

# Time Travelling Adventures



**VIPERS**  
**Comprehension Pack**

## Time Travelling Adventures Chapter 1

Carrie looked down at the palm-sized device that nestled comfortably in the grip of her hand. A crisp, aqua screen buzzed with information – dates, coordinates and numbers that she couldn't even begin to understand. She hadn't built it, of course, her dad had, three years before. When he'd disappeared without a trace, she'd found the device smoking on the desk in his study, still warm to the touch. She'd picked it up and set to work; she had a strong suspicion that she knew what he had been up to. Now, she had proof.

Somewhere overhead, a car honked its horn and startled Carrie back into the present. She glanced around, and her jaw dropped. Polished silver vehicles skimmed through the air like mayflies over a summer stream, weaving their way through the three-dimensional traffic with ease. The word "cars" would have to do until she could think of anything more appropriate. Towering skyscrapers built from steel lacework seemed to arch as they reached up towards the distant thunderstorm. She looked down, and her head spun. There were no pavements, only metal walkways that hung from thin steel cables. She was roughly halfway up the tallest skyscraper, and a dozen other walkways were suspended below her, all the way into a fog that clouded the street below.

Her dad had done it, then. He'd found a way to travel in time. Something had gone wrong for him, though, and he'd left the device behind. Carrie knew that the chances of him arriving at his destination alive were slim, but she had to find out what had happened. She pushed a button on the device, and the screen flickered and showed the current date: 21st October 2150. It had been the date her dad had inputted on the day he disappeared. The coordinates told her that she was in the centre of London, but she couldn't recognise any of it.

She started to hurry along the street, keenly aware that she didn't have much time. The thought made her laugh: she had all the time in the world if she needed it. But a sense of urgency still gripped her. She had a feeling that jumping around in time wasn't going to be a walk in the park.



As she ran, the sound of the metal walkways under her feet reverberated against the soles of her boots. She realised that the other pedestrians all had metal-soled boots, and it soon became clear why. As she approached a strangely dressed man, staring into a holographic screen that hung just in front of his eyes, the man grunted in annoyance and stepped off the edge of the walkway. Instead of falling to his death, his boots clung to the metal, and he continued on his way, only now he was walking on the underside of the walkway. It must be magnetic, Carrie thought.

Up ahead, Carrie spotted an information stand. Hopefully, they would be able to search for her dad. As she approached, a car landed next to the walkway, and a rough hand reached out and snatched her by the collar. Before she could say anything, Carrie felt a bump on the back of her head, and she was pulled unceremoniously into the vehicle. "Sorry about that," a strained, female voice said. "I couldn't let you mention your dad's name to the people at that booth. I can help you find him, but you must trust me."

Carrie looked up into one of the least trustworthy faces she had ever seen.

## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. How big was the device she used?
2. What colour was the screen?
3. What date did Carrie arrive in the future?
4. What was the stranger on the street doing?
5. What was Carrie heading towards?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

- S** What happened after Carrie's dad disappeared?
- V** Write a definition for the word "keenly".
- V** Which word tells you that Carrie knew there wasn't much chance of finding her dad alive?
- I** How does Carrie feel about the person who grabbed her? How do you know?
- V** Find and copy a word that tells the reader that the steel skyscrapers are made of thin, woven metal.



# Time Travelling Adventures

## Chapter 2

Carrie slunk back into the plush leather seats of the car and stared up into the face of her kidnapper. A long nose hung limply, covered in warts and scars. Pale green eyes spun lazily in their sockets. The woman's straggly black hair looked matted and unclean, and one single tooth poked over her lower lip. "Sorry about this," the woman said, and Carrie noticed that her lips didn't move when she spoke. She had to fight back a scream when the woman reached up and started to peel her face off. "It's just an old Halloween mask I picked up from the museum!" the woman laughed as she watched Carrie curl up and whimper. "Just in case anybody spots me when I'm out!"

Now that her real face was showing, Carrie was much more inclined to trust her, although she was no less freaked out by what she saw. A familiar pair of sky-blue eyes stared back at her over a freckled nose, with a tiny scar where Carrie had once walked into a table as a child. Carrie looked up into her own mouth, her own nostrils and her own soul. "You're...me? I mean, I'm you?" she asked, panicking.

The older Carrie nodded and pushed a button on the car's dashboard. Somewhere behind them, a soft motor hummed to life, and they shot forward at a speed the younger Carrie could only guess at. "Listen, it's probably best if you try not to think of me as...you," the older Carrie said. "Call me Eleanor."

"Like mum?" Carrie said.

"Exactly," Eleanor said, risking a quick glance away from the traffic that zipped around them. "Dad came here a while back – maybe four or five years in my time, but only ten minutes ago in the timeline that you are in, if that makes sense?"

