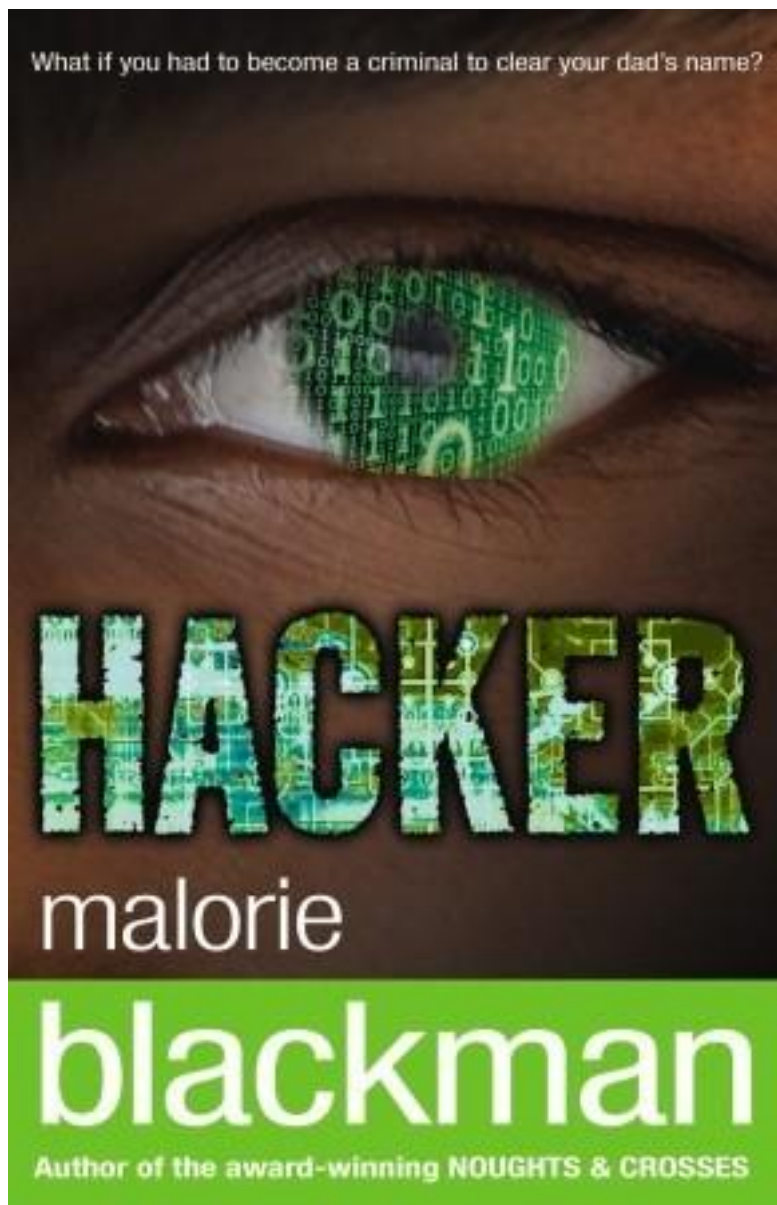


HACKER by Malorie Blackman



Student's Name: _____

Introduction

- What kind of information do you find in the blurb of the book?
Have a look at the blurb or cover of the book and predict what type of book you are about to read!

- What moves you to buy a book?

- What's the meaning of "computer-literate generation"? Are you computer literate?

Chapters One to Four

The Start of the Bad Times

1. Who is the narrator of the book?

2. What effect does the choice of this narrator cause?

3. How does Vicky feel when she enters into the assembly hall to take her Math's exam?

4. How do you feel when you are about to take an exam, especially if it is an end-of-year exam?

5. Why do you think she pays attention to what the students around her are doing before the exam?

6. Do you do anything similar? Why yes/no?

7. Why does Vicky feel *chuffed* at the Math's exam?

8. What is Mrs Bracken's reaction to Vicky's hasty exam answers?

9. **Vocabulary section:** In this chapter, there are some verbs related to the eyes. Find them in the chapter and try to match the verbs with their meanings. Then make up some examples to practice with them

peer glare gaze glance

1. To have a quick look at something. It is the same as glimpse
.....
2. To look at someone or something closer
3. To stare at someone or something, to look at someone or something intently.....
4. To look furiously at someone.....

