Reflective Reading Resource Pack 

 The Awkward Autumn of Lily McLean

 By Lindsay Littleson

* **Writer’s craft**
* **Talking and Listening activities**
* **HOTS Questions**
* **Creative writing projects**
* **Cross-curricular links**
* **Photocopiable activities**

 **Chapter 1**

**But as the holidays zip past and mid-August looms, I begin to dread the start of a new term and a new school. My worries begin to drag me down, like wet clothes on a drowning person. I begin to sink under waves of panic.**

*Read the extract and discuss Lily’s feelings about her first day of high school.*

*In pairs talk about a time you experienced similar feelings.*

*Can you think of some useful advice that you could give someone who’s feeling nervous or worried?*

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Extract from Chapter 1 {edited}

***My feet, in their clumsy black shoes, drag as I head along the pavement towards the High School. But as I turn the corner, I see my friends, standing waiting for me at the school gate, and I feel lighter.***

***“Hi Lily!” shrieks Aisha, waving both hands, eyes bright with excitement. Her short black bob gleams like silk. Rowan is waving too, and bouncing energetically, up and down on the spot.***

 ***Her nut brown curls are tied back in a neat ponytail. I run my hand through my own lank hair, trying to make myself look a bit tidier. Gran was right, I should have combed it this morning and I know it needs washed. They are both so pretty and I am so not. My hair is straggly and I’ve got a long nose and pointy chin.***

***I sidle up to them, horribly conscious that my blazer is two sizes too big and my tights are ripped at the knee. Aisha and Rowan look super smart in their black skirts and school blazers. Their shoes are shiny and their black tights look new. At least David won’t notice what I’m wearing. He’s as scruffy as he was at primary school. His shirt is hanging out of his trousers, his wire glasses perch lopsidedly on his freckled nose and his sandy hair sticks out in all directions.***

Read the description of Lily arriving at school and meeting her friends. .Choose one character and write a short description of his or her appearance. Add a detailed, labelled drawing of your chosen character.

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**Read Chapter 2 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **Give three reasons why Lily tries to avoid P.E.****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****.................................................................................................................................................................................................................................** |
| **Why do you think Miss Swanage doesn’t believe Lily when she hands her today’s sick note?****..........................................................................................................................................................................................................................****..........................................................................................................................................................................................................................****..........................................................................................................................................................................................................................** |
| **Write an imaginative note excusing yourself from a school subject you don’t enjoy.** **Dear ..................................................................................** **...........................................................................................................****..........................................................................................................................................................................................................................****..........................................................................................................................................................................................................................****..........................................................................................................................................................................................................................** **..................................................................................................** |
| **http://www.florisbooks.co.uk/images/onix-large/9781782503545.jpgDo you think Rowan was right to choose someone else for the hockey team? Would you have done the same and why? If not, why not? Justify your choice.**............................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................ |
|  **Lily thinks that Rowan ‘broke the friendship code’.****What qualities do you think are important in a friend?****Write your own friendship code.** **Share your ideas with your writing partner. Work together to create a Friendship Code poster.****SC: Your poster should be bright and bold.** **It should have at least 4 rules for being a good friend.** |

**Chapter 3
Read Lily’s list of reasons for writing lists!**

**Write your own My Top Ten list, using one of these ideas:
list of ten favourite books
list of ten possible activities to do next weekend
list of ten things to never do
list of ten things you would like to change about the world
list of ten things that make you happy.**

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**Read Chapter 3 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **Give two reasons why Lily crumples the note up and puts it in the bin. Do you think that was a sensible thing to do? What would you have done in her situation?****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****.................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................** |
| **What does Lily mean by ‘I know better than to side with the enemy’?****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................** |
| **How do you think Brian is feeling during his visit to the McLean’s house?****...............................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................** |
| **Write a short character description of Brian.****...............................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................................................................................................................****...................................................................................................................................................................................................** |

Chapter 4: Writer’s Craft 

Highlight the verbs the author has used to show that Lily is moving quickly and angrily.

