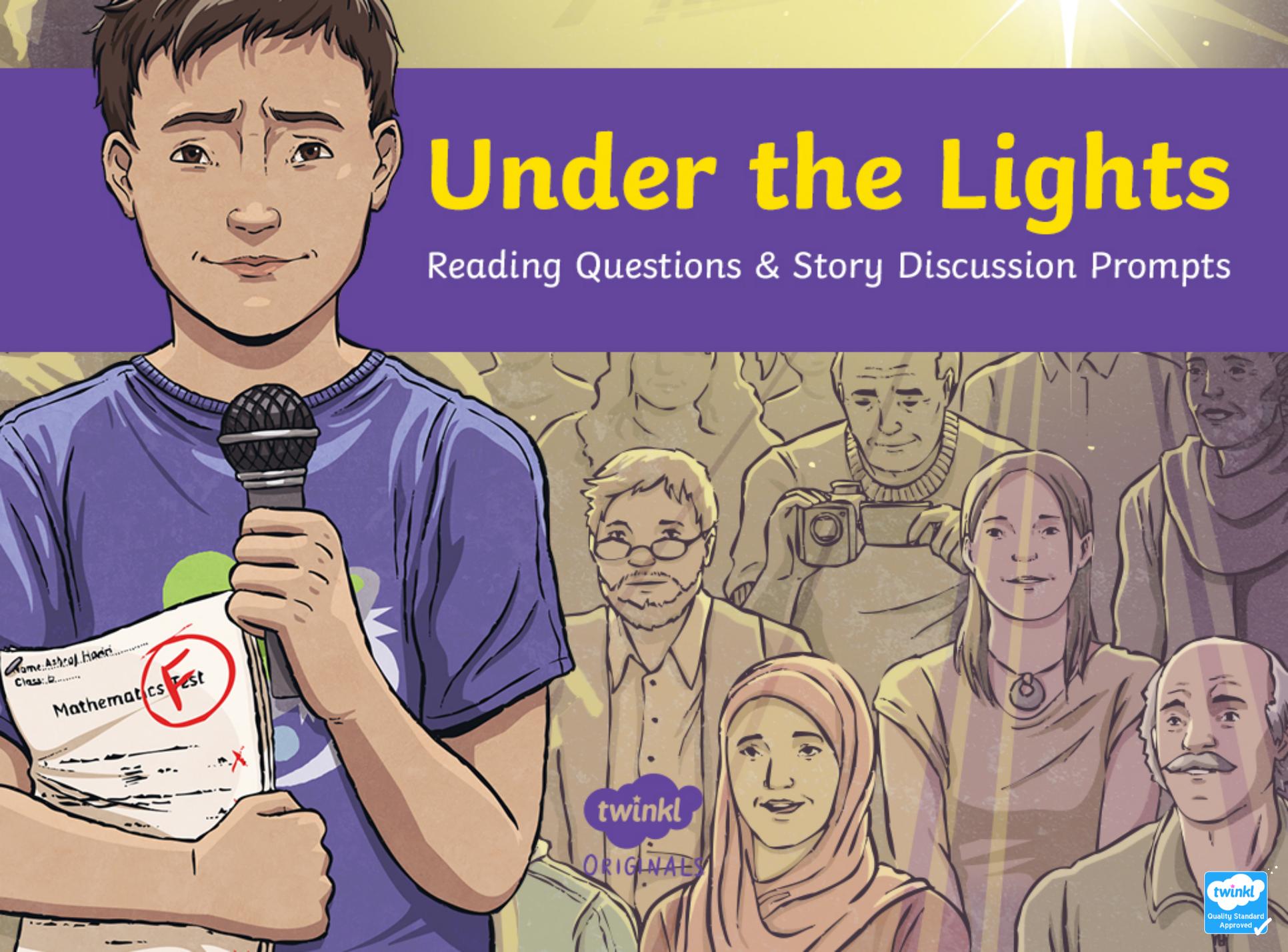


Under the Lights

Reading Questions & Story Discussion Prompts



Name: Ashraf, Haerin
Class: 6
Mathematics Fest

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Quality Standard
Approved

During and after reading each chapter...



- Three active listening tasks and questions are provided for display whilst a chapter is being read. These give focus to what children are listening out for or locating while they listen to the story.
- Five questions are provided for after each chapter has been read. These may be just for discussion or answered on whiteboards, verbally or as a short assessment of understanding.

A Note from Ash

To think about while reading:

- 1 What worries does Ash mention?
- 2 Which other characters are introduced?
- 3 Why has Ash been asked to write things down?



