

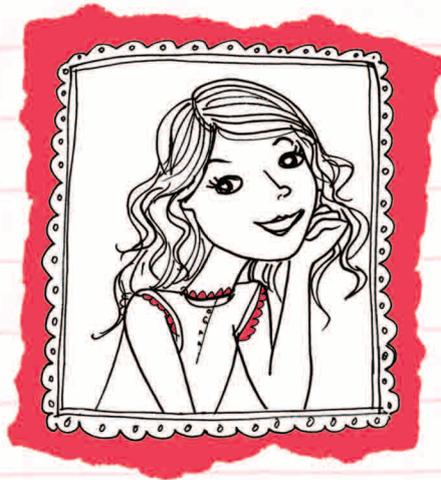
# LEARNING RESOURCE PACK

Completely Cassidy: Accidental Genius

This Learning Resource Pack is presented in two sections; Guided Reading Activities and Talking Points, and is aimed at enhancing and improving children's understanding and reflection of what they read through a range of activities linked to the book.

The Guided Reading activities will allow children to consider aspects of the book as they read and can be used as a whole to support guided reading sessions for this book or used as part of a literacy lesson where this book is the focus.

The Talking Points section works much in the same way as a book club section in an adult book and provides points which could be discussed further. These can be used to support the Guided Reading Sessions above, further discussion in literacy lessons or used as the stimulus in P4C (Philosophy for Children) sessions.



**TAMSYN MURRAY**

# GUIDED READING

Before reading starts:

Look at the cover of the book.

- What type of book is this?
- How do you know?
- What do you think it will be about?
- Why do you think this?



Now read the blurb.

- What will the book be about?
- Were your ideas similar?
- Have you read any books with a similar theme?
- What were they?

Turn back to the front cover.

Write definitions for the following words – use the dictionary to check your ideas.

- Blush
- Embarrassment
- Eternal
- Gigantic
- Gross
- Dorkiness

Share your ideas with your partner – do you have the same definitions?

Try using each of the words in a sentence.

## CHAPTER 1

Cassidy is worried about having an unusual name and how it might affect her when she starts Year 7. Imagine you are Cassidy's friend and use the letters of her name to write an acrostic poem to cheer her up – use clues from the first chapter and the information you have from the front and back cover to help.

**C**  
**A**  
**S**  
**S**  
**I**  
**D**  
**Y**

You can write a poem as a group, with your partner or one each. If you write more than one poem in the group read the finished poems to each other.

## CHAPTER 2

Cassidy fills in a page that she has torn from her mum's book (p26/27) because 'Sometimes it helps you to be more positive if you count your blessings.'  
use this space to write down the things you like about your life now:

## CHAPTER 3/4

Would you rather be in a quiz or a talent show?

Talk about this with your partner and then write a paragraph saying which you would prefer and why. Don't forget to include details of any skills you have that would help in your choice.

## CHAPTER 5

Cassidy's dad is obsessed with Elvis Presley. Who is he?

Find out 5 interesting facts about him – you can use books from the class or library or the internet to find out more.

[www.elvis.com](http://www.elvis.com) – about – bio

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Write a short paragraph showing what you have learned about Elvis Presley.

## CHAPTER 6

Cassidy writes a letter to the Prime Minister to complain about school and gets a reply from his secretary (p67). If you had a chance to write to the Prime Minister what would you write about? Write your ideas here:

Dear Prime Minister,

From

## CHAPTER 7

Liam makes Cassidy think that Rolo has taken one of her new shoes; we know what happens next from Cassidy's point of view. Imagine you are Liam and write this part of the story from your point of view – you will need to think carefully about what Liam might be thinking and feeling about what is happening.

## CHAPTER 8

Chapter 8 uses lots of interesting vocabulary. Check out the definitions of these words. Use a dictionary.

Strewn

Maintenance

Poverty

Commence

Ventured

Distinct

Impending

Now try using each of them in a sentence.