 Losing patience, I yank at the handle and shove the door open. The floor is strewn with clothes and dirty plates. The curtains are closed and the room smells stale.

“Jenna, it stinks in here! How can you even breathe?”

Again, no reply.

I stride over and tug angrily at the curtains, then fling the window wide open so that the wind whirls in. The striped curtains flap like flags. Then I stand over the bed and drag her duvet onto the floor.

Finally, I get a reaction.

**Rewrite this passage using alternative verbs (synonyms) which maintain the author’s style and tone.**

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**Chapter 5: Writer’s Craft**

**On Largs promenade the sky and sea merge, a sullen grey. Waves crash angrily against the rocks, spitting froth. Driving rain smacks against our faces and the wind tugs at our clothes and hair.**

Discuss with your partner the author’s use of personification in this description of stormy weather on the seafront.

Continue the description, using similar imagery.

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**................................................................................................................................ Draw the scene. Include all the details which you and the author have described.**

**Read Chapter 5 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **Gran has had a hard day. Which words and phrases in the text tell you that she is exhausted?** **................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **“She says she likes being with Granny,” I say. “She says you make yummy dinners.” Why do you think Lily lies to her gran?****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Lily’s brothers are described by Gran as ‘wee fiends’. Select three other similar words or phrases used by the author in this chapter to describe the boys.**  |
| **Draw Summer’s lion. Use descriptions from the text to label your drawing.** |

**Chapter 6**

**This chapter begins with Lily’s list of the pros and cons of telling Mum and Gran about Jenna’s boyfriend Kai. Read the chapter and then sort Lily’s reasons into these two columns. Finally, add more reasons which you think Lily should have considered.**

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| **Reasons for telling on Jenna** | **Reasons against telling on Jenna** |
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| **Conclusion: (which one do you think is the better argument?)****I think................................................................................................................... ..............................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................** |
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**Chapter 7: Writer’s Craft**

***I’m about six, gap toothed, undersized and skinny, my straggly ginger hair pulled back from my face with an elastic band. I’m dressed in a hideous lime dress, clearly one of Mum’s bargain purchases. But I’m the happiest girl in the world, squealing with joy and excitement, while my big sister pushes me on the roundabout, faster and faster. Just as I’m beginning to look scared, she leaps aboard, her blonde pigtails flying. We whirl round and round, clutching the bars, shrieking with glee. I’m so light-headed and wobbly that I stumble when I try to clamber off. Jenna grabs me, saving me from falling onto the wet tarmac.***

***“Super Girl to the rescue!” she shouts and I grin up at her, dizzy and breathless, loving her attention.***

**The author has used the present tense to describe Lily’s happy memory. Why do you think she has done that?**

**Write about a memory of your own, including your feelings, using the present tense. Begin with the age you were then and a short description of your appearance.**

**I’m about.............................................................................................................**

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**Chapter 8**

***Jenna dives out of the front door like a torpedo from a warship.***

***They fall about laughing again, like cackling hyenas.***

***He stuffs the pancake in his mouth like a ten-pence coin in a slot machine.***

Circle the**simile which you think is most effective. Why do you think the author has chosen to use it?**

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**Finish these sentences with effective similes of your own.**

**Jenna dives out of the front door like................................................................**

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**He stuffs the pancake in his mouth like .............................................................**

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**Scan chapter 8 to find one other example of a simile.**

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***Lily’s garden***

***Our house has an actual jungle, front and back. I tell the boys it’s a wildlife garden and more environmentally friendly than the ones with plastic furniture and concrete patios. And sometimes, when the sun is shining and butterflies are flittering among the buttercups, it does look almost pretty. But today it just seems ugly, untidy and neglected. A rusting bike lies abandoned among the nettles.***

***The grass has been trimmed, the junk removed, and the flowerbed dug over. I hadn’t even realised that a flowerbed existed there. It now looks like a normal front garden: like all the other gardens in the street. Two blue glazed pots filled with winter pansies have been placed at either side of the front door.***

Draw before and after pictures of Lily’s front garden. Include all the details which the author has described.

