

Finding similarities and differences - 2

Read the film reviews.

The Snake and the Fox

1. In the new action thriller *The Snake and the Fox*, Judd Browning is compelling as Dr Bradley Fox, dentist and family man by day, and 'Special Agent Fox' by night.
2. Choosing the magical European city of Prague as a backdrop for this fast-paced film was pure genius by director Bo Bentley. The chase sequences across the Charles' Bridge to medieval Prague with its cobbled streets and many mystical churches are 'edge of your seat' explosive!
3. The evil perpetrator, The Snake (aka veteran actor Stirling PJ Smith), masters the villainous role as he attempts to terminate the peacekeeping leader of the United Nations, Mia Kifo. To do so, he must destroy anyone in his path which is, of course, Agent Fox. So dastardly is the Snake, that he also sets his sights on Fox's family — wife Abbigail (the English beauty, Nicola Carrington) and their twin daughters. Fox is the ultimate action hero who must rescue his family and protect Mia so she can continue her work in bringing peace to all nations.
4. With fantastic scenery and superb casting, every scene in this 107 minute masterpiece is captivating. A holiday blockbuster!
5. **The Snake and the Fox** opens 12 December in cinemas across the country.



Saving Gelato

1. Set in Europe in the striking city of Florence, the likeable Marcello family live a simple life. They work hard running their successful gelato (ice-cream) shop amidst the cobbled streets and historical churches of Florence. Marcello Gelato is as familiar to the locals of Florence as Ponte Vecchio, the magnificent bridge that crosses the river Arno.
2. The slow-moving plot of this quietly dramatic piece seems familiar—big company trying to buy smaller company to demolish it for profit, wiping out longstanding tradition and a family's livelihood.
3. Head of the Buildco Corporation, Kit Tyson (Stirling PJ Smith) is notorious as the power-hungry executive trying to replace the Marcello's store with high-rise apartments.
4. The audience will empathise with the plight of the Marcello family, especially the father, Marco Marcello (played superbly by Adam LaPlaglia), who heroically attempts to stop Buildco's plans and save the family business.
5. Director and writer, Jacinta Stockworth, is a wonderful storyteller who has created a film that will captivate audiences. *Saving Gelato* is a picturesque film with believable characters—it is all heart!
6. *Saving Gelato* opens 2 December in cinemas across the country.



Finding similarities and differences



Try it out

Use the strategies you learnt and practised in *The echidna and the platypus* to work out the similarities and differences.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline keywords.
- Use a chart or Venn diagram if you need to.
- Check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *The villains in both films are similar because ...*

- (a) they both run large companies.
- (b) they both want to assassinate someone.
- (c) they are both trying to destroy business.
- (d) they are both played by Stirling PJ Smith.

The best answer is .

Think!
A tick chart containing each of the four possibilities might be useful to answer this question.

2. *Which two things are true for only one of the films?*

- (a) The film is set in Florence and stars Nicola Carrington.
- (b) The film stars Nicola Carrington and opens on 12 December.
- (c) The film opens on 12 December and is directed by Jacinta Stockworth.
- (d) The film is set in Florence and opens on 12 December.

The best answer is .

3. *List three things the settings of the two films have in common.*

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. *Explain the similarities between the characters Dr Bradley Fox and Marco Marcello.*

5. *Explain how the plots of the two films are:*

(a) similar: _____

(b) different: _____

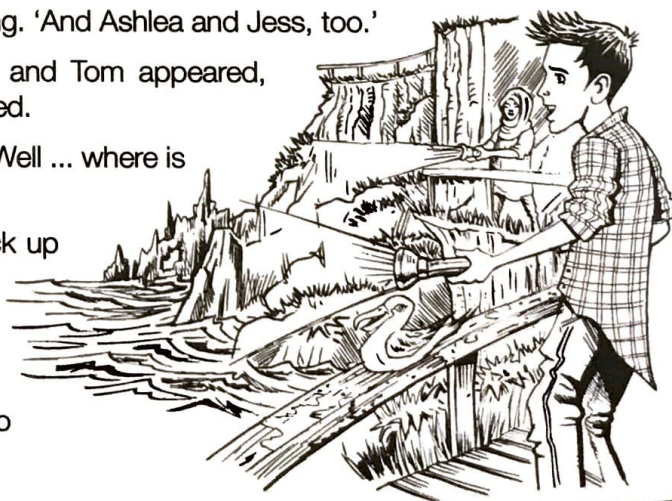
Predicting – 1

As we read, it is important to think about what is happening and to work out what we think will happen next.

Read the narrative.

