

WHILE THE STORM RAGES

PHIL EARLE

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER TEACHING RESOURCES



Join Noah in an unforgettable wartime mission to save his beloved dog, Winn.

September 1939. The world is on the brink of war. As his dad marches off to fight, Noah makes him a promise to keep their beloved family dog safe.

When the government advises people to have their pets put down in readiness for the chaos of war, hundreds of thousands of people do as they are told. But not Noah. He's not that sort of boy. With his two friends in tow, he goes on the run, to save his dog and as many animals as he can. No matter what.

A powerful WW2 adventure inspired by true events from award-winning author. Perfect for fans of *When the Sky Falls*.

Chapters	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Activities
1 (pages 1-6) and 2 (pages 7-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does the first line of this book compare the ball cutting through the sky 'like a grenade'? What first impression do you get about the relationship between Noah and his dad from this first chapter? What is the significance of the name of Noah's dad's boat? Summarise the character of Big Col in three words. Why do you think Clem has a concerned look on her face at the end of Chapter 2? 	Imagine you are Noah. Your father has just gone off to war. Write a diary entry about how you feel in terms of him leaving, and how you must now be 'man of the house' according to him.	HISTORY • Clem mentions that 'they used dogs in the last war'. Find out the role in which dogs were used in World War 1 and World War 2. Write a report about a famous war dog such as Sergeant Stubby.
3 (pages 13-17) and 4 (pages 18-20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does it mean to have the 'patience of a saint'? What is Noah's dad's name? Why is it revealed to the reader at the start of Chapter 3? Why does Winn seem to follow Maudie around at home? Explain what evacuation is in your own words. How does what Mum says to Noah make him feel like 'his entire world at war' at the end of Chapter 2? 	Research who Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler were and write a short report about each of them, using your notes.	HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY/MATHS • With a map of the UK, find the safe places that children were evacuated to during the war. Calculate the cost and time it would take to send Noah to these places by using train websites.
5 (pages 21-23) and 6 (pages 24-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why can't Winn go with Noah when he is evacuated? How is Noah's attitude similar to that of his mother's? Predict where you think Noah and Winn will go at the end of Chapter 5. What is the 'infirmary' on page 24? Noah is worried about breaking his promise. Have you ever broken a promise? If so, why, and how did you feel? 	Noah's mum says that Winn can't go with him because 'she's just a dog'. Do you agree? Write an argument about why Noah feels so strongly, starting with his reply, 'Not to me, she's not.'	DRAMA • In small groups, re-enact the scenes of Noah and his mother arguing about Winn. Freeze-frame at different points to explain how each character would be feeling. MISC • Do the dogs have a right not to be left during the war?
7 (pages 29-32) and 8 (pages 33-38)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Noah's mum react to his apology? What is the name of Noah's headteacher? Where might you have seen this character in Phil's books before? Why doesn't Noah sleep that night? Why is some of the writing in Chapter 8 in italics? What advice does the government give to pet owners? 	Recreate a new version of the 'Air Raid Precautions' booklet that Noah is reading. Include advice that you think is right about whether dogs should be evacuated or not.	ART • Using the cover and the descriptions provided, draw what you imagine Winn to look like. LITERACY • What does Noah mean when he says 'argue the toss'? Find other examples of unusual conversational phrases; create a glossary for these to show your understanding.