 Before After

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  ***door*** ***path***  |  ***door***  ***path***  |

** Chapter 9**

***The cacophony of electronic beeps and loud music starts up again.***

***“Is that you, Jenna?” I whisper. “Say ‘yes’ if you can hear me.”***

Read the scene in the arcade. Use A3 paper to create a storyboard of the scene, with text, illustrations, speech bubbles and captions.

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Remember Jenna and Kai can hear Lily’s voice at the arcade, but they can’t see her! How will you get round that problem in your illustrations?

You can cut out the speech bubbles below and add them to your storyboard.

Is that you, Jenna?

Say ‘yes’ if you can hear me.

You’d better run along home to Mumsie.

**Read Chapter 10 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **Why do you think Lily says that school dress-as-you-please days ‘are always tricky’?** **................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Why isn’t Gran happy about the prospect of a long weekend?****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **How does Lily feel when Mr Henderson asks Gran to the dance?****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Design a label for the bottle of expensive shampoo Lily finds in the bathroom.**  |

**Read Chapter 11 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **What does Hudson mean when he says to Lily “You sound like Jenna!”** **................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Why do you think there is ‘a tiny flicker of panic’ in Mum’s eyes?****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **“It’s as if she’s an astronaut who has just crash-landed on an alien planet.”** **What is the author telling us about Georgia’s mum?****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Draw the ‘awful memory’ Lily has when she’s standing at the ferry railings.**  |

**Chapter 12**

***The invisible sea makes an eerie sucking sound, as if it’s trying to pull me into its depths.***

***I try to get up, but the weed’s slimy, the smooth rocks slick with seawater.***

***The tide’s coming in, greedy waves slurping towards me.***

***I’m trapped, sinking in wet sand, caught in a tangle of slippery weed.***

***The sea’s coming to get me. It’ll grab me, tug me under.***

‘Greedy waves slurping towards me’

**Why do you think the author has chosen to use this phrase?**

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**...............................................................................................................................**

**Either:**

**Continue the description of Lily’s feelings about being alone in the dark at the seashore. Try to maintain the author’s style and tone.**

**Or:**

**Rewrite the passage, using synonyms for each adjective and verb.**

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**Read Chapter 14 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **Why do you think Rowan shows Georgia the pink teddy?****............................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Write two things each character wants when they grow up.****Rowan: .......................................................................................................****Lily: .......................................................................................................................****Georgia:.................................................................................................................****David:....................................................................................................................****Finish the sentence:****When I grow up I want........................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Find two or three words or phrases in the text which describe Jenna’s feelings on the night of the break-in.****............................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................** |
| **Draw and label Kai using the description in the text.** |

**Chapters 12-15**

**Your task is to create a leaflet persuading people to visit Arran on holiday. You need to tell them about things they can do and places they can visit.**

Success Criteria

I can:

* Take notes that I can use to help me to plan my leaflet
* Discuss the elements of an effective persuasive leaflet after examining and comparing some commercially made leaflets
* Create a persuasive leaflet with an attractive layout that incorporates text details and research skills

Note taking

Scan read Chapters 12-15. Take notes under the heading ‘Places Lily visits...’

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  Places Lily visits/finds out about when she’s in Arran | What else do I want/need to know about this place of interest? |
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**Persuasive Writing**

* Using your notes on Chapter 12-15 as a starting point, decide what else you want/need to know about things to do and places to visit in Arran

Fill in the right hand column on your page of notes.

* Do some research using books and the internet to gather the information you need.
* Examine some commercially made leaflets and discuss audience, content and layout.
* Plan your own leaflet carefully.

Think PALL: Purpose, Audience, Language, Layout.

Purpose: What are you trying to do? What is your goal?

Audience: Who is your leaflet aimed at?

Language: What language features will you use? e.g. slogans, alliteration, adjectives, commands.

Layout: How are you going to set out your leaflet? What colours, pictures and graphics will you use?

