

Kick by Mitch Johnson

Ages 9-11

Reasons for selection and synopsis

Budi's plan is simple. He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.

Kick is more than just a football book. It has heart, soul, twists and turns and will keep even the most difficult-to-engage class on the edge of their seats.

Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Think of the title Kick. What might it tell you about the story?

Now read the blurb. What does this tell you about the story?

Make some predictions about what might happen in the story.

Do you know any other books or stories about sport?

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Sequence or Summarise



The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way.

It's Now Or Never

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| Vocabulary | Find a phrase on Page 5 that shows it is cold. Define 'surges'. What synonyms could have been used here? What is democracy? |
| Infer | What can you tell about the children's education, from Page 6? Why does Fachry always end up in goal? Who is the Dragon? How can you tell Uston is a sore loser? |
| Predict | Predict what might happen from the title of the chapter. What does this phrase mean? |
| Explain | Why does Johnson use italics in the beginning? What is your first impression of the Dragon? |
| Retrieve | What team was he pretending to play for? Where is the character from? Why do Uston's friends say he shouldn't make the sign of the cross? Why does Budi need to go home? |
| Summarise | Pick three key words to summarise this chapter and explain your reasons for each. |

There's No Place Like Home

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| Vocabulary | <p>What does the title of this chapter mean?</p> <p>What does it mean if something is 'on the verge' of doing something?</p> <p>Why does dad 'grimace'? What does this mean?</p> <p>What is a monsoon?</p> <p>Find a phrase on Page 18 that shows that the family don't have much money.</p> |
| Infer | <p>What is the first impression you get of mum?</p> <p>Why do you think Budi says it was a tiger?</p> <p>Why does mum want Budi to really ensure he cleans his wound properly?</p> <p>Why do you think the family don't want to talk about Budi's uncle?</p> <p>Why doesn't Budi like seeing Grandma move around?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Predict whether, over the course of the story, Budi's family will somehow get more money.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Explain, with evidence, how this chapter shows you that Budi's family do not have a lot of money.</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>What medical condition does Budi have?</p> <p>Where do they live?</p> <p>How old is Budi?</p> <p>Where does dad work?</p> <p>What does Grandma call Dad?</p> <p>How did Grandma know she was tired?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Pick one word to describe Grandma and explain your reasons.</p> <p>Summarise Grandma's story in twenty words or less.</p> |

Big Boss Man

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| Vocabulary | <p>What does 'galacticos' mean?</p> <p>Find a phrase on Page 33 that shows that Budi is working hard.</p> <p>What is a 'rotan'? Look it up if you need to.</p> <p>What is a territory?</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why does Budi daydream about football?</p> <p>Why would being thrown onto the street be a bad punishment at work? What is it synonymous with?</p> <p>Why do idiots work the boxing section?</p> <p>Why does the Dragon get away with murder?</p> |
| Predict | <p>From the title, predict the events of this chapter.</p> <p>Predict whether they will get the payrise.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Why does Budi have to work? How does this make you feel?</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>Who is Budi's favourite player of all time?</p> <p>Where do Real Madrid play their home matches?</p> <p>What is glory supporting?</p> <p>Why can't Rochy's family sell their TV?</p> <p>What is Budi's job?</p> <p>What things does Budi not like about the canteen?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise this chapter in less than twenty words.</p> |

From Rags To Riches

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| Vocabulary | <p>What does 'rags to riches' mean?</p> <p>What does gradually mean? What does this tell you about the way Budi woke her up?</p> <p>What is pemulung?</p> <p>Define 'upstaged'.</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why is Budi taken aback by the sun when he leaves work?</p> <p>Why is Uston's mum unimpressed?</p> <p>Why does Grandma believe she can't stop smoking?</p> <p>Why does the boy in the street hold out his hands?</p> <p>Why might Budi not understand what the commentators are saying?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Predict who will go from rags to riches.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Explain why Budi can't sleep.</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>What does Budi buy his grandma?</p> <p>What do they have for tea?</p> <p>Why do they walk down the streets with their pockets out turned?</p> <p>Why did Rochy have to get a job at the factory?</p> <p>Why do they have to watch the game at midnight?</p> <p>Why is Budi annoyed when he sees the team sheet?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise Budi watching the football game by writing a diary entry about it from his perspective.</p> |

