**Ratburger  
By David Walliams**

**Reading Activities**

**Predicting** *(what you think something may be about)*

Before reading this book, look at the front cover, the illustrations, scan read through the book and read the blurb on the back cover.

Then become a prediction detective:

In your jotter make predictions about the **characters**, **events** and **settings** in your book. Use 3 headings, *Characters*, *Events* and *Settings* in your jotter. Then write your predictions under these headings and provide evidence why you have made these predictions (you could use page numbers of things you have linked to your opinion or perhaps connections you have made to other texts or knowledge you have read or learned about.)

**Summarising**

Use a page at the back of your jotter and write and then underline the heading *Summary*.

Use this page to record the main points of each chapter.

Chapter 1- Prawn-Cocktail-Crisp Breath

Answer the following questions in sentences in your jotter.

1. What infers (hints) that Zoe’s stepmother, Sheila isn’t a very nice person?
2. What simile does the author use on page 17 to describe Sheila’s physical size?
3. What did Sheila suggest Zoe do with her dead hamster?
4. What does Zoe think has happened to her hamster?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Character Profile

Use an A4 sheet of paper and fold it in half landscape. Draw a picture of what you think Sheila looks like just now and as you read on and gather more information about Sheila, you will draw another image how you now think Sheila is. You will be able to use adjectives to describe both how Sheila looks and her qualities.

Chapter 2

1. What was Zoe’s dad’s job?
2. How do you know Zoe got on really well with her dad?
3. Why did Zoe really want a pet?
4. Why did Zoe think she had picked ‘Gingernut’ as a pet?
5. What tricks had she trained Gingernut to do?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Think of a new flavour of ice-cream you would like to eat. Use the sheet provided to draw it and use adjectives to describe it.

Chapter 3 – Nuffink

1. What terrible news had Zoe’s dad got?
2. Why was Zoe so concerned about her dad?
3. On page 31 how does the author infer (hint) again how awful Sheila is?
4. What did Zoe dream of doing in the future?
5. What happened to change her dreams?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

\*Using the Character Investigation Sheet, record what you know about Zoe and keep adding to the sheet as you gain more information about her.

Chapter 4 - Dirty Business

1. How do we know where Zoe lived wasn’t very nice?
2. How does the author describe Zoe’s dad and stepmother?
3. How Gingernut was ‘disposed’ of?
4. Describe how you think Zoe would be feeling after losing her pet hamster? (try to think of WOW words to answer this question)

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Questioning – Think of 5 questions you would like to ask Zoe’s dad and then ask someone else in your group to answer them.

Chapter 5 – Droppings

1. What kind thing did Zoe’s dad do for her?
2. Why was Zoe so hungry?
3. Why was Raj kind to Zoe? What humour does the author use regarding this?
4. After eating all of the chocolate what strange thing did Raj say he was going to do with the wrapper?
5. Using a dictionary or ICT look up the word ‘imperceptible’ and write the meaning in your jotter.
6. What animal does Zoe find in her room?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Research how you care for a hamster and write numbered instructions in your jotter, using a title- How to Care For your Hamster and then draw a picture of a hamster.

Chapter 6 - Rat-a-tat-tat

1. What effect does the author have when he repeats the 7 questions about rats on page 63?
2. What adjectives (describing words) does the author use to describe the baby rat?
3. What was going to make it difficult for Zoe to keep her pet rat a secret?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Design a new front cover for this book. Don't forget the title and the author’s name.

Chapter 7 & 8 - Animal Smuggling & Bread Sandwich

1. What are one of the animal jokes does the author use at the start of this chapter?
2. What things in chapter 7 tell you that Zoe is poor and badly treated by her stepmother?
3. If you were Zoe how do you think you would feel? (try to use lots of adjectives)
4. What did Zoe end up naming her pet rat and why?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

\*Imagine you are an agony aunt in a magazine (a person who gives others advice). Write some advice to Zoe regarding all of the problems she has in her life.

Chapter 9 - One Shoe & Chapter 10- The Midget

1. What happens to Tina in Chapter 9 that she clearly deserves?
2. Using ICT or a dictionary find the meaning of the word ‘authoritative’ and write it in your jotter.
3. How did Zoe manage to get the rat off Tina’s finger?
4. How does the author infer (hint) that Miss Midge is a scary teacher?
5. What history subject was Miss Midge always teaching?

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Follow Up Task

Comparing

Using your venn diagram template to compare yourself to Zoe.

Chapter 11 - The Black Death & 12 - Instant Suspension

1. Why did the headmaster suspect someone had brought a pet into school?
2. What animal did Miss Midge say was responsible for the spread of the Black Death?
3. What is your favourite reason from ‘the worst thing that could happen to you at school list’ that the author gives us? Give a reason.
4. What happened to Zoe when the head teacher and Miss Midge found out she had brought a pet to school?
5. How do you think you would feel if you were Zoe? Give reasons.

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Follow Up Task

Inferring – DIRDS (described, illustrated, responded, what they do and say)

Choose a character from the book and answer the following questions using all the inferences (hints) that the author provides us with:

Described- How does the author describe the character?

Illustrated- How do the illustrations represent the character?