Carrie wanted to lie and nod her head, but what was the point of lying to yourself? She shook her head and shrugged her shoulders.

"I didn't think so. It doesn't make sense to me, either. I just try to do my best. Anyway, he didn't



have his device with him to head home, so I put him in touch with somebody I know named Electro Bonnie. She's the person to speak to for any illegal electronics you need doing."

"Time travel is illegal?" Carrie asked, incredulous at the thought that her dad could do anything that broke the law.

"Of course, think of the damage you could do. Anyway, Bonnie took his idea and made him a new device. But, I don't know, there was something wrong with it. She couldn't get a chip she needed or something. She told him that it would probably overshoot when he travelled, but she couldn't tell him by how much. Dad is somewhere in the past, Carrie, but I don't know where. Bonnie tried to track his signal, but it disappeared somewhere around 1509. It wasn't powerful enough to change the date, only the year. I would start there."

Carrie hugged her older self and programmed the device as quickly as she could: 21st October 1509. She twisted the control dial and flicked the switch. The next thing she knew, she had arrived. A horse reared in front her, spooked by her sudden appearance, and threw its mount to the floor. A young man, no older than Carrie, got to his feet and brushed himself down. "Young lady," he said, each word dripping with disgust, "how dare you dismount a royal knight? You shall come with me at once to visit the king!"

## SUMMARY FOCUS

1. What did the stranger do to reveal her true face?
2. Why did the stranger suggest Carry call her Eleanor?
3. What did Eleanor do to help their dad?
4. What happened immediately before the car engine started?
5. What was the last thing happened in the story?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**V**

Which word in the text tells the reader that the leather seats were comfortable and expensive?

**V**

Write a definition for "incredulous".

**R**

Which year did Carrie travel back to?

**I**

How does Carrie feel meeting herself? How do you know?

**E**

What technique does the author use to reveal that the two characters know each other?



## Time Travelling Adventures Chapter 3

King Henry VIII didn't disappoint. Carrie had studied his life at school and knew all about him, but as he lounged in front of her at the beginning of his reign, he hadn't yet reached the enormous proportions that he would in later life. His new wife, Catherine of Aragon, was sat towards the edge of the chamber with her maids. You poor woman, Carrie thought, there are many more to follow!

"I hear you have been dismounting my royal guards," the king bellowed as Carrie was brought before him and forced to kneel. "May I ask what you thought you were doing?"

"It was an accident," Carrie argued weakly, yet truthfully. "I didn't see him in the street."

"And what about your strange clothes? What are we to make of those?"

Carrie didn't know what to say. She looked down at her battered jeans and well-worn trainers, the t-shirt that she had picked up at a gig the month before – none of it fitted in in Tudor England. Suddenly, there was a scream from the main doors into the chamber, and a guard rushed in shouting. "There's a fire, your majesty. You must leave the room!"

Chaos and panic took over, and suddenly everybody was concerned with getting the king to safety. A hand grabbed Carrie's and pulled her away from the main entrance, towards a small passage that led away from the rest of the hubbub. "In here. They won't think to look in here."

The passageway was dusty and unused, and dark enough to offer cover even if the others returned. They followed it for a while before it ended at a wooden door. The tall stranger pulled a key out a pocked and let them out into a busy street beyond. Carrie looked back and realised that they were at the back of the palace, somewhere in the cattle district judging by the smells. Even though the sun was high in the sky, the streets were dark and narrow, covered by the upper floors of the houses that lined each street. Carrie still hadn't had a chance to see who her saviour was, but



they were leading her ever more quickly into the throng of people. Every step was a risk. Carrie pirouetted and stumbled over things that she desperately didn't want to look at twice. More than once, she slipped in something oily and didn't dare to glance down.

Now, they were surrounded by butchers. A variety of animals hung from the beams in front of each store, slowly rotting in the unseasonably warm weather. Flies buzzed in the thousands and swarmed over everything that was still for more than a second. Carrie batted them away from her face with her free hand and struggled after the stranger. Eventually, they turned into a blind alley and ducked into a subterranean room painted white with lime.

Once Carrie's eyes had adjusted to the gloom, she could see clearly who had saved her from the king. "Dad?" she asked, not believing her own eyes.

"Hi Carrie," he said calmly. "Thanks for finding me!"

## INFERENCE FOCUS

1. How does Carrie feel about Catherine of Aragon? What tells you this?
2. How did people react when the fire was announced? Explain your answer.
3. How do you know that not many people use the passageway off the chamber?
4. What impression do you get of Tudor streets?
5. How does the description of the butchers' shops show that they didn't keep their meat clean?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**V**

Find and copy a word in the text that tells you that the king shouted.

**S**

What has to happen before Carrie can see her dad?