A Note from Ash

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What do you think is the purpose of this section, occurring before Chapter 1 begins?
- 2 What are your first impressions of Ash as a character?
- 3 Why are we told to look out for the chapter titles?
- 4 What type or group of people do you think this book might be useful for?
- 5 Is there anything already mentioned that may be something you, or someone you know, also worries about?

Chapter 1: “It’s no big deal.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does Ash feel about his part in the school play?
- 2 What worries him about going on stage?
- 3 Who says that ‘it’s no big deal’?



Chapter 1: “It’s no big deal.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 How does Janelle feel about performing?
- 2 What evidence can you find that Ash is feeling nervous?
- 3 How do you think he feels when he is told that ‘it’s no big deal’?
- 4 What happened when Ash finally got on stage?
- 5 Have you ever been in a similar situation before or during a performance?

Name: Ashraf
Class: 2
Mathematics Test

Chapter 2: “Look on the bright side.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What is the name of Ash’s favourite band?
- 2 Who steps in to take Ash’s part?
- 3 What else does Ash hear about in his texts with Hassan?



Chapter 2: “Look on the bright side.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What is meant by the phrase ‘Look on the bright side’?
- 2 What do you think is meant by the phrase ‘my chin went wobbly’?
- 3 What were the differences between Mum and Dad’s reactions?
- 4 How does Ash feel about Janelle?
- 5 What do you think is happening to Ash?

Name: Ashraf Hossain
Class: 2
Mathematics Test

Chapter 3: “You’re overthinking it.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How is Ash feeling at the beginning of the chapter?
- 2 What things were ‘not normal’ for Ash at school that day?
- 3 Who tells Ash that he’s ‘overthinking it’ and why?



Chapter 3: “You’re overthinking it.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What impression do you get from the repetition of ‘grey’?
- 2 Why didn’t Ash apologise to Mr Rivers?
- 3 What is meant by ‘overthinking’?
- 4 What advice does Ash receive from Miss Underbridge?
- 5 What advice would you give Ash at this point?

Chapter 4: “It’s all in your head.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How did Ash get on in his maths test?
- 2 What event are Class Six looking forward to planning?
- 3 Why had Ash not received an invite to Janelle’s party?



Chapter 4: “It’s all in your head.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 How does Ash feel about the leavers’ assembly plans?
- 2 What changed Ash’s emotions near the end of this chapter?
- 3 How did this affect his feelings about other worries?
- 4 Have you ever been in a situation like Ash with a friend?
- 5 What do you think will happen next?

Name: Ash
Class: 2
Mathematics Test

Chapter 5: “Don’t be a flake.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What does Ash find as the perfect present for Janelle?
- 2 What clothes does Mum pick out for Ash and why doesn't he like them?
- 3 Who is Brick Canady?



Chapter 5: “Don’t be a flake.”

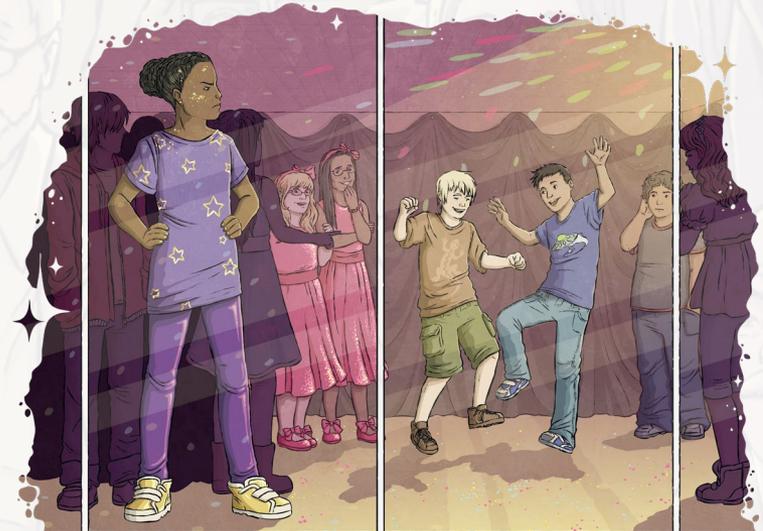
After reading the chapter:

- 1 What impression do you get from the word ‘meltdown’?
- 2 How many classmates can you name so far and what do you know about them?
- 3 How do you think Mum feels towards Ash?
- 4 What is meant by describing Dad as ‘exactly like he was thinking about a particularly difficult crossword clue’?
- 5 Why do you think Ash didn’t want to go to the party?

Chapter 6: “What’s wrong with you?”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What is Janelle’s birthday party surprise?
- 2 What makes Ash ‘puff with pride’?
- 3 What upsets him afterwards?



