



story explorer

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf **Week 1 – The Boy with the Lion Eyes (Chapters 1–2)**

Information for Adults

In Chapter One, we meet a group of school friends (one of whom is our narrator) and some of their teachers. A new child, Ahmet, is introduced to the class and sits in the empty chair at the back of the class, looking very scared.

Throughout Chapter Two, the schoolchildren speculate about who Ahmet is, why he is doing different work to the others, and why he doesn't come to the playground at break time. At the end of the day, our narrator gives him a lemon sherbet.

Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO-Hzlv5-OA>

Here, Onjali Q. Raúf reads extracts from the first chapter. This is a good introduction to the author and her book.

The instructions can be printed for an adult to read aloud, or for the children to read themselves, or you may prefer to work with them on a tablet or computer. Children will also need the activity sheets or plain paper, pencils, scissors (and either gluesticks to glue their work into a sketchbook, or a hole punch if they are putting them into a ring binder).

In addition to a pen or pencil to write with, Story Explorers will need coloured pencils, felt pens or wax crayons to design and decorate their ideal stationery set (Activity 1C), portray the school friends in the school yearbook (Activity 1D - there are two different sheets) and to draw and write a diary entry from Ahmet.

Lemon sherbets would be good to taste as well!

Activity 1A – Exploring the Story

Story Explorers will need the printed book, ebook, or audiobook version of *The Boy at the Back of the Class* to read or listen to, and afterwards answer open-ended questions about the first two chapters.

Activity 1B – Wonderful Words

An important part of exploring a story is exploring new words. Identify new words from the first two chapters and think about what they mean.

Activity 1C – Stationery Set

Design and decorate a stationery set using the worksheets provided, or alternatively use a plain piece of paper.

Activity 1D – School Yearbook

Use descriptions and the worksheets to create the pages of a school yearbook for the characters in *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.

Activity 1E – Ahmet's Diary

Use the worksheet to write a diary entry from Ahmet's perspective.

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