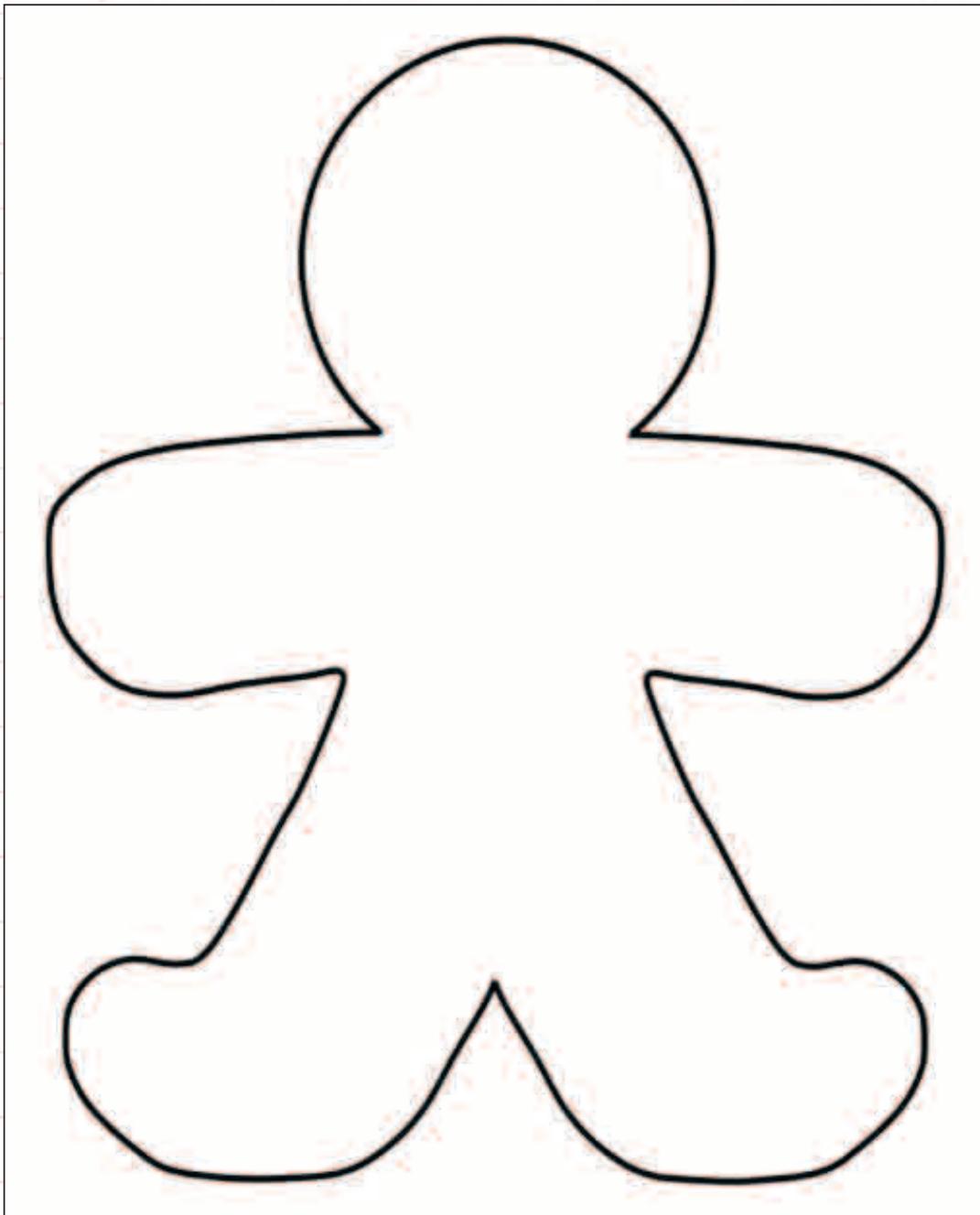
Challenge: can you use more than 1 of the words in a sentence?