**V**

Which word in the text tells you that the room they end up in is underground?

**R**

What diversion did her dad create?

**V**

Find a synonym for "crowd".

## Time Travelling Adventures

### Chapter 4

Carrie looked at her dad on the other side of the small room. His face was covered in a thick beard where he had once been clean-shaven, and he had a few more cuts on his face than she remembered, but it was still the man who had tucked her into bed before the accident. “How did you find me?” she asked.

“I knew you would come looking for me after my device was left behind. When I spoke to Electro Bonnie, she promised to keep an eye out for you and to send you to this date and this location. I knew she wouldn’t be able to get the year exactly right, so I’ve been here for about five years now. Every year, I head to the street where I knew you would arrive, and wait. I saw you earlier, but that uppity knight got to you before I could.” He stood up and embraced Carrie. “I had to create a diversion to get you out of there. We all know what King Henry was, sorry is, like. He would have had your head on the block before lunchtime.”

“Thanks for that,” Carrie said with a sarcastic smile. “I’m quite attached to it. Shall we go home?”

“Let’s!” Carrie handed her dad the device, but he pushed it back. “I think you’d better do this. We know what happened the last time I tried it!”

Carrie dialled in the date and location of their home and rotated the dial. She watched as the power symbol filled up and readied her finger on the switch. With her spare hand, she reached out and took her dad’s, for the first time in three years. “Ready?” she asked. He nodded.

Out in the street, loud voices shouted and drew closer. Carrie glanced at her dad, who shrugged. “Just flick the switch,” he said, urgently. Just as Carrie regained control of her thumb, somebody bustled through the doorway and slammed into the two of them. Carrie stumbled, and her thumb slipped onto the keypad, pushing several of the buttons. She didn’t have time to think, instead, she reached out and grabbed her dad’s hand and flicked the switch. The room around them vanished,





and everything went black.

Carrie opened her eyes. Her dad was sat up next to her, his eyes wide and his mouth hanging open. “What did you do?” he asked, his voice weak and hoarse. Carrie followed his gaze upwards, past the tall, damp fern fronds, beyond the towering, twisted trunk of an ancient tree, slowly being strangled by a creeping vine, and into the amber eye that stared down at them. It blinked slowly, the vertical black slit growing slightly in the shifting light. Carrie couldn’t look away. Thin, orange veins traced an ornate pattern in the iris, the scaly skin that surrounded it looked smoother than she’d expected.

“Back away very slowly,” she heard her dad say out of the corner of his mouth. Carrie shuffled backwards on her bottom, feeling dampness spread through her jeans and hoping that it was the wet moss on the floor, and not her own nervousness causing it. As they moved, the orange eye swivelled and followed them. An enormous head slowly broke through the foliage. A pair of large nostrils sniffed and huffed, steaming in the cold air.

It opened its mouth and stepped towards them.

## VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. What does the phrase “head on the block” mean?
2. Which word tells you that Carrie turned the dial?
3. If loud voices “drew” closer, what happened?
4. Find and copy a word that tells you how the stranger entered the room.
5. Which word tells you the colour of the eye?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

How had her dad changed from when Carrie last saw him?

**I**

What gives you the impression that Carrie likes to joke with her dad?

**S**

Why didn’t they end up going home?

**R**

Why was Carrie worried about being nervous?

**P**

What do you think is standing over them?



## Time Travelling Adventures Chapter 5

Carrie screamed. The dinosaur backed away quickly: it seemed nervous at the sudden noise. Picking up on its fear, Carrie's dad leapt to his feet and started to clap his hands together and scream along with her. Now they were stood up, they realised that the dinosaur wasn't as tall as they'd thought. It had been standing on a fallen log staring down at them – as soon as they had startled it, it had leapt onto the ground and scurried off.

"I'll ask you again, what did you do?" Carrie's dad said sternly.

"I think I may have hit the pad when that man attacked me," Carrie said, determined to point out the fact that she had, in fact, saved their life from the man who burst in on them.

"I'd say so."

"Look, we can just put the correct date in now and head home," Carrie said, digging around in the moss and pulling the device free. "Or maybe not," she said forlornly. The device had broken when they landed, and the screen hung limply from a tangle of wires. "I can probably fix it," she said, "but I'll need somewhere to work for a bit. You know, somewhere dino-free?"

Carrie had no idea which direction to head off in, so together they decided to head downhill. The forest surrounded them on all sides, but there was a gentle slope to the ground that led them slowly away from where they had arrived. Every now and then, something would growl in the undergrowth or flap overhead, and the two of them would fall to the ground or duck behind whatever tree or bush they could find. At one point, a herd of triceratops broke through the tree-line and passed with barely a second glance. Carrie cursed herself for not thinking to grab her camera before she set out.

