

# A WEE BIT MAGIC



*Ely Percy*

ScotsHoose  
Yaldi



# A WEE BIT MAGIC

FRIEDA KIRK has startet a cult. She says it isnae a cult, but she wid say that cause she disnae want folk tae know she's brain-washin them.

At first, it wis jist her an Charlene an Eunice Garvey an Eunice's pal Fiona Anderson who's in wan F that wur in it, but then Laura McPhee an Laura McNish an loadsa popular lassies joint. Even Kelly Marie Walker's been seen takin part in some ae Frieda's mad rituals, although ah'm positive she's at it. Frieda's got them aw pure runnin aboot castin spells an wearin mad yin-yang earrings, aw apart fae Fiona who's got a choker cause she's no allowed tae get her ears pierced.

This mornin at interval ah wis on ma way tae help Missus Auldhill in the tucky when Charlene

accostet me tae ask did ah wantae go wi her tae wan a Frieda's GATHERINS.

Aye right, ah thought, So that's whit wur cawin staunin in the bushes ower by Tesco in a big stupid circle haudin hauns noo is it. Obviously, ah didnae say that but. Ah jist tolt her ah couldnae cause ah'd awready made arrangements wi Missus Auldhill.

Charlene snortet. Ah'm sure the auld cow's goat enough slave labour, she said, Cause ah've jist seen Wully an Chris Rice humphin umpteen boxes a pickult onion Monster Munch fur her. Aw, ah said. It wisnae that ah wis pit oot or anythin, cause obviously ah've no got the monopoly on who helps who wi whit, ah wis jist surprised she never said that she'd fun sumdy else.

Anyway, said Charlene noddin at ma airm that wis still in a sling fae where ah'd fractured ma wrist last month. You'd be some help you wid – yi'd need tae levitate the sweeties intae the ten p mixture bags.



Charlene only made the joke aboot levitation cause she wis actin smart cause she seen that *Carrie*

film at the weekend about the lassie wi the telekinetic powers that goes doolally an murders hauf her school cause she wis fed up gettin bullied. Ah tried tae watch it tae, but ah barely got past the openin credits where wans in her P.E. class wur peltin her wi tampons, when ma da snatched the remote control aff me. That's an eighteen certificate, says he, Plus naebody wants a repeat ae they nightmares yi hud efter we let yi see that Trainspottin.



Frieda's thing had awready startet when we arrived. It wis jist her an Eunice plus two lassies whose names ah wisnae sure ae that wur in second year that wur there. Frieda wis staunin on tap ae a big tree stump wavin her hauns about like she wis conductin a bliddy orchestra. Magic is all around us, she wis chantin, It's in the earth we stand on... it's in the trees... it's in the air we breathe...it's everywhere we go...

Ah couldnae help but burst intae song:

*An if yir real-ly ma-gic... come on a lerr it show...  
oh whoa...*



If it's no a cult, ah said, Then whit is it. Charlene rolt her eyes. She'd managed tae ignore me fur maist ae the first hauf ae wur double period a Art, but ah knew she'd crack eventually cause Frieda wis away tae the dentist an Laura Kyle wis aff sick, an ah wis the only wan left at oor table she could talk tae.

Finally, she goes, Fur your information it's actually a coven. Oh ah beg yir pardon, ah said, So whit's a coven when it's at hame. Ah soon regrettet openin ma mooth though, cause fur the next fifty-five minutes ah got a full-blown spiel about wiccans an high priestesses, plus a rehash ae the highlights fae the time wur primary four class did a project about the Paisley Witch Trials ae 1697.

Ah know ah probly shoulda been pleased fur Charlene that she'd fun somethin she wis interestet in, cause she'd been right doon in the dumps ever since she fun oot her ma wis pregnant again an that her ma's boyfriend wis movin in. Ah jist wished it wis me that coulda been the wan tae cheer her up though, instead a Freaky Frieda wi her weirdo witchy pish who'd barely been at oor school fur five minutes.

That said, ah wis impressed at how Charlene managed tae remember aw the stuff fae primary, cause usually she hates everythin tae dae wi school apart fae Art (an that's maistly cause she gets tae constantly perv at Wully McCoy, whilst staunin at the sink beside his desk kiddin on she's washin paintbrushes).

