

# Firefly

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What is a firefly?
- What do you think this story will be about?

*For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.*

### Vocabulary

1. Give two synonyms for the word 'awe'.
2. Find the phrase that means 'tweed'.
3. Explain what it means 'to give somebody credit for something'.
4. Define 'plummeted'.
5. What does 'elaborate' mean in the context given here?
6. Suggest a synonym for 'to score', as it appears in this story.
7. Define 'devising'.
8. What is a pun?
9. What does 'surreptitiously' mean?
10. Explain what a 'tall order' is.
11. What is arson?
12. What does 'unanimous' mean?

### Inference

1. Was Oscar enjoying school before Mr Flight arrived? How do you know?
2. Does Oscar enjoy the more academic aspects of learning? Find evidence in the story to support your answer.
3. Why did Mr Flight start the fire in a Year Five classroom rather than Year Six?
4. Why did Mr Flight choose fire for his revenge?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '... stricter discipline and more formal learning.'* What do you think Oscar is going to do?

- *Stop at the line, 'He attempted to apply himself.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?

## **Explain**

1. Which aspects of Mr Flight's appearance suggest that he is fairly old?
2. Is Mr Flight especially harsh to Oscar? Find evidence in the text for your answer.
3. Why does Oscar decide to stop making an effort with his schoolwork?
4. What is the pun which makes Oscar laugh out loud?
5. What is the fire investigation team looking for as they pick through the fire damage?

## **Retrieval**

1. What is the name of Oscar's previous teacher who has left?
2. What is the name of the school?
3. What two things does Oscar imagine former pupils doing to Mr Flight?
4. In which city did a cathedral burn down?
5. Which two South American civilizations does Oscar get muddled up?
6. Which system in the school had been tampered with?
7. How long did the jury take to decide on Mr Flight's guilt?
8. Which organisation did Mr Flight work for after he left school?
9. What object provided evidence of Mr Flight's involvement in the fire?

## **Summarise**

- Describe Mr Flight in three words. Find evidence in the text to justify your choices.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.