Activity 1
Mapping the Island

Inchtinn is a small island in the Firth of Forth. It is described in detail in the book.

Can you work out where the different locations might be? Look at the key to see what images represent the two locations already marked.

• What images might you use to represent the other locations?
• Are there any other locations you’d like to include?

Add them to the map – and don’t forget to complete the key!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cliffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jetty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Crannock’s Cabin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cove</td>
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<td>Old leper hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Finlay’s Hut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cave</td>
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</table>
Mapping the Island
Noah leaves his boarding school after an incident at the swimming pool. Below is Noah’s account of what occurred:

_Suddenly Noah was back at school, standing on the high diving board and staring down at the blue water of the swimming pool below him, while Mr Greer the PT instructor glared up at him, no doubt wondering what was taking so long. Noah’s grinning classmates clustered around Mr Greer, enjoying the moment._

_‘Well, come on, boy, what are you waiting for? It’s quite simple. Put your blessed head down and dive!’ Greer’s voice echoed around the swimming pool and Noah was horribly aware of the other boys sniggering at his discomfort, knowing only too well about his fear of the water._

_He couldn’t move so much as a muscle. He stood like a statue, rooted in position, absolutely terrified of the prospect of diving from the board. He didn’t exactly know what he was afraid of._

_Mr Greer’s harsh words were booming in his ears, ordering him to dive and then the teacher’s echoing tones were joined by the rising chant of the other boys, as they clapped their hands in an urgent rhythm and urged him on. ‘Dive, Noah, dive, DIVE! He’d snatched in a breath and allowed himself to fall. There’d been a brief horrible tumble through the air, the shocking embrace of the icy water as it struck him like a clenched fist, his breath exploding out from him with the impact – and then he’d sunk like a stone to the bottom of the pool. In that instant, he’d truly believed he was going to drown._

_In his head he was still back there, thrashing and kicking helplessly in the water, unable to claw his way back to the surface and he was terrified, more scared than he’d ever been in his fourteen years of existence. It was only then that Mr Greer had realised Noah’s predicament and had dutifully dived in to pull him out. The other lads had helped to get him up out of the pool and he’d lain on his back, coughing up chlorinated water, while his classmates stood around, gazing down at him, making no attempt to hide their expressions of pure contempt. And Noah had realised at that moment that this was the way the other boys would always see him now, that there was no use trying to fit in with them any more. He would be forever marked as a coward, and therefore not worthy of their friendship._

_He’d left the school the very next day._

How do you think Mr Greer might have perceived the event? Do you think he understood how frightened Noah was? How did he feel about the way the other children ganged up on Noah? What was his reaction to learning Noah had left the school?
Mr. Greer's Report

Imagine you are Mr Greer, and the head teacher has asked you to submit a report detailing what occurred from your point of view. How will your account differ from Noah's?

Incident Report

Date: June 23rd 1952
Name(s) of students involved: Noah McCallum
Name(s) of teaching staff involved: Mr John Greer

On Monday morning, I was teaching Form 4B's swimming class, and...

Signed: J. R. Greer
Mr Morrison tells Noah about Selkies, the mysterious seal women of Scottish legend. Here’s what he says:

“The story goes that the Selkies are only seals as long as they are in the water. But when they go on to the land, something incredible happens. Something mysterious. They shed their skins and turn into beautiful young women. They go further ashore, seeking the handsome young men of the area. They have romances with them. Sometimes they marry, even have children. And things carry on like that for many years. But one day, the call of the sea is too strong for the Selkie. She cannot help herself. She creeps out of her home one starless night and the poor husband, out looking for his wife, finds nothing but her clothes, left carelessly on the shore – and he knows that the Selkie could resist the call of the wild no longer. She has gone back to her home in the deep.”

**HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!**

Imagine you are a journalist for your local newspaper. You’re excited because the editor has asked YOU to write the front page article: a woman in your town has recently disappeared, and there are rumours that she is a Selkie.

You need to find out as much information as you can: what is the woman’s name? Who are her family? When was she last seen? And why do people think she is a Selkie? Can you find any evidence?

You’ve never had the chance to write the newspaper’s main story before, and you’re determined to present your editor with the best article she’s ever seen. This is your opportunity to impress her!

You head straight out to investigate.

And, once you’ve learned all you can, you sit down to write your article...
Top Tips

Remember that news articles are not written in chronological order. Instead they are structured as follows:

**Headline**

A few words containing only the most exciting detail of the story, to make people want to find out more, e.g. Is There a Selkie in Southend?

**Subheading**

One sentence, adding a little bit more detail.

**Lead paragraph**

A summary of the most important information.

Further information, such as statistics or interviews with witnesses, should go into subsequent paragraphs, in order of how important you think it is.

**Further information and conclusion.**
Noah’s mother, Millicent Palmer, is a famous children’s author, and her books about The Adventurers are extremely popular. We learn a lot about the hero, Douglas, because Noah feels inadequate compared to him. But what about the two other Adventurers, Sally and Harriet? What sort of characters might they be? We know that they, along with Douglas, have successfully solved a lot of mysteries!

Use the templates below to create bookmarks, describing the three characters. Once you’ve completed them, you can cut them out and use them!

**DOUGLAS**

What he looks like: Tall, slim, blonde, blue eyes, sporty.

What he wears: White shirt, grey shorts, tank top, walking boots.

Personality: Brave, confident, assertive.

Something he might say: “You chump!”