<p>9 (pages 39-42) and 10 (pages 43-48)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Maudie show she has tried to help find a place for Winn to stay? • Find the phrase where the book gets its title from in Chapter 9. • Do you feel sympathy more for Winn, Noah, or Maudie? • Noah has such a special bond with Winn, like Clem does with Frank – how can you tell? Pick out key phrases. • Do you sense a change in Noah in this chapter? Why? Predict what plan you think he will come up with. 	<p>Write a monologue from Winn's perspective. How does she feel about the prospect of being put down or her special bond with Noah disappearing when he gets evacuated?</p>	<p>PSHE • Talk to children sensitively about the euthanasia of pets, in honest terms, at an appropriate level of detail for the child's age. Explain the reasons why this decision is usually being made such as when a pet is ill or in pain, why it is humane for the suffering animal, and that it's OK to feel sad.</p>
<p>11 (pages 49-53) and 12 (pages 54-56)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Clem's mum call her Clementine? • Why is it a surprise to see Big Col in the line? What animal do you think is in his sack? • How does the author show the passing of time at the beginning of Chapter 12? • Find at least three ways that Clem's mum shows her displeasure at having to wait in line. • How has Noah made it impossible for Clem to say no to joining him on one of his crazy adventures? 	<p>Write a character description for Noah including all that you know and can infer about him so far. What are his personality traits, strengths and weaknesses? Include key quotes and descriptions from the text.</p>	<p>HISTORY/COMPUTING • Learn more about rationing, such as why and when it was introduced, and what foods and other items were restricted. Create a presentation about your learning.</p>
<p>13 (pages 57-64) and 14 (pages 65-68)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who does Clem compare Noah to in this chapter? • Why does Noah deliberately choose children who are without their parents and in the queue on their own? • Where does Noah take the children and the animals? • How does Clem show that she is sticking together with Noah, even when the other children don't? • What do you think Big Col is going to do or say to Noah at the end of Chapter 14? 	<p>Imagine you are on board the <i>Queen Maudie</i> boat with the animals. Describe, in detail, the chaotic scene that you would see, and the cacophony of noise the animals would be making.</p>	<p>PSHE • Find out more about Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, the United Kingdom's oldest and most famous animal sanctuary for dogs and cats. Discover the work it does, their mission to never turn away a dog or cat in need of help, and how it educates the public about responsible pet ownership.</p>
<p>15 (pages 69-74) and 16 (pages 75-81)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What animal does Big Col have in his sack? • Noah's reaction to the snake is described as a 'collision of consonants'. Which literary technique is used in this phrase? (<i>Alliteration</i>) • How does Big Col convince Noah and Clem to let Delilah stay on the boat? • Why do we learn Noah's full name in Chapter 16? • Does Noah's mum literally hold her tongue at the end of Chapter 16? Explain what this phrase means. 	<p>Do you think Delilah should be left on board the <i>Queen Maudie</i> boat? Write a balanced argument explaining both sides of view about why the snake should be allowed or not.</p>	<p>HISTORY • Noah's mum explains that the time has come for his evacuation. During previous chapters, there are descriptions of numerous items that parents are packing for their children. Discuss the differences between what you would pack if you were evacuated during the war, and what you would pack if you were evacuated today.</p>