All Shook Up

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| Vocabulary | <p>What does 'strides' tell you about the way the foreman moves around the factory?</p> <p>Find words and phrases on Page 71 that show discomfort.</p> <p>What is a tremor?</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why is Budi so tired?</p> <p>Why won't Bapak let Budi outside?</p> <p>Why did Rochy get caned?</p> <p>Why do you think the boys didn't feel like playing football?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Predict what will happen in El Clasico.</p> |
| Explain | <p>How did you feel when the foreman hit Budi?</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>How long is it until Budi's break?</p> <p>Why does the foreman hit Budi?</p> <p>What makes everyone scream?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise this chapter in less than twenty words.</p> |

Trouble

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| Vocabulary | <p>What does the word trouble tell us about the upcoming chapter?</p> <p>What phrases on Page 80 show us that Budi is excited about the present?</p> <p>Find phrases that show that Budi is uncomfortable in the Dragon's house.</p> <p>What does queasy mean?</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why does Budi collapse into his chair?</p> <p>Why is Budi placed on the boxing station? How does this make him feel?</p> |

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| | <p>How does Budi feel when the ball flies into the Dragon's house?</p> <p>Why does Rochy rip the paper up?</p> <p>Why do you think mum looked like she might cry?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Predict what the trouble might be.</p> <p>Predict whether Budi will steal the boots and what might happen when he does.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Explain how Johnson creates tension in this chapter.</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>Why does Budi believe there might have been another tremor?</p> <p>What important day is it?</p> <p>What present does Budi get?</p> <p>When does Budi begin to cheer up?</p> <p>Why doesn't Budi want to put the poster up?</p> <p>Where does Budi kick the ball?</p> <p>Why are everyone's teeth red?</p> <p>What has Budi damaged?</p> <p>What is the Dragon's solution to Budi breaking the whisky?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise Budi's emotions in this chapter by creating an emotion graph.</p> |

Only Believe

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| Vocabulary | What does 'squat' mean? What does it mean to 'arouse suspicion'? What is an archipelago? |
| Infer | Why do you think Budi can't sleep? Why was the boy stuck at the top of the tree? What powers did the boy get from the coconut? Why was Budi sceptical? |
| Predict | Do you think Grandma's story will be relevant later in the book? How? |
| Explain | Explain what Grandma means when she says 'you must climb trees'. |
| Retrieve | Why has everyone got a day off? What sort of toilet does Budi have? What film has Budi seen that helps him plan? |
| Summarise | Summarise the coconut tree story by writing a newspaper report about it. |

Always On My Mind

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| Vocabulary | <p>What is a latrine?</p> <p>Find a phrase on Page 118 that shows that Budi is nervous.</p> <p>Define 'scurry'.</p> <p>Find a phrase on Page 124 that shows that mum is uncomfortable.</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why doesn't Budi like being on the boxing section?</p> <p>Why is Budi nervous?</p> <p>Why do you think Budi puts the shoes back?</p> <p>What reasons does Budi have for not wanting to go back to school?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Read to the end of Page 119. Predict what happens next.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Explain what Budi means when he says he's 'bleeding on the inside'.</p> <p>How does Johnson create tension in this chapter?</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>Where does Budi have to work?</p> <p>Why does the foreman want Budi back on sewing?</p> <p>Why is Rochy so angry?</p> <p>Why has the doctor been at Budi's house?</p> <p>Why doesn't Budi go and play out with his friends?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise the events in the factory in less than twenty words.</p> |