Sample sentences

Peer.....

Glare.....

Glance.....

Gaze.....

9.2. Look up the meaning of these words or idioms in the dictionary

- Follow somebody like a dog or a sheep
- Beady eyes
- To boast

9.3. Sometimes students are grouped in different categories: egg-head/swot, tall tale, a cheat....Can you think of others?

10. **Grammar wise:**

Would rather+ infinitive without “to”.....than + V. ING

10.1. Copy all the examples you find

The Letter

1. What feeble excuses does Vicky give to deter Miss Hiff's from calling her parents?

2. Does Vicky tell Miss Hiff's why she had done the Math's exam so brilliantly?

Why do you think this happens?

3. Do you think Vicky actually cheated at the Math's exam? Why yes/no?

4. Vicky says in this chapter: "*I didn't really want to, but I didn't see how it could make much difference now*". What is she referring to?

Would you do the same if you were in her shoes? Why yes/no?

5. In this chapter, Vicky and her brother Gib, speak about the possible punishments her school is going to impose on her. What is the difference between *being suspended* and *being on detention*?

6. What happens in your school if you are found cheating?

7. Why is the school suspicious of Vicky?

8. **In literature** a *cliff-hanger* is a thrilling and unexpected turning point in the story that makes the reader to keep interested in the story. What is the cliff-hanger in this chapter?

8.2. What's the name of the literary figure used in this description of Mrs Bracken "*If she ran any faster, she'd take off*"

Some Home Truths

1. Indicate if the following statements are True or False. Correct the false ones:

- Aunt Beth is Vicky's father sister.
- The bank didn't want to reveal the robbery as they were scared of losing clients.
- Both Gib and Vicky are interested in ICT.

2. After a terrible row with her brother, Vicky feels confused about her feelings towards her adoptive parents. Why do we know it? What does she wonder?

3. Have you ever felt at school, family or group of friends that "you didn't belong...?"

4. What idea does Vicky come up with in order to prove that her father is innocent?

The Break-In

1. What information does Vicky want to get by logging into her father's bank account?

2. Who does she think the suspects might be?

3. How does Gib help her?

4. Why does she have to turn the computer off immediately at the end of the chapter?

5. **Vocabulary wise:** Look up the meaning of "I'm getting pins and needles"

6. **Grammar wise:** What are the expressions used to give advice? Write a sentence with each.

Chapters Five to Eight

Getting it Wrong

1. Why do Vicky's adoptive parents consider her *special*?
2. Why was she called Victoria? What had happened to her real parents?
3. Why is Vicky so eager to go with her mother to the police station?
3. When Vicky's father's colleagues turn up at the Gibson's home, Vicky says of her mother '*mum had saddled her high horse and was off at a gallop now*'. What does this **metaphor** stand for?
4. Gib describes Chaucy's PC as *state of art*. What's the meaning of this expression? What kind of computer has Chaucy got?
5. Mention two events in this chapter which makes the reader notice a slight improvement in Vicky and Gib's relationship.

Mr Guy and his Killer Dog

1. To show the uneasiness of the characters, the author uses a **hyperbole** in the chapter. What is it?
2. What does Vicky's father think it would have been better if he had been a real hacker?
3. What's the way Vicky wants to show she *belongs* to the family?

4. The **climax** in a story is the most intense point in the development of the events; a decisive moment in the plot. Why does Vicky describe their arrival to the school as **anticlimax**?

5. What's the meaning of this idiomatic expression "To be all ears"? Do you know other idiomatic expressions with body parts?

The Dictionary Dodge

1. *Dodge* is a word that can be used in criminal terms such as in *fare-dodging*. What do you think this crime is? What is the meaning in this chapter?