<p>17 (pages 82-89) and 18 (pages 90-91)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to the end of page 83. Is the sound of silence on board the boat a good thing or a bad thing? • What causes the smell on the boat to be 'horrific'? • Why are the words 'WHATDOWEDO' repeated in capital letters? • Why does Big Col offer his snake as the reason behind why there was chaos on the boat? • Why does Hope curse herself for not taking her medicine? 	<p>Read to the end of Chapter 17. Write the conversation that Noah and Clem would have with the owners of the animals when they come to retrieve them. What would they say? How would they explain what happened?</p>	<p>SPEAKING AND LISTENING • Talk about the friendship between Noah and Clem. Give examples of why Clem is a good friend for Noah, and why Noah is for Clem. How do they complement each other? Discuss whether you think Big Col will become friends with Noah and Clem. Why or why not?</p>
<p>19 (pages 92-97) and 20 (pages 98-103)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is there an atmosphere of panic in the street at the beginning of Chapter 19? • Why does Clem describe the war coming as the 'worst-kept secret'? • What news does the woman share with the people in the queue? Why do they have to turn animals away? • Who does the woman suggest could be an option to help Noah? • Do you think the idea of sailing to Windsor will work? 	<p>Listen to a recording of war being declared by Neville Chamberlain on the wireless. Write a diary entry from your point of view as you hear these fateful words. Describe how you would feel for yourself, your family, and your pets.</p>	<p>HISTORY • Investigate the life of Nina Douglas-Hamilton, Duchess of Hamilton. Discover how she was an animal rights activist, including being a co-founder of the Animal Defence and Anti-Vivisection Society, and how she campaigned against cruelty to animals including the use of animals in war.</p>
<p>21 (pages 104-110) and 22 (pages 111-116)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does 'apoplectic' mean? Use a dictionary, if necessary, to find this word's meaning. • Which animal do the children find tied up to the boat? • How does the author create a sense of foreboding at the end of Chapter 21 by mentioning the bible stories? • What causes the donkey to wilfully board the boat? • What item of clothing brings back good memories for Noah when he wears it? 	<p>Big Col says that Noah and Clem will need him at some point. Write a list of reasons why you think Noah and Clem will need Big Col on their adventure.</p>	<p>RE • Explore the story of Noah's ark, in which Noah was told by God to build a huge boat, or ark, because it was going to rain, and every kind of animal and bird was given a home inside. Storyboard the events of the story in sequence.</p>
<p>23 (pages 117-127) and 24 (pages 128-133)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the origin of Topsy Nev's nickname? • How is Nev persuaded by Noah enough to let him through the locks? • Do you sense a change in Big Col in this chapter? Why? • Do you think that 'good things come in small packages'? Explain the meaning of this saying. • 'The Houses of Parliament stood judgements behind them...', what is this technique called? (<i>Personification</i>) 	<p>In this chapter, there are London landmarks mentioned such as Big Ben, the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace. Create a presentation based upon one of these, describing it in detail.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY • Learn all about canals and about how they work using locks. Find out how they help to control the water level on uneven ground, by boats entering them and the water being drained from the lock, causing the boat to match the water level on the other side of the lock before being let out.</p>

<p>25 (pages 134-138) and 26 (pages 139-144)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the bang? How does Phil Earle make this scene very powerful and suspenseful to read? • Why is Clem angry with Noah? • How do the children know that they are still in the same place? • Who stops Noah and Clem's friendship from being derailed? • What surprising skill does Big Col show he can do? 	<p>During this chapter, Clem bemoans Noah for always asking her the answers to everything, meaning she has to be like an encyclopaedia. Pretend you are Clem. Write down a list of questions that you would like to ask Noah.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY • Discover the positions of port and starboard on a boat, as well as other nautical directional vocabulary such as bow, stern and ahead. Give each other directions to places in the classroom using these terms.</p>
<p>27 (pages 145-153) and 28 (pages 154-158)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Noah find it hard to say 'thank you' to Big Col? • What do we learn about how Big Col's dad acts towards him in this chapter? • What would you do if you were Noah? Would you jump in like he did to save the kittens on board the little boat? • Why does Winn react in the way she does to Noah jumping in the Thames? What does this show about her? • Can you find a description of Noah that shows his determination? 	<p>Write a monologue in Winn's voice. Consider how she feels when she sees Noah jump into the Thames.</p> <p>Write the next part of the story, predicting what happens to Noah as he tries to swim back to the boat.</p>	<p>MISC • Can dogs feel emotions like humans? Winn reacts in a very emotional way to Noah when he jumps into the Thames. Find out more about how dogs can show empathy in knowing when their owners are in pain, and how they feel it too.</p>
<p>29 (pages 159-163) and 30 (pages 164-174)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act out how to tread water. • How does Winn come to Noah's help in the Thames? • How do you think Noah feels about Winn after she rescues him and the kittens? • What does 'bravado' mean when describing Noah on page 166? • What do you think Noah's mum is doing in the meantime? 	<p>Write the note that the children should have left their parents before they embarked on their adventure. What would they have said?</p>	<p>PSHE • Noah is trying to be the hero of this story but sometimes he doesn't think clearly and it shows in this chapter. Write down a list of your own unique qualities. What sort of hero or heroine would you be in your own story?</p>
<p>31 (pages 175-184) and 32 (pages 185-188)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the boat show that it is starting to break down? • Is Clem right in saying that Noah needs her? Find examples in previous chapters where this has been proven true. • How do Noah and Clem make Big Col think the resting of the boat is his idea? Why is this clever from them? • Read to the end of Chapter 31. Predict who the voice belongs to. Think about what and how it is said. • Why does the man have his eyes on Delilah? 	<p>Write out a script pretending you were the man that had encountered Noah, Clem, Big Col, and the animals on board the Queen Maudie and are now being interviewed by the news. How would you describe what you saw?</p>	<p>DRAMA • Using your script, take on the role of news reporter and the man, and act out your interview telling the world what you saw of the animals aboard the boat.</p>