Chapter 6: “What’s wrong with you?”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Who is TJ?
- 2 What is meant by a ‘flash mob’?
- 3 Why did Ash first start talking about alien maggots and why do you think he continued?
- 4 How do you think Janelle feels at the end?
- 5 How do you think Ash feels?

Chapter 7: “You’re fine.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does Ash try to get out of going to school?
- 2 What does he overhear from outside the music room door?
- 3 What is an axolotl?



Chapter 7: “You’re fine.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Why do you think Ash was ‘twiddling with his hair’?
- 2 How did Ash feel before talking to Noah?
- 3 Do you think Ash feels better or worse after talking to Noah?
- 4 What impression do you get of Noah in this chapter?
- 5 Do you agree with the way Janelle acted? Why?

Chapter 8: “Man up.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What is Dad’s job?
- 2 Find a phrase which tells you that Ash was crying.
- 3 How does Ash get on with his next test?



Chapter 8: “Man up.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What do you think of the phrase ‘man up’?
- 2 How do Ash’s feelings about Mr Rivers change?
- 3 In what way was Dad ‘having a bad day’?
- 4 Summarise Dad’s advice about Ash’s worries.
- 5 What other advice would you give Ash or someone in a similar situation?

Chapter 9: “Here we go again.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What song does Ash want to sing for leavers' assembly and why?
- 2 What dreams do Noah and Ash describe?
- 3 Predict who says 'here we go again' and check to see if you are correct.



Chapter 9: “Here we go again.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Do you think that Ash wanted to go to choir practice? Explain your answer fully.
- 2 How does it help Ash to talk to Noah?
- 3 How does Ash help Noah in return?
- 4 What does Mr Rivers say about using the phrase ‘man up’?
- 5 What does Ash miss about ‘this time last year’?

Chapter 10: “What an overreaction.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What causes the pain in Ash’s head during the exam?
- 2 Who leaves during the exam?
- 3 What was the test about?



Chapter 10: “What an overreaction.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 How do some children’s attitude towards the exams differ? Give examples.
- 2 Find examples that show that Ash was nervous.
- 3 Do you think that anyone was not nervous? Explain your answer.
- 4 What do you think Miss Underbridge said to Janelle?
- 5 What is meant by ‘overreaction’? Who or what is it used to refer to in the text?

Chapter 11: “Get over it.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does Hassan know that there will be an art lesson in the afternoon?
- 2 How do Ash’s feelings change during the chapter?
- 3 What does Dad suggest that they should do?



Chapter 11: “Get over it.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Why does Ash compare the exams to quicksand at the beginning?
- 2 How does Miss Underbridge reassure the class before the second exam?
- 3 How do Ash’s feelings differ during the second exam, compared to the first?
- 4 What advice can you find in the chapter about dealing with exams?
- 5 What do you think is meant by a ‘mental illness’?

Chapter 12: “There’s nothing wrong with you.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does Ash picture the doctor?
- 2 What did the doctor actually look like?
- 3 Who does Ash discover he shares a similar anxiety to?



Chapter 12: “There’s nothing wrong with you.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Find examples of colours mentioned in this chapter. How are they used to describe the mood?
- 2 What examples of ‘self-help’ are mentioned following the doctor’s appointment?
- 3 How do you think it helps Ash to discover the mention of Brick Canady in the doctor’s sheets?
- 4 What was Mum’s reaction to the doctor’s advice?
- 5 List as many things as you can which helped Ash.

Chapter 13: “What are you waiting for?”

To think about while reading:

- 1 What good things happened, according to Ash?
- 2 What did he get to do when visiting his new school for the day?
- 3 What lessons do the class do on results day?



Chapter 13: “What are you waiting for?”

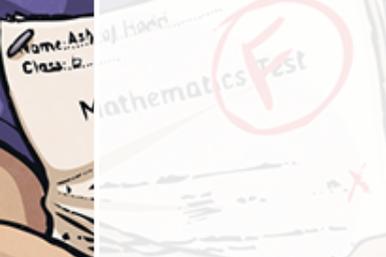
After reading the chapter:

- 1 What is meant by ‘anxiety’?
- 2 What technique did Ash use in the classroom when he felt anxious?
- 3 How did Ash do with his exam results and report card?
- 4 Were they the results that you were expecting?
- 5 Was Ash’s school year a success? Explain your answer.

Chapter 14: “I am not my anxiety.”

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does Ash control his anxiety at the beginning of the chapter?
- 2 Whose pictures are on the keyring that Hassan gives to Ash?
- 3 What did someone in the crowd chant?



Chapter 14: “I am not my anxiety.”

