

## Team read

Choose one of the following characters and tick the box. Read only your character's chapters and those chapters that *everybody* has to read.

### Of course ...

You *can* always read the whole story and discover everything that's going on for yourself!

Everybody has to read these chapters **A**:  
1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17

Read chapters for **N**: 5, 8, 13



### NOAH

Choose to follow Noah if you do not read books very often or if you feel that long texts in English are confusing. Does Noah's plan to escape from the Tower of London work? Can he really overpower – or trick – the guard ...?



Read chapters for **R**: 4, 7, 12



### RUBY

Ruby quickly makes friends with a strange boy and discovers what happened. If you sometimes read books or if you don't find English too difficult, read Ruby's chapters and explore London with her. But ... is this *really* London as we know it or some other strange and dangerous place ...?



Read chapters for **L**: 6, 9, 14



### LAYLA

Layla is faced with a tough task: *destroy the Spanish Armada*. If you read a lot or if you like English and find it really easy, read Layla's chapters. Is her *magic* really powerful enough to destroy a huge fleet of war ships ...?





1. Have you been to London before? What did you see? If you haven't been to London, what would you like to do or see there?
2. Have you been on a school trip? Where did you go? Were there any problems? Think of some things that can go wrong on school trips. Make a note of your ideas below.

transport and / or accommodation	your classmates
your teacher(s)	the place

**school trip problems**

3. Read the story. Where do Noah, Ruby and Layla go with their class? What problems do they have on their school trip?



## Chapter 1

The year: 1588.

The place: London.

The man: John Dee, the greatest magician in the world.

The problem: his magic wasn't working.

Why not?



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**magician** a person who can do magic

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He didn't know.

But he did know one thing:

He was in trouble.

Serious trouble.

He had to come up with a spell. To defeat the Spanish. To destroy their ships. To save England from a foreign invader.

But his spells weren't working.

Nothing was working.

A week ago, Queen Elizabeth sent him a message. The Spanish fleet had been spotted sailing along the English Channel. She ordered him to destroy it with his magic.

If he succeeded, he would be given all the rewards that a man could want or need.

If he failed, she would lock him in the Tower of London for the rest of his life.

The Spanish navy had come to invade England. A hundred and thirty ships packed with men and weapons. Planning to

to **be in trouble** to have a problem or difficulty | **spell** a combination of words that make a thing or person change, disappear etc. | **foreign** from a different country | **invader** a person who enters a place, such as a country, by using force. | **fleet** a group of ships | **reward** a prize you get for doing sth good | **to lock sb in** to put sb in a place where they cannot leave | **weapon** sth that can be used to hurt people

snatch the crown from Elizabeth's head. Then place it on the head of King Philip II, the ruler of Spain.

For seven days, John Dee had **pored over** his books, searching for the perfect spell. What would be best?

A shower of **thunderbolts** to puncture the hulls of those Spanish ships?

A plague to **poison** the soldiers and sailors?

A great wave to wash their ships back to Spain?

A wind that **tore out** their **rigging** and snapped the masts?



to **pore over** to study sth very carefully | **thunderbolt** lightning and thunder together | **hull** the body of a ship | **poison** sth that makes you sick or kills you after you eat it or drink it | **to tear** to damage sth very badly | **rigging** the ropes that control the sails on a ship

Yes! Yes! Yes! Any of those would be perfect. But he couldn't summon them. His magic wasn't powerful enough. None of his spells worked.

He hadn't slept for days. His hands were starting to shake. His eyes ached. His mind whirled with thoughts. But he just couldn't stop.

All night he had been mixing this potion. Adding a dash of powdered toad. Sprinkling a drop of dew gathered from a daisy on the longest day.

He whispered to himself as he lit the candles. Thirty-seven of them. Laid out in a circle.

When all thirty-seven candles spluttered and fizzed, John Dee clasped his magic mirror in his right hand and slowly, carefully, recited the words of the spell.

This spell would summon a powerful demon from its own world.

A demon that could destroy a hundred and thirty Spanish ships.

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to **summon** to put sth together in order to use it | to **ache** to be in pain | **potion** a liquid with magical effects | **toad** a small animal similar to a frog | **dew** drops of water that form over surfaces at night | to **gather** to collect | **daisy** a small flower with white petals and a yellow centre | to **whisper** to say sth very quietly | to **light** to produce a flame | to **clasp** to hold sth tightly | to **recite** to say a piece of writing aloud

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