<p>33 (pages 189-197) and 34 (pages 198-205)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Noah continuing to steer the boat so slowly? • What causes the children to have a lucky escape with the lock keeper? • How does Big Col show that he's feeling cross this time rather than complaining as loudly as possible? • What is the first sign that Noah realises that something is seriously wrong with the engine of the boat? • Why does Noah feel responsible for getting the children and the animals off the boat safely? 	<p>After learning about fire safety, design a poster with a set of instructions as a reminder of what to do in the event of a fire.</p>	<p>LITERACY/PSHE • How is the theme of resilience explored in the story? Give five examples when the characters have shown resilience. Think about why resilience is an important quality and how you can show it in your own life.</p> <p>MISC • Learn about fire safety.</p>
<p>35 (pages 206-211) and 36 (pages 212-215)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do they find it difficult to get hold of water, even though it seems to be everywhere around them? • How does Samson show he is the most scared? • Why does Noah jam his dad's cap on to his head and forsake everything else that lay around him? • Why is the saying that starts Chapter 36 very apt? • From where did Noah get the idea to throw Delilah off the boat? 	<p>Write a one-sentence summary of the events in each chapter.</p>	<p>ART • Using the description provided, draw the scene of the children stood, together, looking back at <i>Queen Maudie</i>, as the flames ate her alive.</p>
<p>37 (pages 216-221) and 38 (pages 222-226)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the character of Winn in one word, especially after she shows that she would follow Noah on to a burning boat. • What is 'claustrophobia' on page 218? • Read to the end of Chapter 37. How do you think Noah is going to take revenge on Big Col? • Why does Noah choose this moment to stand up to Big Col? What has Big Col done to Noah before? • Why does Noah use his words rather than his fists to impact Big Col? What is Big Col's reaction to this? 	<p>Write the events of the chapter from Big Col's perspective. Think about the different emotions he experiences when he's called Colin, the memories that brings back for him, and his interactions with Noah.</p>	<p>DRAMA • Roleplay the scene with Noah and Big Col. What is the impact of each character's actions? What do you think each character is feeling and why?</p> <p>PSHE • What are the behaviours of a bully? List the reasons why Big Col can be considered a bully in the story.</p>
<p>39 (pages 227-233) and 40 (pages 234-238)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the children try to capture the water that's raining from the skies? • What are the only injuries that Noah seems to have from his experiences on board the burning boat? • What item does Noah steal first from the shop, and why? • How does Winn create the perfect diversion? • Why does Clem forgive Noah at the end of Chapter 40? 	<p>Write an apology letter from Noah to the shopkeeper in which he says sorry for the items that he stole that day.</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY • Look at a map of the Thames, and create your own map of the area, signposting destinations that the children have been to along the way like Windsor.</p> <p>PSHE • Is it ever right to steal? Write a short paragraph explaining your thinking to this statement.</p>