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Who did Ash see in the audience?
- 2 Who performed together in the leavers' assembly and what did they perform?
- 3 What is meant by the word 'captivated'?
- 4 What is meant by 'I am not my anxiety'?
- 5 Find an example of song lyrics that you think were important to Ash and explain why.

Another Note from Ash

To think about while reading:

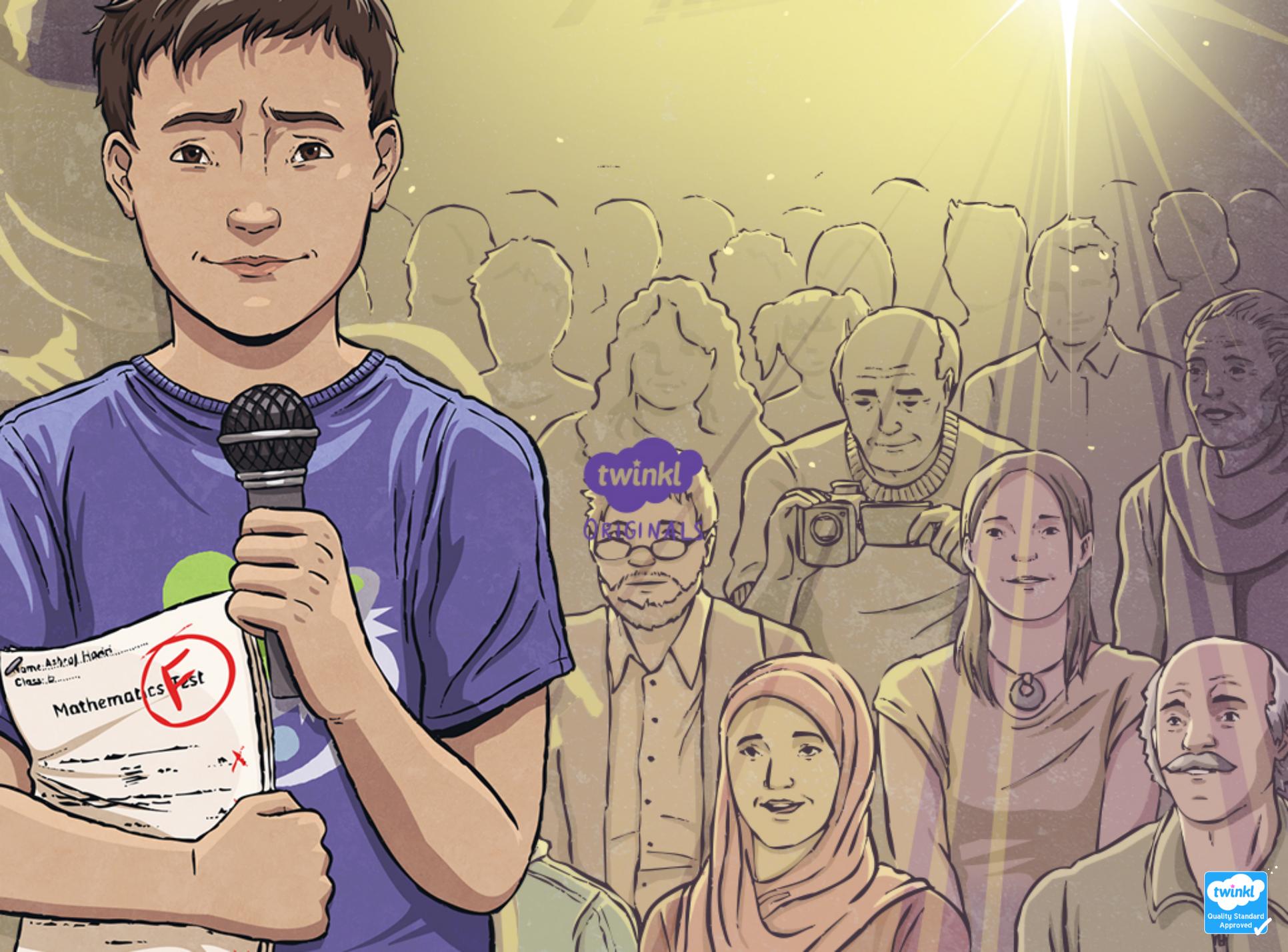
- 1 What positive things does Ash list when looking back?
- 2 What did the chapter titles have in common and which was the odd one out?
- 3 What is meant by 'mindfulness'?



Another Note from Ash

After reading the chapter:

- 1 How does it help the story to include 'another note from Ash' at the end?
- 2 What was the bet between Ash and Janelle and who won?
- 3 Describe one of the techniques that Ash lists as being useful.
- 4 Which one of these do you think you might find useful?
- 5 Would you recommend this story? Why?



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