If ah'm honest though, ma real problem wis that the situation wi Frieda remindet me ae when Laura Kyle first moved fae Pride Park Primary tae Kirklandneuk, cause Charlene tried tae latch on tae her anaw. It happent whilst Charlene an the rest ae wur class wur daein the witch project – cause the wan thing Charlene seems tae huv conveniently forgot wis that ah never actually did that project cause ah wisnae even there cause ah wis aff fur four an a hauf weeks wi glandular fever. Durin they four an a hauf weeks Charlene went fae phonin me every night an giein me a runnin commentary on whit they wur daein, tae phonin me wance a week, tae patchin me awthegether. If it hadnae been for the fact that Laura Kyle preferred tae hing aboot in a group rather than wi wan pal, who knows how things mighta endet up.

Here, she goes, Mind we did that trip tae Paisley museum – the wan where they’d the three hunner year anniversary exhibition fur aw the wans that got accused a witchcraft. Vaguely, ah said. Well did you know, she went on, That Frieda Kirk’s descendet fae wan ae they wimmen.

Ah wis gettin right fed up by this point, an it didnae help that the bell wis about tae go an Miss Flynn still hadnae gied us permission tae pack away wur materials. Charlene wisnae botherin her arse though, an she launched intae another spiel about how Frieda’s great great great great grand auntie or whitever she wis got garrottet afore she wis burnt at the stake.

Zat right, ah said, So basically she wis a special witch that got a special death cause bein burnt alive wisnae good enough fur her. Aye, said Charlene, Sounds lik she wis some wummin – an ah bet yi didnae know she was the wan that pit the curse on the toon a Paisley.

The bell went an ah stood up. Charlene kept talkin. Aye, she said, She tolt aw the wans staunin at the Galla Green that day that the toon wid never

prosper cause ae whit they'd done – an ah'll tell yi somehin else yi only huv tae look at the nick ae hauf they shops in the Piazza tae know her words wur bang tae rights.



Ah wis late fur school this mornin cause ae ma stupit wrist cause everythin takes longer tae dae when yir wan-haundet. It wis only a minute past nine, but ah got hucklult aff big Mister Heggy an took tae his office fur a shirrikin. Laura McNish an Kelly Marie got hucklult anaw cause they'd been caught smokin in the bushes, an they never haltet moanin aw the way along the corridor about how it wis aw Frieda's fault an how it widnae a happent if she'd jist let them huv a fag when they'd wantet insteid a giein them a big lecture on how it LOWERS YIR VIBRATION.

Laura McPhee wis wi them tae, but she disnae smoke cause she's intae aw her hockey an cross-country an competin fur school sports; so me an her got let aff wi a warnin, whereas McNish an Kelly Marie got a week's detention.



When ah finally got tae Regi the rest ae ma class wur jist comin oot an ah noticed Chris Rice wearin a yin-yang earring.

D'yi like it, he goes, Ah goat it done in that new hairdresser's doon by the toon hall.

Smashin, ah said.

Then Laura Kyle an Bunsen came at his back pure haudin hauns, an they baith wur wearin opposite haufs ae a yin-yang pendant. Yir huvin a laugh, ah said tae Laura, You tolt me Frieda's cult wis full a total dense jobs.

Laura smirked. Kirsty, she said, Yi musta heard the sayin WHEN IN ROME.



It wisnae till interval ah fun oot Frieda's huvin a party on Adrossan beach tae celebrate her thirteenth birthday an that she gied oot invitations tae aw the lassies in oor class apart fae me. She even gied wan tae Nicola Buchanan who's never done tellin Frieda tae her face every chance she gets that she hates her an thinks she should BURN IN HELL-FIRE FUR ALL

ETERNITY cause she's convinced aw pagans are evil devil-worshippers who are aw heavy intae dancin naked in forests an sacrificin wee weans.

She also invitet three boys: Chris Rice, Bunsen an Wully McCoy.



But how no, said Charlene. Ah tolt her naw. Aye bit how no, she said. Cause ah jist don't wantae, ah told her. Aye but noo that Nicola's said she's definitely no gaun thir'll be an extra seat in the minibus, she said, So ah could ask fur you tae be ma plus wan. Charlene, ah said, Ah've awready said ah don't wantae go so can we please jist drap the subject.

The thing wis though, ah couldnae stop thinkin about how ah wis the only wan ootae aw wur pals that hadnae been invitet tae Frieda's party – an anytime anybody even mentioned her name ah got this sick feelin. Ah don't know why it bothered me sa much cause it wis true ah didnae want tae go – in fact, ah'd rather stick ma fingers in an electrical socket than spend two oors dancin roon a Maypole or whatever it wis Frieda an her loony tunes cronies wid be daein,

an ah tolt Charlene as much.