<p>41 (pages 239-244) and 42 (pages 245-249)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are Noah and Clem described in the newspaper article? Why is Noah offended by his description? • Noah is said to be speaking in a petulant tone. Can you act this out? • What does Noah do with Winn to make sure that they would know if anyone was following them? • 'A scream was an awful sound, but silence was worse'. Do you agree with this observation by Noah? • How does it all go wrong at the end of Chapter 42? 	<p>Create a character profile for Clem based on what you have learned about her so far.</p>	<p>LITERACY • Consider the important themes in the novel so far, e.g. animals, hope, friendship, family, war. Can you add any more? Create a 'Theme Sheet' to record any ideas as you read.</p>
<p>43 (pages 250-254) and 44 (pages 255-261)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the tone and mood of Chapter 43? • Is there anything Noah could or should have done differently in this situation with Samson? • What are 'assailants'? • How does the author create the impression that Noah feels worse as the chapter progresses? What motivates him to carry on despite his fear? • What do we learn about Big Col's family at the end of this chapter? 	<p>Write a short personal reflection from Noah's perspective, immediately after finding out about Big Col and what his family do to him. How can he show empathy for him?</p>	<p>DRAMA • In small groups, recreate the scene by Samson where Noah, Clem and Big Col gather round him and build him a tomb. Use music and sound effects to create fear and tension. You could even try adjusting the tone and volume of your voices for effect.</p>
<p>45 (pages 262-264) and 46 (pages 265-269)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samson writes 'Rest in Piece' with a rock, but what word does he actually mean? • Why did neither Noah or Clem feel the need to correct Big Col's spelling? • What type of aircraft breaks the silence? • Why does Big Col feel this is the end of his journey with Noah and Clem? • How do Noah and Big Col resolve their differences? 	<p>Write a set of directions to help Big Col find his way home, making sure he arrives safely.</p>	<p>HISTORY • The Spitfire is the most famous plane of World War Two. Its design and specifications gave the British an advantage fighting the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain in 1940, in Malta in 1942, and on D-Day in 1944. Write an article about its achievements.</p>
<p>47 (pages 270-280) and 48 (pages 281-291)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Clem try to take away some of the responsibility that Noah is feeling for himself? • What names should they have given the kittens? • Describe Noah's initial reaction to Matthew, and how he changes at the end of the chapter. • Who is Matthew and what has happened to him? • What idea does Esther have for the kittens? 	<p>Write a diary entry from Matthew's point of view. Describe that night that he found out that his brother Tom had enlisted in the army.</p>	<p>PSHE • Matthew appears to have selective mutism. Find out more about this type of condition that causes someone not to speak in certain social situations. Think about how you could help children in the classroom who have this.</p>

<p>49 (pages 292-296) and 50 (pages 297-300)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you say that the character of Noah is impulsive in that he always acts on his thoughts before weighing up whether they were sensible or not? • Find a word on page 292 that means the same as 'a feeling of extreme tiredness resulting from mental or physical exertion or illness.' (<i>fatigue</i>) • Mimic the action of Noah bracing himself. • How do Noah and Clem try to get the attention of the man who is trying to help? • What happens to the man at the end of this chapter? Predict if you think he is still alive. 	<p>Write a radio news broadcast script about the plane crash.</p>	<p>SCIENCE • Using everyday materials, create a paper plane. See if you can make your plane travel further than a classmate's. When you have attempted it once, go back and edit your plane. What sort of things make your plane fly faster? What about further? How did you make it a fair test?</p> <p>MISC • Would you have tried to help the pilot?</p>
<p>51 (pages 301-304) and 52 (pages 305-307)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How old do Noah and Clem think the man might be? • Why do you think that the man hasn't heard about the war being declared? • What are 'animal people', and how does the man show that he is one of these? • What type of bird is on the man's shoulder? • How does the man try to help Noah, Clem and the animals? 	<p>Write your own continuation of Chapter 52, predicting what you think will happen next.</p>	<p>HISTORY • Lots of different types of aircraft are mentioned in this chapter. Learn more about the aeroplanes during World War II, and write a fact file about them.</p>
<p>53 (pages 308-312) and 54 (pages 313-318)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who slowed down Clem when she was running? • Where does the man take them? • What is on the forest floor? • Why does Dennis feel that he can't kill anybody, even if it was Hitler standing in front of him? • Why does Clem feel at home in her new surroundings? 	<p>In this chapter, Dennis explains why he refuses to fight, much to the shock of Noah. Write a list of reasons for and against choosing to fight or not during the war.</p>	<p>HISTORY • Learn about the concept of conscientious objection, and how some men opposed fighting. Research the reasons for this that include pacifism, obeying the commandments of the Bible, and others.</p>
<p>55 (pages 319-323) and 56 (pages 324-330)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What causes Noah to trip up? • What did they spot tethered at the far end? • Which of the party had remained on dry land? • What does the phrase 'pure folly' mean on page 327? • Who else joins them when they think they've found the house of the Duchess? 	<p>Write what you think will be said when Noah realises he has to say goodbye to Winn.</p>	<p>PSHE • In this chapter, Noah and Clem feel a sense of achievement in finding the Duchess' house. Write about a time when you have achieved something you have always wanted to do.</p>