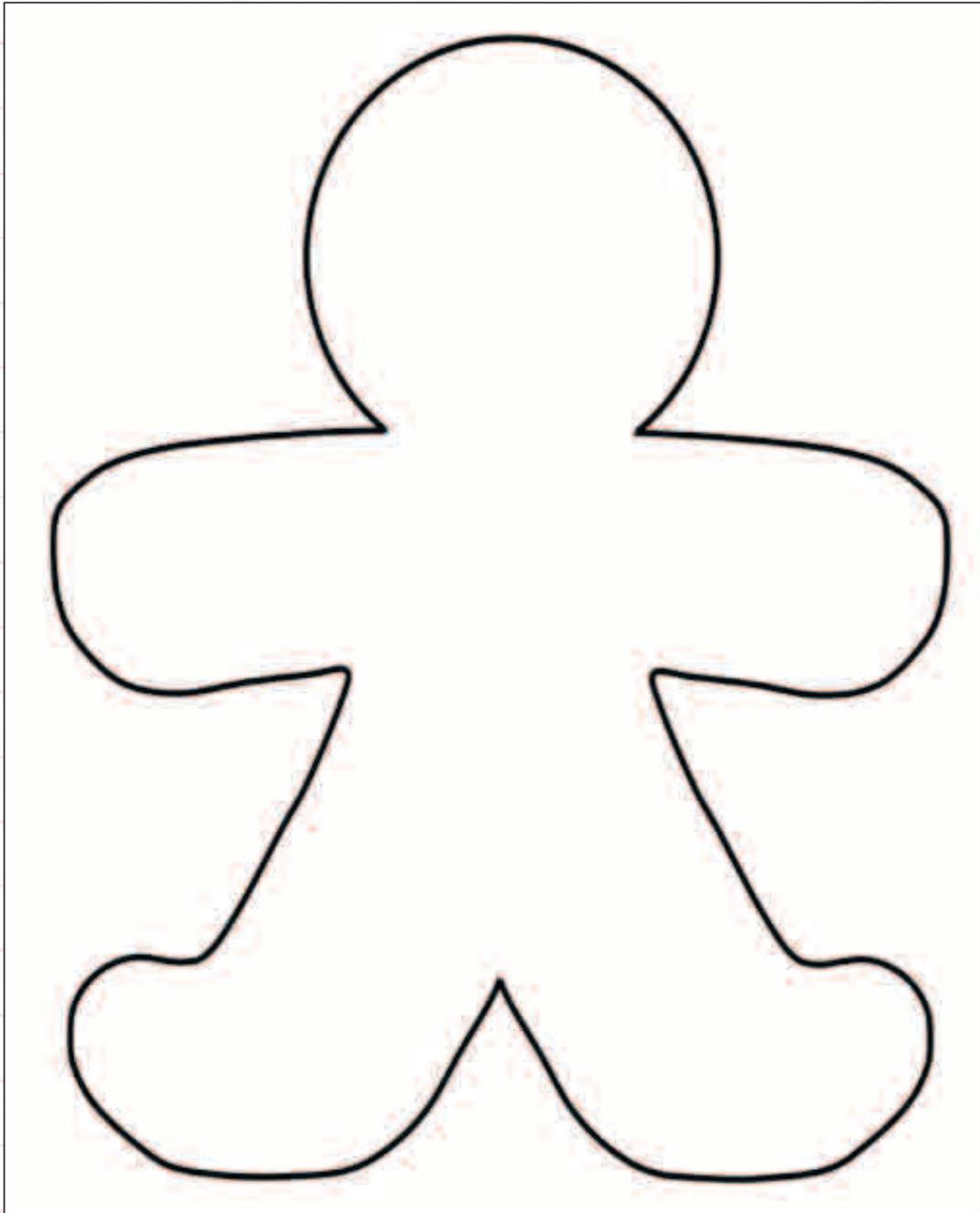
## CHAPTER 9

Cassidy and Liam have very different emotions in this chapter.

Complete a Role on the Wall for each of them.

Remember: in the head write their thoughts, on their body write their feelings and on the legs write their actions.





How are they different?

Are they similar in any way?

## CHAPTER 10

The other members of the team all have a specialist subject; Bilal's is Natural History, Rebecca's is Mythology and Nathan is an All Rounder.

Cassidy isn't sure what hers is so she says Harry Potter.

What would your specialist subject be?

Write down 10 facts to do with your specialist subject:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Now swap sheets with someone else in your group and read their facts. Have you learned something new?