Why wid we be dancin roon a Maypole in March,  
said Charlene.

Ah never answerit.

Did you know, she said, That Frieda's birthday  
faws on the Spring Equinox this year an that it's a  
really special day cause it's aw about new life an new  
beginnins an that it wis celebratet in aulden times by  
no jist pagans but by the Egyptians an the Greeks an  
aw that.

That wis the straw that broke the camel's humph  
fur me.

Ah fully lost it wi her then.

Gaunnae jist gie it a by, ah shoutet, Ah'm fed up  
hearin about Frieda bliddy Kirk an how magical an  
special she is. Charlene's mooth drapt open an ah  
thought her jaw wis gaunnae hit the flair. Ah don't  
wantae hear anymair about how her uncle's gettin a  
mini-bus tae take yees aw, ah went on, Or how yees  
are gonna huv a barbecue an a bonfire an how she's  
gaunnae wear the white dress she's bought that's  
got the gold an silver stars an moons on it – an ah  
couldnae care less if the whole a Renfra Grammar

an thir granny wis gaun tae Frieda's party cause ah widnae be seen deid there an that's the end ae it.

If that's how yi feel, said Charlene, finally. It is, ah tolt her. Thir wis nae need tae be sa nasty aboot it though, she goes, Ah wis only tryin tae help. Well, ah said, Ah don't need yir help cause ah don't wantae go tae Frieda's stupit party an ah don't wantae be pals wi the lassie an ah don't wantae know anythin ataw aboot anythin she does. Aye, said Charlene, Ah goat that loud an clear.



Ah missed the bell again the day cause ma stupit strap broke on ma stupit bag, an it happent right outside the stupit school an ma pencil case an ma jotters aw fell oot.

Ah wis lucky Mister Heggy seen it an felt sorry fur me – an it wis practically a miracle ah never got pit in his late-book seein as it wis ten past nine by time ah'd sortet masel.

After that, ah'd athletics ootside on the red blaes pitches, an it wis pure baltic, an ah'd tae sit on a bench pure freezin ma bits aff. Mister Anderson tried

tae cheer me up by askin me tae watch the valuables box an sayin ah wis his maist trustworthy student, but ah still felt miserable.

Kelly Marie wis sittin oot anaw cause she hadnae any kit, an aw she did wis moan aboot how she'd another week's detention startin themorra an how it wisnae her fault her shorts wurnae washed. She wis also ragin cause she hadnae been invitet tae Frieda's party either.

Taewards the end, Wully McCoy endet up on the bench beside us cause he'd hurt his toe cause Laura McNish drapt a shot putt on it.



Charlene an Frieda wur gaun tae the chippy at lunch time wi Bunsen an Laura Kyle, an Laura ast if ah wis comin but ah said naw cause ah wisnae gaunnae be a hypocrite.

Ah'd a packed lunch anyway, an ah wis plannin on jist sittin in the canteen masel, but ah spottet Kelly Marie an the other two Lauras staunin in the lunch queue an ah aboot turnt an went intae the lassies' toilets anen ah went an hid

inside a cubicle that wis ootae order.

Ah stayed there fur ages, jist sittin on the pan wi the lid doon starin at aw the mentions on the toilet door thinkin aboot how ah wis swiftly runnin ootae pals, an how mibby ah'd only masel tae blame.

Ah couldnae even eat ma packed lunch cause ma throat felt lik it wis closin up.

Anen ah startet greetin.

Ah gret fur ages. Ah only managed tae stop cause ah heard footsteps an ah didnae want anybody tae find me.

Right away, ah knew it wis Kelly Marie cause ae her foghorn voice: at first, she wis whingein aboot a teacher she didnae like anen she startet slaggin some lassie in oor year. It didnae take long tae work oot that she'd come intae the toilets tae huv a fag (ah could smell it) an that the wans that wur wi her wur Laura McPhee an Laura McNish. It took me a beat though tae realise the lassie they wur slaggin wis Frieda.

Yup fur gettin wur revenge then, said Kelly Marie. Defo, said McNish. Ah dunno, said McPhee. Mon it'll be a guid laugh, went Kelly Marie – an ah

could picture her runnin her hauns thegether lik a Halloween witch.

Aye but whit if we get caught knockin the fid colourin oota Home Ec, said McPhee, Ma ma says if ah get intae anymair bother she's sendin me tae live wi ma da in Ralston. Wur no gaunnae get caught, said Kelly Marie, Cause wur no gaunnae knock the fid colourin wursels. Come again, said McNish. Mickey O'Rourke's daein it. Ah see, said McPhee. Ah dont, said McNish.

