**This is me! Mel B!**

**By Errol Lloyd**

**Introduction and Chapter 1 – Melanie Brown**

1. Who is Mel B and what is her real name? (p4)
2. What was Melanie practising hard for? (p7)
3. Why do you think that the stage would have appeared as a large and unfriendly place to Melanie? (p9)
4. How did the author describe the audience of people? (p9)
5. Why did the enthusiastic applause make Melanie feel relaxed? (p10)
6. What is a pianist? (p10 or a dictionary)

Extension: Look through the chapter and list as many interesting adjectives (describing words) as you can.

**Chapter 2 – “Melanie Brown, Brown Melanie”**

1. Why do you think that Samantha didn’t talk to or want to hang about with Melanie? (p16)
2. The children were being very nasty to Melanie. What racist term did they call her and what reason did they give for doing so? (p 16)
3. Where was her Dad actually from and what information told you this? (p19)
4. Why do you think her Dad seem so calm about the situation? (p19)
5. Was Melanie’s extended family (grandparents etc) supportive of her mum and dad’s relationship? Explain your answer. (p21-22)
6. Why did her mum and dad move into a small flat? (p22)

**Extension:** Do you think that her mum and dad had a lot of money? Justify your answer with information from the book.

**chapter 3 – A prayer for Danielle**

1. Use a dictionary to find out what the word ‘bleak’ means and write down the definition in your jotter.
2. What two things did Melanie really enjoy doing? (p26)
3. What was Melanie really good at doing? (p27)
4. Give an example from the book of what would ‘burst the bubble’? (p27)
5. How was Danielle related to Melanie and why was she bullied? (p27)
6. What prayer did Melanie make? (p28)

**Extension:** Look at the fact file on p25, write a fact file about yourself.

**Chapter 4 – This is me!**

1. What happened when Melanie was thirteen that really made her stop and think about who she was? (p32-33)
2. What is a perm? Use the glossary at the back of the book to help you.
3. What two cultures did Melanie come from? (p35)
4. Use a dictionary to find out the definition of the word ‘petty’.
5. What was difficult for Melanie when she was hanging out with her black friends or her white friends? (p36-37)

Extension 1: Find out some interesting information about black history and the suffering that black people have had to deal with throughout history. Write down some important details in your literacy jotter.

**Chapter 5 – Mel B**

1. Where did Melanie decide to go in search of success and fame? (p38)
2. What age did Melanie leave home? (p38)
3. Where did Melanie originally come from? (p39)
4. In which popular soap did Melanie appear? (p40)
5. Who did Melanie meet along the way? Why is this interesting? (p40)
6. How many girls applied to the advert and how many people were finally chosen? (p41)
7. What does the word ‘celebrities’ mean? Use the glossary at the back of the book to help you.

**Extension:** use the internet to research one of the other spice girls and create a fact file about her like the one on p25.

**Chapter 6 – Phoenix from the Ashes & The Spice Girls**

1. What did Melanie sometimes wish? (p44)
2. Who is Phoenix? (p44)
3. Who did Melanie marry and what was his job? (p44)
4. How did Danielle become famous? (p45)
5. What promise did Melanie make to Phoenix? (p45)
6. Use the information in the book to explain why each girl in the group was given a specific nickname. (p46-47)

**Extension:** Write about a time when you felt bullied or left out. Was the problem ever sorted? How did you learn to deal with it?