Penguin Island

1. The class trotted across the wooden bridge, staring down through the cracks at the black ocean. Ashlea and Tom walked side by side, while Jess lagged behind, trying to read a book about penguins by torchlight.
2. At the start of the night walk, Mrs Flea, their teacher, bellowed strict instructions to the class about staying together, being safe and sensible and not distressing the penguins. She warned them that if anyone broke the rules, parents would be called in the morning to come and collect their child from camp.
3. Tom reached out and tickled Ashlea's side, making her giggle and blush.
4. As they walked along the boundary of Penguin Island, the track started to slope upwards.
5. 'There's one!' yelled Maddy, frantically pointing.
6. A sleeping seagull standing on one leg woke and flew away from the group. Everyone laughed and poor Maddy's face turned the colour of a tomato. She was glad to be in darkness.
7. The class stopped to lean against some railings, listening to the ocean crash against the rocks far below. Tom grabbed Ben's jacket and pushed his top half over the edge of the railing then quickly pulled him back. Ben squeezed his eyes tightly shut and breathed in sharply.
8. 'Tom! Don't!' Ashlea whispered sternly, as loudly as she could without alerting Mrs Flea.
9. They continued to walk along the track. Mrs Flea pointed out the nooks and crannies in the boulders, almost like small caves. The adventurous pupils ducked inside them.
10. 'I've found some eggs!' yelled Ben, leaning over to grab one.
11. 'Don't touch them!' ordered Jess. She crouched in the cave, shining her torch at the eggs and enthusiastically reaching for her book. The pupils took turns looking inside the cave at the eggs until Mrs Flea moved them along.
12. As they continued to walk, the caves disappeared and most of the class concluded that there were actually no penguins on Penguin Island. They began to mess around with their torches. Maddy dropped hers and heard it rolling down the slope.
13. 'Why me..?' she whimpered to herself sadly.
14. 'Don't even think about chasing after it, Maddy. We'll lose you over the edge!' said Mrs Flea, as she tried to do a headcount in the dark. Her stomach flipped in terror.
15. 'Freeze on the spot!' she yelled into the wind. 'Shine your torches and see who is missing!'
16. Torchlights were flying everywhere, blinding the children and exposing their frozen faces.
17. 'Tom. He's gone!' Ben informed them, secretly smiling. 'And Ashlea and Jess, too.'
18. Mrs Flea blew her whistle. Moments later, Ashlea and Tom appeared, running down the track together, looking embarrassed.
19. 'Unbelievable!' Mrs Flea growled at the two pupils. 'Well ... where is Jess?'
20. Ashlea and Ben shook their heads and looked back up the path towards the caves.
21. 'She wasn't with us', mumbled Ashlea.
22. The rest of the class pointed their torches at the edge of the path, illuminating the cliff and the long drop to the ocean and rocks below.





Learning about the skill

Learn how to work out what probably happens next.

- The answers are not in the text, so you can't just read them, but there is information for you to use and think about.
- You need to find information related to the question. (This could be underlined.)
- Think hard! What is the writer suggesting might happen?
- Always consider all possible answers before making a decision.

1. Which of these things do you think Mrs Flea would most likely do next?

- (a) Tell the class to go on ahead and meet her at the bridge.
- (b) Use her mobile phone to call Jess's parents.
- (c) Order Tom and Ashlea to go back up the path and find Jess.
- (d) Blow her whistle again.

Choosing the best answer

- (a) Mrs Flea had ordered the class to stay together, so it is unlikely she would ask them to separate. This is not a good answer.
- (b) A mobile phone has not been mentioned in the text and it is unlikely Mrs Flea would call Jess's parents so quickly, so this is not a good answer.
- (b) Mrs Flea wouldn't want them to separate and she was cross with Tom and Ashlea, who had disobeyed the rules. It is unlikely she would ask them to go looking for Jess, so this is not a good answer.
- (d) Mrs Flea had tried her whistle once before and two children had come, so it is probable that it will work again. This is the right answer.

2. Which of these things would most likely have happened if Mrs Flea saw Tom push Ben at the railings?

- (a) She would have laughed.
- (b) She would have ignored Tom.
- (c) She would have told Tom he had broken the rules and she would be calling his parents when they got back to camp.
- (d) She would have told Tom to apologise to Ben and move the class along.

Choosing the best answer

- (a) Mrs Flea had been clear with her warnings at the start of the night walk, so she would not laugh at Tom's behaviour. This is not the right answer.
- (b) Once again, Mrs Flea had been clear with her warnings at the start of the night walk, so she would not ignore Tom's behaviour. This is not the right answer.
- (c) Tom had not behaved sensibly and was being unsafe. It is most likely that Mrs Flea would inform him that he had broken the rules and his parents would be called. This is a good answer but you must check all of them.
- (d) Mrs Flea had set punishments for certain behaviour at the start of the night walk, so it seems unlikely that she would have let Tom off with just an apology. This is probably not the right answer.

Predicting



On your own

Think about the strategies you have learnt and work out these answers.

1. *Imagine Jess came across sleeping penguins, which of these things do you think she would least likely do?*

- (a) Alert the class of her findings.
- (b) Find a stick and poke them with it.
- (c) Look in her book to find out which breed they are.
- (d) Crouch down and study them.

The best answer is .

Think!
Find the parts of the text that mention Jess and read them again.

2. *Which of these things is most likely to happen when Jess is found?*

- (a) The class will continue their tour of the island.
- (b) Jess will tell the class about her adventures.
- (c) Mrs Flea will order Jess, Ashlea and Tom to walk back to camp.
- (d) Mrs Flea will ask Jess where she was, then tell her she is being sent home tomorrow.

The best answer is .

3. *Which of these things do you think Maddy would be most likely to do if she was given another torch?*

- (a) Mess around with it again.
- (b) Say she didn't want one.
- (c) Hold on to it carefully.
- (d) Shine it in her classmates' faces.

The best answer is .

4. *Explain what you think Mrs Flea will do next. Give reasons for your answer.*

5. *What do you think Mrs Flea would say if she were asked to take a class on a night walk of Penguin Island again? Give reasons for your answer.*