Neither did ah, but then ah also didnae know why anybody wid wantae knock food colourin.

Why wid Mickey help us, said McNish. He widnae, said Kelly Marie, But ah happen tae know it wis him that pit the chewin gum on Miss Price's seat last week. Classic, said McNish. Aye, said Kelly Marie, Stupit cow hud it aw stuck tae the back ae her skirt an her tights.

They then startet talkin aboot water balloons an how they wur gaunnae get Frieda a PURE DILLION at her party.

Finally, McPhee goes, So you gettin the train tae Adrossan or whit.

Or whit, said Kelly Marie.

Eh, said McNish

Then Kelly Marie said, Ah'm takin that wee Nicola Buckingham or whatever her name is's seat – waste not want not anaw that.

Haha, said McNish.

Right, said Kelly Marie, Ah'll get yees in the lassies' changin room at hauf four after yiv finished yir hockey.

Fine, said baith the Lauras.

As they wur aw trampin oot, ah heard Kelly Marie gaun, Stephen King eat yir heart oot.

That's when ah twigged whit they wur gaunnae dae.

An ah knew ah had tae stop them.



It wis murder tryin tae get Charlene tae huv a private conversation wi me, but she agreed five minutes before the bell cause Frieda said she needet peace tae write in her book a shaddas, an Laura an Bunsen had gone tae snog in an alcove.

When ah tolt her whit ah'd overheard in the

toilets, ah thought she wis gaunnae pass oot cause aw the colour draint fae her face.

Ah shoulda known, she said. Aye but yi couldnae possibly, ah tolt her. Well obviously ah'd need tae huv psychic powers tae huv known they wur gaunnae pit fake pigs' blood inside water balloons, she goes, But ah shoulda known they wur up tae somethin cause the three ae them kept gigglin aw through Frieda's gatherin this mornin. Ah widnae go blamin yirsel, ah said. Ah'm no blamin masel, said Charlene, Ah'm jist concernt Frieda's gaunnae go aff her trolley an turn evil lik that Carrie.

Fur a split second, ah thought she wis tryin tae be funny, but then ah realised she wis deadly serious.

Charlene, ah said, Frieda isnae gaunnae turn evil. You don't know that, said she. Anen she goes, My god jist hink aboot aw they deid bodies floatin aboot Adrossan beach... Can yi magine the blood an guts an eyebaws pure aw poppin oot. Ah said ah wisnae aware thir wis eyeballs poppin in Carrie. Aye well, said she, Frieda's the sequel int she.

Ah sighed. We didnae huv time fur this palaver cause the bell wis aboot tae go in two minutes.

Look, ah said, Frieda's no the sorta person that wid turn evil cause she'd never dae anythin tae hurt anywan.

Ah couldnae believe the words that wur comin oot ma mooth: there ah wis arguin in favour ae a lassie ah didnae even like who'd accidentally stole, no jist ma best pal, but aw ma pals.

Frieda's whole belief system is about daein nae harm, ah went on, That's whit yir always tellin me anyway. Ah suppose, said Charlene, But she's gaunnae be guttet when she finds oot. Mibby she disnae huv tae find oot, ah said. Eh, said Charlene. Ah've got an idea, ah tolt her.

Ah wis aboot tae say we needet tae get a team thegether tae pull it aff though, when Wully McCoy hobbult roon the corner follied by Chris Rice follied by the two love birds.



The bell went right after that anen Frieda marched up an ast if she could huv a word. Ah owe yi an apology, she goes, Cause ah've jist found this at the bottom ae ma bag.

She held oot a crumpult envelope wi wee silver stars an moons on it.



Aw the way through Maths fifth period, ah couldnae stop thinkin about wur plan: it wis a risky wan tae say the least cause it involved stealin a set a keys aff a P.E. teacher, makin copies ae they keys, an lockin at least three folk in the lassies' changin rooms.

Wully had also pointet oot that we'd probly get suspendet or worse if we got caught, but it didnae seem lik thir wis any alternative, an the six ae us wur aw agreed that thir wis nae way we could let Kelly Marie an the Lauras ruin Frieda's birthday.

Ah also couldnae stop thinkin about Frieda's last minute invitation. Ah wis noo a hunner percent certain she'd genuinely misplaced ma invite an ah felt bad fur implyin she'd deliberately left me oot.