<p>57 (pages 331-336) and 58 (pages 337-341)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a 'decoy' on page 333, and how does Dennis set one? • Why is Frank in pain? • How does the character of Frank show he is in agony? • Do you think it was difficult for Noah to leave Clem and Frank behind? • How do you think Noah and Winn will get into the Duchess' house with the gates being locked? 	<p>Turn this scene into a playscript, using stage directions to indicate actions.</p>	<p>PSHE • What is grief? How is it explored in this chapter? Make a note of the different emotions Noah and Clem feel in relation to Frank being injured and dying..</p>
<p>59 (pages 342-345) and 60 (pages 346-352)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean when climbing is described as 'not being Noah's forte'? • How does the policeman show a lack of empathy towards the putting down of pets? • Whose dog arrives to save Noah from the police? • Why does Noah have a shock when he sees the woman who he thinks is the Duchess for the first time? • Describe the emotions Noah feels as life falls from him. 	<p>Write a summary of what Noah has learnt in this chapter. Has he changed from the character he was at the beginning of the book? If so, how?</p>	<p>LITERACY • Noah tells the woman about taking his father's boat. Identify and discuss the father-son relationships in the book between characters such as Noah and his dad, and Big Col and his dad. Why are they important?</p>
<p>61 (pages 353-358) and 62 (pages 359-366)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Noah know he is in his bedroom when he awakes? • What does his mother do that surprises him? • Why does he describe his mother as being like a 'volcano'? • Why do you think Noah's mum is interested in doing her make-up today, of all days? • What offer do the Donnelly-Browns make to Noah? 	<p>In this chapter, Noah had the craziest of dreams. Thinking of a dream (or nightmare) that you've had, write your own dreamlike scene.</p>	<p>LITERACY • For each of the main characters in the story, write a sentence summarising what they have learned about themselves.</p>
<p>63 (pages 367-370)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has life changed for Noah since being evacuated? • What are his 'indiscretions'? • How long has Noah been living with the Donnelly-Browns? • How has the author shown that Winn has aged? • Who has returned to see Noah? And how has the storyline come full circle since the start? 	<p>Write a book review. Include your own reflections and why you think others should read the book too. Write a letter to Phil Earle telling him all about your thoughts and feelings about the book. Write a continuation story about what happens to some of the characters such as Noah, Clem, Big Col and the animals. Compare your predictions from the start of the story to now – were you right about anything?</p>	<p>LITERACY/PSHE • Share five ways you've been inspired by Noah, Clem, Big Col, the animals, and this story. MUSIC • Think about the effect music has on mood. Can you pick out some songs to create a playlist that would reflect some of the emotions felt in this chapter?</p>