Responded to - How do other characters react to this one?

Do- What does the character do to give us clues about their distinguishing traits and qualities?

Say - What does the character actually say to give us clues about their traits?

Chapter 13 - Burt’s Burgers & Chapter 14- A Bogie on the Ceiling

1. How does the author describe Burt the burger van man?
2. How do you think Zoe must have felt when everyone was laughing at her at the burger van?
3. Which of Zoe’s ideas for her options to escape her embarrassment would you choose and why?
4. What effect does the author’s use of all the ‘aaaarrrggghhh’ on page 139 have on you as a reader?
5. Using ICT or a dictionary to find the meaning of ‘surreptitiously’ and write it in your jotter.

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Follow Up Task

Choose a character from this book and use as many adjectives to describe them as you can, both how you think they look and their personality.

Chapter 15 Ten Tonne Truck & Chapter 16 - The Blackberry Bush

1. Why did Zoe know she would not be allowed to keep Armitage for long?

2. How do we know Zoe really cared about Armitage?

3. What happened when Zoe tried to set Armitage free?

4. Describe how Zoe found out Armitage could do tricks.

5. Who was Zoe shocked at seeing in her room?

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Follow Up Task

Scanning

Scan read through your book and choose 10 verbs (doing words) and write them in your jotter.

Chapter 17 - I smell a Rat & Chapter 18 - Pulverisation

Visualisation

Visualise what you think Burt Looks like, draw a picture of him in your jotter and then use adjectives to describe how you think he looks and behaves.

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Chapter 19- The Great Escape & Chapter 20 - Tug of War

1. What did Zoe use to hollow out the wall in her room for her great escape?
2. Use a dictionary or ICT to find out the meaning of the word ‘suspiciously’ and write the meaning in your jotter.
3. When Zoe finally broke through her bedroom wall into the next door flat whose face did she see?
4. What are some of the adjectives (describing words) that the author uses to describe Tina Trotts on page 196?
5. Describe the effect the image on pages 208 & 209 has on you.( How does it make you feel?)

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Follow Up Task

Scanning

Scan read through your book and write as many nouns as you can.

Chapter 21- Sizzling Bottom & Chapter 22-Free Spit

1. How does the author infer (hint) that Tina’s home is even worse than Zoe’s home?
2. How did Zoe escape from the scaffolding?
3. How does the author make you feel very sorry for Zoe?
4. Why do you think Zoe is suspicious of Burt?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Imagine you are an agony aunt (someone who gives advice to people about their problems) Write some advice that you would give to Maia.

Chapter 23 – The Pulverisation Machine & 24- Childburger

1. What disgusting thing did Zoe see inside Burt’s van?
2. Describe where Burt drove to and what did Zoe see there?
3. Describe what the pulverisation machine looked like and what it was for?
4. What was Burt’s big secret?
5. What shocking thing did Zoe find out about Burt and why did this make him a great rat catcher?

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Follow Up Task

Design and then draw a machine of your own and describe what you would use it for.

Chapter 25-Roadkill & Chapter 26 – The Executioner & Axe

* 1. How did Zoe manage to escape from Burt?
  2. Use a dictionary or ICT to find out the meaning of the word ‘malevolent’ and write the meaning of it in your jotter.
  3. What eventually made Zoe’s dad decide to help her?
  4. How did Burt try to trap Zoe?

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Follow Up Task

Imagine you are Zoe and write a diary entry about her experiences that day.

Chapter 27- A hole in the Fence & Chapter 28- Rat Poison

1. What had made Zoe’s dad drink and give up hope?
2. The author describes the warehouse buildings as ‘A titanic graveyard of empty buildings, bathed in the harshest of light.’, What effect does his excellent choice of adjectives (describing words) have on you?
3. What was so shocking about how Zoe’s hamster had died?
4. Describe what eventually happened to Burt and Sheila.

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

\*Visualisation

Visualise (think about how something looks like in your head) what the factory where Burt made his burgers looked like, don’t forget the pulverisation machine and the cages and cages piled high that contained the rats. Draw a picture in your jotter and use adjectives to describe your jotter.

Chapter 29 –Pink Furry Slippers & Chapter 30- Room Mates

1. What happened to allow Armitage to escape?
2. How does the author use humour to describe the burgers that Burt and Sheila have been made into?
3. What revenge did the rats have on Burt and Sheila?
4. How had things changed for Zoe and her father?
5. What did Zoe and her dad decide to do with Burt’s van and what name did they paint on it?

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Follow Up Task

Personal Writing - Write about a time that you felt proud of yourself.

Chapter 31 – Rich and Famous Rat & chapter 32- actually Too Much Fudge & Epilogue

1. What very important thing did Tina say to Zoe?
2. What had Zoe taught Armitage to do?
3. Choose your favourite flavour of ice cream Zoe’s dad had made?
4. What did Zoe do with the huge ice cream her dad made for her?
5. Describe how you think Armitage had changed Zoe’s life?
6. Describe how Armitage performed at the school talent show and how the audience reacted to his tricks?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

\*Design a poster that has bullet pointed information that would persuade other people to read this book. Include suitable pictures, the Title and author of the book.