Ah endet up askin oot tae the toilet haufway through the class so's ah could use the pay phone in the reception tae phone ma ma tae ask about gaun tae the party. Ah wis sure she'd say naw, sein as it

wis a school night an short notice, but turnt oot she wis delightet cause apparently Frieda's ma had been in ma da's class at school.



When it came tae executin wur plan, ah had the pure shakes. An as soon as me an Charlene walked intae the Games Hall, ah'd tae sit doon on the bench before ah fell doon.

Wur here tae watch the fitba, ah tolt Mister Anderson. Aye, said Charlene, Ah'm hinkin a tryin oot fur the team next term. Zat right, he said. Ah thought we'd blown it then cause Charlene's constantly got a different excuse tae get oota P.E. Then he goes, More likely it's a boy on the team yir tryin out for.

Wully McCoy appeart then. He'd been tae see the nurse an wis noo walkin wi two crutches. Sorry, he said. Great, said Mister Anderson, One player down an no reserves. This wis Laura Kyle's cue. Ah'm a reserve, said she. Magic, said Mister Anderson – although ah'm pretty sure he couldnae mind who she wis cause she only went tae the trials tae get Bunsen's attention.

The next phase involved me gettin ma hauns on the valuables box, an Bunsen and Chris distractin Mister Anderson so that Charlene could lift his keys oot it an take them doon tae Y Pay More tae get copies made before returnin the original wans without him noticin.

That went miraculously well.

The finale wis lockin the three idiots in the changin rooms. That wis the bit that nearly endet in disaster cause Miss Gillis held McPhee back till twenty tae five, an we had tae meet Frieda an her uncle at quarter tae.

We jist made it by the skin ae wur teeth.

Ah did feel bad aboot lockin the rest ae the hockey team in wi them. Still, ah fun oot later they wur only trapped fur ten minutes – long enough fur Kelly Marie an the Lauras tae miss the mini-bus.



Frieda's party wis great. Ah didnae think it'd be ma cup a tea, but ah fair enjoyed makin the spring bouquets an paintin eggs – no sure right enough aboot the bit where we had tae sing a song

tae thank the sunshine fur comin oot.

Frieda's uncle brung us a picnic wi pizza pockets an pasta salad, an he het up hot cross buns on his campin stove. Anen afterwards he pult oot this ancient ghetto blaster, an evrubdy apart fae me an Wully wur aw up dancin.

How's yir foot, ah said, as we sat there side by side in wur deckchairs. Lowpin, Wully replied. Then he ast me how ma wrist wis, an ah tolt him it wis gettin better. We endet up sittin talkin fur the best part ae an oor jist wur two sels, which wis nice cause things had been weird between us ever since he ast me oot on Valentine's Day an ah said naw.

Ah fun oot Wully wisnae workin in the tucky ataw, an that Missus Auldhill had been askin fur me that day when ah didnae show. He also said he'd paid Mickey O'Rourke a fiver tae lie in wait outside P.E. anen fling water balloons at Kelly Marie an the Lauras. You're terrible, ah tolt him. Karma, he said.

Ah startet tae get a bit chilly then, an Wully took aff his coat an draped it roon ma shooders. Thanks, ah said, anen a firework went wheechin ower wur heids an burst intae a million sparks.

An jist fur a second ah thought he wis gaunnae kiss me.

An jist fur a second ah thought it widnae be the worst thing in the world if he did.

Anen Charlene jumped oot fae behun us an shoutet, Whit yees up tae.

An the moment wis gone.

Then Frieda appeart lik the Pied Piper wi the rest ae her guests at her back.

It's time tae set our intentions fur the comin year, she goes. Anen she explaint whit she actually wantet wis fur us tae write doon twelve months wortha wishes anen throw them intae the bonfire.

Ah'll gie that a miss, ah said. Don't be a killjoy, said Charlene. Aye, said Wully, pure sniggerin at me. Evrubdy startin chantin, Kirst-y, Kirst-y...

Fine, ah said rollin ma eyes, Ah spose wi aw need a wee bit magic in wur life sometimes.

## **A WEE BIT MAGIC – Teaching Resources**

### *PAGE 1 – Introduction to the story*

1. Speak to the person next to you and come up with a list of all the (school appropriate!) Scots words you know and what they mean. Share your list with the students behind you and see if they have any words you're not familiar with, or if they've written down a definition you disagree with.
2. Read the first page of the story and write down at least three words you don't know the meaning of then look them up.
3. Why do you think Ely Percy has chosen to write the short story in Scots? Is the narrative voice familiar to you from the way you speak or the way people you know speak?
4. What impact does choosing to write the story in this narrative voice have on the reader? Do you think it makes Kirsty (the narrator) easier to relate to or harder? Why is this?
5. What is your first impression of Kirsty after reading page one of the story? How would

you describe her character? For example is she serious or humorous, kind or cruel, reliable or unreliable, or a mixture of different things? What helped you decide this about her?