## CHAPTER 11

Cassidy has had a big argument with Molly. Friendships are always important and sometimes it is hard work to keep them going. Work as a group to write a recipe for a good friendship. Think about how the ingredients for a recipe are written:

1 large spoonful of

A pinch of

Stir gently

Etc

## CHAPTER 12

Work as a team to create your own Fact-a-Rama. Use all the information you have found out on earlier tasks (Elvis Presley, specialist subjects) and any other odd facts you know.

Fact-a-Rama

## CHAPTER 13

Cassidy and Molly have still not managed to make up after their disagreement. What would you do if you were Cassidy? Talk with your group about how you might solve the problem.

With you partner write a text message from Cassidy to Molly (it can be in text language) to try and convince her that you should forget the argument once and for all.

## CHAPTER 14

Cassidy has had a lot of things happen to her so far in the story and there is a lot about her life that has or is about to change. Work as a team to write a list of the things that she might be dealing with at the moment (think about her home life, friendships and school life). If you were Cassidy's friend what would you do to help her through?



My advice to Cassidy

## CHAPTER 15

Mr Bearman tells Cassidy she has a lot to offer and has shown she has 'emotional intelligence', what do you think this means?

Cassidy doesn't seem to realise all her good points. As a team think about what you have learned about Cassidy so far and write a list about all the positive things about her.

## CHAPTER 16

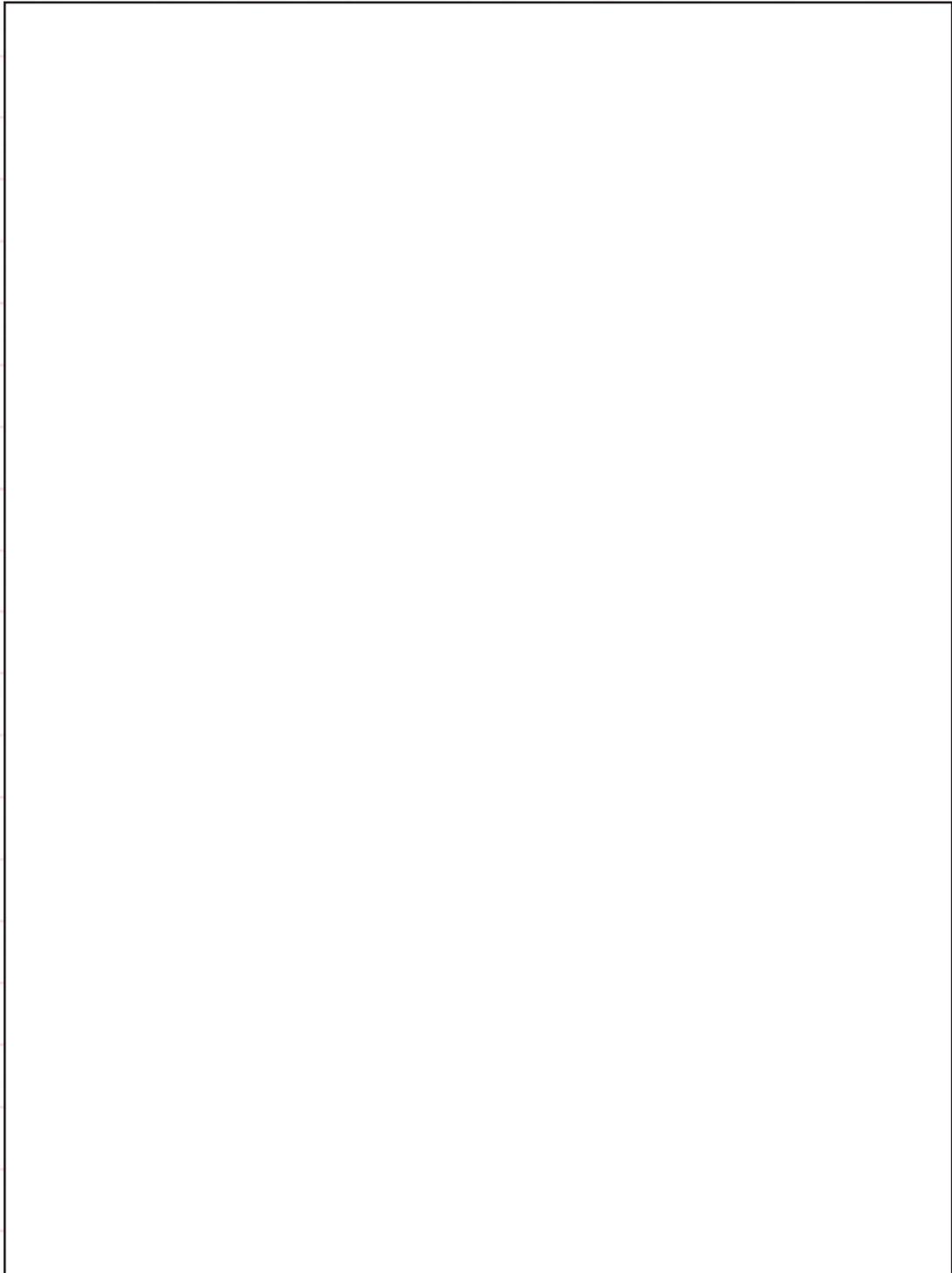
Cassidy and her team have won the regional heat of the quiz. Imagine that you are Cassidy and complete a diary entry for your 'extremely secret diary' about the day.