2. What *white lie* do Vicky and Gib tell the evening computer teacher to use one of the PCs in the classroom?

3. Whose account do they log in and why?

4. What's special about their father's account?

Poking and Prying

1. Victoria thinks she is closer to the truth at the beginning of this chapter. Why is she so confident about it?

2. What does Gib discover when they are reading through the bank's printouts?

3. Almost at the end of this chapter there is an example of **intertextuality**, which is the reference to another literary text or something connected to that text. Which one is it and why is it used?

Chapters Nine to Twelve

A Slip of the Tongue

1. Vicky says: *'His constant grin was cheesing me off'*. What does she mean? Is it formal or informal language?
2. What does Chaucy tell Vicky at the beginning of the chapter? Does she believe him?
3. When Vicky tells her friends that she's been accused of cheating, Maggie says something to her that gives her a clue, what is it and why does she make her suspicious?
4. What has Maggie done and which were her reasons for doing it? What do you think of her behaviour?
5. Vicky feels angry and guilty at the same time. What would you have done if you had been in her shoes?
6. Give a synonym for the expression *"if you tell on me..."*

Please Yourself

1. Vicky arrives home and she has a big argument. Who does she quarrel with? How does she feel about it?
2. What does Vicky do before giving the letter to her parents? How does she behave? Do you do the same at home?
3. Why do you think Vicky doesn't tell her dad the name of the real culprit?
4. Where do Vicky and gig plan to go the following day after school and what for?
5. How is Vicky called by her parents?

E Jones

1. How do Aunt Beth and Sebastian welcome Vicky and Gig?
2. '*He was as skinny as a piece of string*', Which figure of speech is the author using here and what does it mean?
3. What is 'to gawp at somebody' as in '*I gawped at Gig*'?
4. '*I couldn't for the life of me figure out what it was*' is another figure of speech. Which one? What does it mean?

5. Give a synonym for the expression '*on the sly*'

6. What does Vicky find out when she types the user's name in Aunt Beth's computer?

Locked Up

1. Vocabulary wise:
What does the expression '*egg headed little snoop*' mean?
 - To keep your nose out of something
 - To set up somebody
 - To be up to something
 - In the nick
 - To moan

2. Why does Aunt Beth use the name E Jones in her account?

3. How much money have the thieves planned to steal?

4. Where do they lock Vicky up and how long is she supposed to be there?

5. How does Gib find out that Aunt Beth was lying about Vicky staying overnight at her house?

Chapters Thirteen to Fifteen

Hatton Something

1. Why does Gib ask Chaucy to follow Aunt Beth?
2. What's the name of the train that Aunt Beth and Chaucy catch?
3. Which are the three reasons why the kids think that Beth and Sebastian put the million pounds into their dad's account?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
4. What does the idiom '*at silly o'clock*' mean?
5. What is Hatton Garden in London associated with?

Holiday Dressing

1. Explain the meaning of the expression '*to get away scot free*' Do you think you could use it in your everyday life?
2. Which are Vicky's thoughts about her real parents when she's at the airport?
3. People at the airport don't move a finger when Vicky and Gig are accusing the thieves. When do they start paying attention and defending them? What is exactly what makes them react?
4. How is the underground in London more known as?

The Truth

1. How much money is there in the small suitcase? In which currency?

2. Why can't the police officer find the £7,000,000 in any of the suitcases? Where is the money?
3. '*Mum and dad were going to make sticky splats on the ceiling at this one*' Explain this expression.
4. Why does Gib send Chauchy to the loo? What's Vicky's reaction to what Gib says to her?
5. What is your opinion about this novel? Did you expect this end?
6. Who is your favourite character? Why?
7. Would you do the same as Vicky and Gib if you had to?
8. Some critics say that this is a story about friendship, loyalty, betrayal and family. How do you think these three things are represented in the novel?
9. Some other critics refer to this novel as a *whodunit*, cyber-thriller and family drama. Explain how these three characteristics are represented.
10. Find some information about Malorie Blackman, the author. Would you read any of her novels?