6. What does Kirsty make of the behaviour of the other students who have joined the 'cult'? Have you ever seen a trend take over at school? What was it and was your response to it like Kirsty's or Charlene's?
7. Why do you think people join in with trends? What does it tell us about Kirsty's character that she doesn't want to get involved?

#### PAGES 2-4

1. On pages 2-4 we learn more about Kirsty and Charlene's friendship. Kirsty states "Ah jist wished it wis me that coulda been the wan tae cheer her up though, insteid a Freaky Frieda'. Why is Kirsty finding the situation with Charlene and Frieda difficult, what does it remind her of?

2. What do you learn about Charlene's attitude to school on these pages?
3. Kirsty describes Charlene's interest in the Paisley Witch Trials. Research the Paisley Witch Trials and find out how they started and what was done to the women accused of witchcraft.
4. When it comes to witchcraft trials, most people are familiar with what took place in Salem in America, but less is known about the witchcraft trials in Scotland. Do some research to find out how many people were accused of witchcraft in Salem and how many were executed, then research how many people were accused of witchcraft in Scotland and how many were executed. What do you notice about those accused of witchcraft – were they mostly men or women?
5. Can you find at least three behaviours or physical features that could lead to someone being accused of witchcraft? Given what you've learned would you have been at risk of a witchcraft accusations if you were alive then?

6. The witchcraft trials swept Scotland, but the majority of people who were executed have been forgotten. A campaign is underway to ensure they are remembered, follow this link to learn about this <https://www.witches-ofscotland.com/> – what three things is this campaign demanding? Why do you think those leading the campaign think it’s important that the people accused and executed are remembered? Do you agree or disagree that this is important? Why?
7. Follow this link to find out if anyone from your local area was executed in the witchcraft trials, add the name of your village/town to the ‘Place of residence’ box – <https://witches.hca.ed.ac.uk/search/>

### PAGES 5-9

*(up to ‘An ah knew ah had tae stop them.’)*

1. How does Kirsty feel about not being invited to Frieda’s party?
2. Why do you think she doesn’t accept

Charlene's offer to be her 'plus wan'?

3. How does Kirsty react when Charlene tells her that Frieda's birthday falls on the Spring Equinox? Why do you think this is 'the straw that broke the camel's hump'?
4. What does Kirsty's reaction tell us about how she's feeling about Charlene's friendship with Frieda?
5. When Kirsty is in the toilet it is stated that she was 'thinkin' about how ah wis swifftly runnin ootae pals, an how mibby ah'd only masel tae blame'. Why do you think she blames herself?
6. After overhearing Laura McPhee, Laura McNish and Kelly-Marie talking in the toilet, Kirsty realises what their plan is. Do you have any idea at this point in the story what they might be up to?
7. What effect does it have on the reader that Ely Percy has chosen not to make the 'revenge' plan immediately clear to the reader?

### PAGES 10-13

(up to ‘... an the Lauras tae miss the mini-bus.’)

1. On page 10 we find out details of the ‘revenge plan’, what are the three girls planning to do to Frieda? How do you think she would feel if they did this?
2. What is Charlene’s fear about how Frieda will respond?
3. What does it tell the reader about Kirsty’s character that she speaks up for Frieda and wants to protect her, despite feeling she has stolen her friends?
4. What do Kirsty and her friends do to protect Frieda?
5. Do you think this was the right thing to do? Have you ever done something you could get in trouble for to help someone else out?

### PAGES 13-14

1. What does Wully McCoy do to Kelly-Marie and the Lauras? Why do you think he calls this ‘karma’?

2. Kirsty has struggled throughout the story, how do you think she is feeling at the end? Give reasons for your answer.
3. How has Kirsty's attitude changed from the beginning of the story?
4. Are you satisfied with the ending?
5. What do you think might happen the next day at school? Write a diary entry from Kirsty's point of view describing what happened after the party.

## THEMES

The characters in this story appear in Ely Percy's novel *Duck Feet*. *Duck Feet* explores a range of themes including:

- Friendships
- Change
- Growing up
- Family
- Identity
- Prejudice

Do you think any of these themes are also explored in this story?

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Teaching resources by Amy Nicoll

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