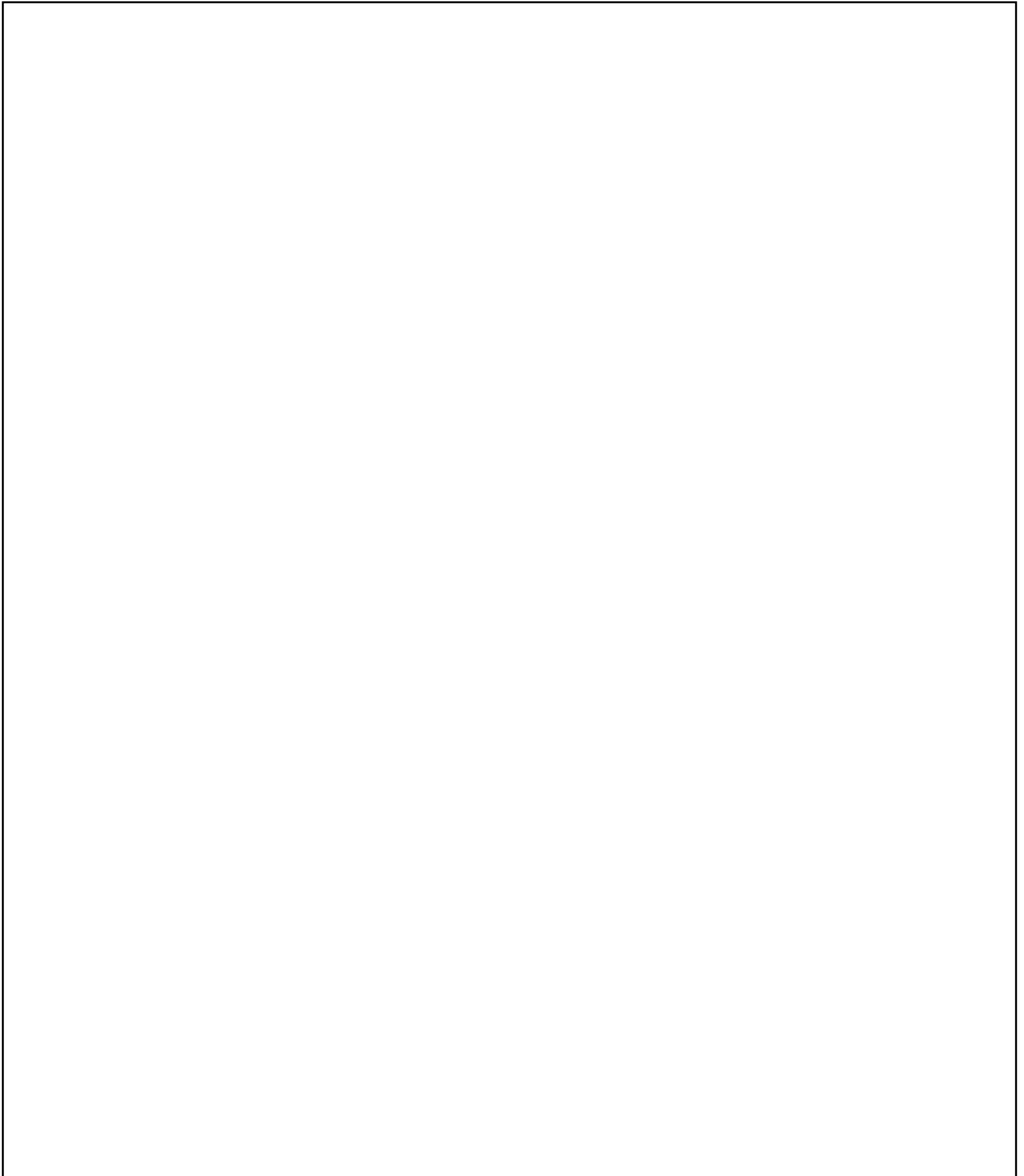
After you finish

Who would you say is Raddy's best friend? How many other friends does he have and what are their names? Is there one in particular with whom Raddy disagrees? Why do they disagree?

Name: _____

Worksheet 1

Draw a picture of what Raddy saw the murderer doing in the garden of Wrinkley's shack.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of what Raddy saw the murderer doing in the garden of Wrinkley's shack.

Name: _____

Worksheet 4: Book review

Story type: *Would you call this story a mystery, an adventure, or fantasy fiction?*

Plot outline: *What happens in this book? Your summary should look at the beginning, the middle and the end.*

Characters: *Describe the personalities of two of the main characters.*

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

My rating: 