Suspicious Minds

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| Vocabulary | What does 'in our midst' mean? What is a perpetrator? Define 'withholding'. |
| Infer | Why does Budi think waking up in his own bed is worse than waking up in prison? Why do you think no one goes to the foreman? Why do you think the foreman is so desperate to know who did it? Why do you think Budi told no one about his day? |
| Predict | Read up to 'the factory doors are never locked'. Predict what will happen. |
| Explain | Explain how you can tell that the foreman is desperate to know who did it? Budi believes that Rochy betrayed him – why? |
| Retrieve | What's happening at the factory? Why does the foreman gather everyone outside? How does the foreman punish everyone? What does the foreman offer for information? Who does the foreman blame? How does he punish her? |
| Summarise | Write a diary entry to summarise this paragraph, but do it from the perspective of Rochy. |

In The Ghetto

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| Vocabulary | What words and phrases show that Rochy's mum is not in good health? What does murky mean? Define 'boasting'. |
| Infer | Why can't Budi stop thinking about the girl? Why do you think Rochy doesn't feel like going inside yet? |
| Predict | Who stole the boots? |
| Explain | Why don't the clan harm Budi? |
| Retrieve | Why can't Budi afford to fall out with Rochy? What does Budi take to Rochy's? What are the three questions people ask at the dump? Why couldn't Rochy dump his bag? |
| Summarise | Draw an emotion graph for Budi during this chapter? |

Never Been To Spain

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| Vocabulary | What does controversial mean? What is the difference between hot and humid? What is 'slurring'? |
| Infer | Why does Budi prefer Rochy in goal? Why does Rochy want the old man to get out of the bin? What does it tell you of Budi's character when he buys the man some water? |
| Predict | Predict why the inspection is happening and what will happen. |
| Explain | Explain how you felt when Budi realised how little money he actually has. |
| Retrieve | What rumour is going round? Why does Budi think Kieran Wakefield will be alright? What does Budi assume they will use if they run out of boots? What do the boys find in the bin? Why do the boys get struck with the rotan? Why can't Rochy wear his shirt the next day? |
| Summarise | Summarise Rochy and Budi's relationship in one word. |

If I Can Dream

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| Vocabulary | <p>Find a phrase on Page 166 that shows the foreman is feeling tense.</p> <p>What is 'busying' yourself?</p> <p>What does 'intervene' mean?</p> <p>Find a word on Page 175 that means 'hide'.</p> <p>Define 'potential'.</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why do they return to their work slowly?</p> <p>Why does the whole factory stop when the name is called? Why do you think Johnson chooses not to include the name?</p> <p>Why does the foreman need Budi to sign the form?</p> <p>How does Budi say that Victor could improve his game?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Predict what the inspectors want.</p> <p>Predict what will happen to Budi in the office.</p> <p>Predict why dad was on the newspaper.</p> |
| Explain | <p>How do you think Budi feels when his name is called?</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>What is strange about the arrival of the inspector?</p> <p>How many inspectors are there?</p> <p>What happens when the man steps forward to intervene?</p> <p>What is the form?</p> <p>Where does Budi run to? Why?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise this chapter in thirty words or less.</p> |

When It Rains, It Really Pours

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| Vocabulary | <p>What does the saying that is adopted for the title of this chapter mean?</p> <p>Define 'restrained'.</p> <p>What is a convict? Why is this italicised?</p> <p>What does 'extort' mean?</p> <p>What is a synonym for interrogated?</p> <p>What is 'bickering'?</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why does nothing come out when Budi tries to shout?</p> <p>Why does grandma laugh at the Dragon's suggestion?</p> <p>Why does Grandma tell the story that she tells?</p> <p>How can you tell the boys were sorry for abandoning Budi?</p> <p>What makes Rochy angry?</p> <p>Why does Rochy attack Budi?</p> |
| Predict | <p>After the first page, predict what is happening.</p> <p>Predict why the Dragon is here.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Explain the effect on the reader of the parallel earthquake stories.</p> <p>Why do you think Johnson chooses to start monsoon season in this chapter?</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>How does Budi know mum is crying?</p> <p>Where is dad?</p> <p>Who does the police officer invite into the house?</p> <p>What shocking thing do we find out about Budi's uncle?</p> <p>What is the name of Budi's uncle?</p> <p>Why is the game so hard to play?</p> <p>What happens to Budi's eye?</p> |