Useful websites

<http://www.visitarran.com/>

<https://www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/arran/>

<http://www.scotland-inverness.co.uk/arran.htm>

<http://www.ayrshire-arran.org/visit>

**Read Chapter 16 and answer the questions. Remember to include evidence from the text in your responses.**

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| **Give two examples of ..............’s immediate reactions when David mentions the notes. Do her reactions make you think she is innocent or guilty?** **Explain your thinking.****...............................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****...............................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****...............................................................................................................................** |
|  **Why does Lily react the way she does to the news Imran gives her? Do you think she does the right thing, or not? What would you have done?****Explain your thinking.****...............................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****...............................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****...............................................................................................................................** |
| **Write a short character description of Imran.****................................................................................................................................****................................................................................................................................****..............................................................................................................................****...............................................................................................................................** |

**Chapter 16/17**

**Write a letter of apology from the sender of the notes, explaining her actions and how she feels about what she’s done.**

**Dear Lily,**

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**Design a new cover for The Awkward Autumn of Lily McLean**

* Look at the writing on the novel’s original cover*: title, author, publisher, blurb*
* Before you sketch your cover illustration, think about the main character and main ideas of the book.
* Decide what text should go on the front, the back and the spine.
* Next draw a rough design.
* Choose a colour scheme. Think of the title of the book. What colours might suit an autumn theme?
* Lay out your paper for the cover as below and remember that the left will be the back and the right will be the front when it is folded onto the book.
* Which way will you write on the spine so that you can read it on a bookshelf?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  Back | Spine | Front |

Cross-curricular links

Art/Design:

 EXA 2-03a EXA 2-07a

Paint a storm at sea in the style of Winslow Homer <http://www.artforsmallhands.com/2011/09/in-style-of-winslow-homer.html>

EXA 2-04a

Use charcoal or pencil to do observational drawings of seabirds from photographs

Health & Wellbeing:

 HWB 2-01a - HWB 2-08a HWB 2-44b

Circle times on the main themes of the novel: friendship, family, jealousy, transition, bullying.

<https://www.schoolbeat.org/uploads/media/CAB_Friendship_Matters-EN_01.pdf>

(specifically aimed at girls, but activities seem relevant to all)

 HWB 2-17a

Water safety: what to do in an emergency / the work of the coastguard/ RNLI

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/teaching-packs/all-aboard>

<http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/assets/education/clearer%20fresher%20learning/modules/second/water_safety_level2%20proof%205%20final.pdf>

Create a poster telling people what to do if somebody is in trouble in water.

Here’s how you can help

 • Keep calm – always think before you act

• Try to get help – shout ‘’help, help’’ as loud as you can

• Reach out with a stick, a pole, a towel or clothing to pull the person to the water’s edge – always lie down when you are trying to pull someone in so that you don’t get pulled in

• If you can’t reach the person and no-one comes when you shout for help, telephone 999 or 112 and ask for help NEVER JUMP INTO THE WATER YOURSELF!

Drama/ICT:

EXA 2-14a

In groups of three, co-write the script and act out the three character scene at the arcade in Chapter 9 or the school break scene in Chapter 14

Film the scene using i-pads.

Maths

MNU 2-10a/b/c MNU 2-09a

Plan and cost a day trip to Arran using train/ferry/bus timetables and fares

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/destinations/arran>

Science

SCN 2-12a

*By investigating some body systems and potential problems which they may develop, I can make informed decisions to help me to maintain my health and wellbeing.*

<http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/assets/education/clearer%20fresher%20learning/modules/second/water_safety_level2%20proof%205%20final.pdf>

Social Studies: People and Place

SOC 2-07a

*I can describe the major characteristic features of Scotland’s landscape and explain how these were formed.*

Make a 3-D map of Arran

<http://www.3dgeography.co.uk/making-3d-maps>

Social Studies

SOC 2-10a

*Having explored my local area, I can present information on different places to live, work and relax and interesting places to visit.*

Create a lap book about Arran. You could include information about:

* Location, including a map
* Geography
* Main towns
* Places of interest
* Historic Sites and Landmarks
* Recreation and Outdoor Activities—parks, sports, water
* Entertainment
* Climate
* Transport
* Food/drink for which the area is known.

Here are some examples of lap books:

  

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