When they felt like it was lunchtime, they rested on a rocky outcrop that offered panoramic views over the sweltering rainforest. They had just begun to rest their aching legs when something large disturbed the trees behind them. They turned slowly and found themselves staring back into the eyes of a dinosaur, only this one was definitely much larger. Carrie had seen enough films to know exactly what it was.



“Tyrannosaurus...” she whispered to her dad. “Run?” she suggested.

Together, they leapt from the rock just as the dinosaur lunged at them. They heard its teeth grating against the stone but kept their eyes forward. Behind them, Carrie heard trees crunching under the beast’s heavy feet; she could feel its hot breath on her neck. She noticed a small indentation underneath the snake-like roots of a tall tree. She pulled her dad down into the cavity and crawled as far back as she could.

Daylight streamed over them as the tyrannosaurus attacked and pulled at the roots. It tried to use its enormous feet to dig away at the ground. With each bit, it reached a little bit more into the hole. Carrie could smell its rotten breath, and each hot gust of air made her retch.

Desperately, Carrie pulled the device from her pocket. She dug in as deep as she could while her dad took to throwing whatever stones he could find at the dinosaur. She knew that she just needed to get the wires to make a connection for long enough. Hastily, she pushed and twisted the frayed end together and hit the power button. To her relief, the screen flickered to life. She hammered on the keypad until the date and location were set.

With one final bite, the tyrannosaurus pulled the last root free and sent the tree toppling away. It opened its jaws to the sky and roared. Its shadow blocked out the sun and Carrie watched as it stepped forward and lunged. Her fingers worked on their own and spun the dial. Just as the razor-sharp teeth surrounded them both, Carrie grabbed her dad’s hand and flicked the switch.

## VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find and copy a phrase that tells you Carrie’s dad noticed the dinosaur was afraid.
2. Which word tells you that Carrie’s dad is annoyed at her when he speaks to her?
3. Which phrase does Carrie use to mean “with no dinosaurs there”?
4. What does the word “panoramic” tell you about the views from the rock?
5. Write a definition for “indentation”.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

Why had the first dinosaur seemed taller?

**I**

At the beginning of the story, Carrie’s dad seems annoyed. What else might he be feeling?

**R**

Which direction do they head in?

**S**

How does Carrie’s dad give her more time to fix the device?

**R**

What type of dinosaur crossed their path?

Answers - Stage 5 - Chapter 1:

1. Palm-sized
2. Aqua
3. 21st October 2150
4. Staring into a holographic screen
5. An information stand

S: She found his device hot and smoking on his desk

V: Intensely (accept other, accurate answers)

V: Slim

I: The face is described as being one of the least trustworthy she had ever seen - she doesn't trust or like the stranger

V: Lacework

Answers - Stage 5 - Chapter 2:

1. Removed the mask
2. She didn't want it to be confusing because they were the same person. Eleanor was the name of their mum
3. Put him in touch with Electro Bonnie
4. Eleanor pushed a button on the dashboard
5. Carrie scared a horse and the knight fell off it. (Do not accept answers that suggest Carrie met the king as that hasn't happened yet)

V: Plush

V: Disbelieving / unwilling to accept or believe something

R: 1509

I: It worried her. She started to panic, though she did trust the stranger more once she saw her own face

E: The author uses dialogue rather than an information dump in the narrative to build character and reveal their relationship. Accept similar answers.

Answers - Stage 5 - Chapter 3:

1. She feels sorry for her. She calls her a “poor woman”.
2. The text says that chaos and panic took over. This means that the people in the room panicked and started to run around.
3. It was “dusty and unused”.
4. Accept answers that discuss: dirty, smelly, covered in rubbish and waste, crowded, dark
5. It talks about flies crawling over the slowly rotting meat. It isn't looked after or kept clean from flies

V: Bellowed

S: Her eyes adjust to the darkness/gloom

V: Subterranean

R: A fire

V: Throng

Answers - Stage 5 - Chapter 4:

1. She would have been beheaded
2. Rotated
3. They moved closer
4. Bustled
5. Amber

S: He had a thick beard and a few more cuts

I: She sarcastically thanked him for saving her head as she was quite attached to it

S: Somebody bumped into Carrie and her thumb pressed several buttons.

R: She could feel her jeans getting damp and hoped it wasn't her

P: Accept answers that show an understanding of the description - dinosaur, dragon, large reptile

Answers - Stage 5 - Chapter 5:

1. Picking up on (its fear)
2. Sternly
3. Dino-free
4. They had a great view in all directions
5. A recess or dent (accept other answers if using a dictionary)

S: It was perched on a fallen tree

I: Scared, angry, fearful. Accept synonyms

R: Downhill

S: He throws stones at the dinosaur

R: Triceratops