Dear Diary,

Today was fabulous – we WON the regional heat!

## CHAPTER 17

Design a poster for St Jude's Has Got Talent (remember to look in the book for details that you could include, names of performers etc.)



## CHAPTER 18

Write a list of all the acts that performed (look in chapter 17 as well) and the type of acts they are.

Pretend you are Simon Cowell and give each act some feedback including how many votes (out of 4) they have and whether you would put them through to the final of *Britain's Got Talent*.

## CHAPTER 19

In this chapter Cassidy is really cheerful, everything seems to be turning out well for her and she has been able to make a 'Reasons to be Cheerful' list. What things make or would make you cheerful? Design a list of your own.

## CHAPTER 20

You can find out a few things about the author, Tamsyn Murray, on the inside front cover of this book. What else would you like to find out about her and her writing? As a team compile a list of questions (perhaps you could even ask your teacher to send them to her and see if you get a reply!)

# TALKING POINTS

For each of these discussion points it might be useful to read aloud the section of the book it relates to before asking the question.

Chapter 1 – Cassidy has an unusual name. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

Chapter 2 – Does it matter what clothes you wear? How? Why?

Chapter 3 – Molly's views on Liam are very different to Cassidy's and Shenice's. Is it important that friends agree on things or share the same ideas?

Chapter 4 – Tamsyn Murray's writing includes lots of words throughout the book that are in bold and upper case. Why might she have done this?

Chapter 5 – Should we use articles in magazines for help or advice?

Chapter 6 – Is it important in life to be seen as clever? Why?

Chapter 7 – Should we try to impress the other gender?

Chapter 8 – Cassidy feels like she is now a 'SOMEBODY', does it make a difference if people know who you are?

Chapter 9 – How do you think a) Mum and b) Dad felt when they first saw Cassidy's hair?

Chapter 10 – Cassidy feels very happy once her hair disaster has been fixed. Are looks linked to confidence?

Chapter 11 – Are arguments with friends inevitable?

Chapter 12 – How important is it to be able to invite friends back to your house?

Chapter 13 – Is part of growing up being embarrassed about some of the clothes our parents choose for us?

Chapter 14 – Is being able to answer questions in a test a real way of showing if we are intelligent or not?

Chapter 15 – What is emotional intelligence?

Chapter 16 – What have you done that made you feel really, really good?

Chapter 17 – Cassidy talks about people wanting their 15 minutes of fame. What does this mean? Do you think that in life everybody does want 15 minutes of fame?

Chapter 18 – All through the book Liam and Cassidy appear not to like one another much yet at the talent contest Cassidy persuades Liam that he should go on. Why does she do this?

Chapter 19 – Molly and Cassidy eventually call a truce when Cassidy gives Molly her Wham Bar. What is the best way to mend a friendship?

The Book Overall

Cassidy often appears to be a bit hard on herself and worries how she is seen by other people.

Is it important to worry about what other people think of you?

Does everyone need to have a special talent?

Cassidy has a lot of changes in her life. Would it be better if some of these changes hadn't happened?

# COMPLETELY CASSIDY

This Learning Resource Pack was composed by Fern Bamford.

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