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| | What did Rocky want to be when he was younger? What prevented this? |
| Summarise | Summarise the fight part of this chapter by writing it from the perspective of Rocky. |

Double Trouble

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| Vocabulary | What does double trouble mean? What is 'pawning'? Find a word that means climb on Page 225. |
| Infer | Why does Budi cross his fingers? What is Budi's first impression of the new girl? Why was the day at work so boring? Why hasn't Aaron heard of all the new Real Madrid players? |
| Predict | Predict where Rochy is. Predict what will happen next. |
| Explain | Explain what Budi means when he says that his uncle says Nusa Kambangan the way he says Barcelona. Why do you think Budi turns his uncle in? |
| Retrieve | Why does the foreman fire Rochy? What does Budi intend to do with his poster? Why does Budi cry? Who does Budi find in the bin? What was Aaron's prisoner number? What is similar about Aaron and Budi? |
| Summarise | Summarise this chapter in one word. Explain your choice of word. |

The Impossible Dream

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| Vocabulary | What does 'bewildered' mean? Why does uncle look this way? Define 'tarnished'. What does 'primitive' mean? |
| Infer | Why does the inspector slap Budi? How did this make you feel? |

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| | <p>Why is Budi pleased to be short in this bit?</p> <p>Why do you think Aaron agrees to do it?</p> <p>Why do you think it might be grandma's last story?</p> <p>What do you think grandma means by 'keep kicking'?</p> |
| Predict | Predict what happens next. |
| Explain | How do you think Aaron feels after the betrayal? |
| Retrieve | <p>How does Budi feel when Aaron is arrested?</p> <p>What does the Dragon want Aaron to do?</p> <p>How does the Dragon intend to counterbalance the weight?</p> <p>How did Budi get his name?</p> |
| Summarise | Summarise the story of the swimming boy by writing it from a first person perspective. |

House Of Sand

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| Vocabulary | <p>What are limbs?</p> <p>Define 'debris'.</p> <p>Find phrases throughout this chapter that signal tragedy.</p> <p>Why do you think this chapter is called House of Sand?</p> |
| Infer | <p>What is Budi dreaming about?</p> <p>Why does mum immediately rush to grandma?</p> <p>What does it tell you about Budi that he immediately wants to go and check on Rochy?</p> <p>Why doesn't mum want Budi to go?</p> |
| Predict | <p>At the end of Page 247, predict the destruction the earthquake will bring.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Explain how you felt during this chapter.</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>Why does Budi enjoy the pain in his limbs?</p> <p>What does Budi wake up to?</p> <p>Why are people's faces white and chalky?</p> <p>What happens to Rochy's home? Why was he safe?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Draw an emotion graph for yourself during this chapter.</p> |

There Goes My Everything

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| Vocabulary | <p>Why do you think Budi 'mumbles'?</p> <p>What do you think Bapak means?</p> <p>What are provisions?</p> <p>Why are words like gargling and retched used on Page 268?</p> |
| Infer | <p>Why do you think this chapter has that title?</p> <p>Why doesn't Budi want to go to the hospital?</p> <p>Why does Aaron give Budi the gloves?</p> <p>What does the Dragon mean when he says some of them won't make it?</p> <p>What does the Dragon intend to do to the family? Why? Why for Budi in particular?</p> <p>Why is Budi torn about taking the bag?</p> <p>How did you feel when you found out Aaron had seen Grandma one last time?</p> <p>Why does the chief inspector flee?</p> |
| Predict | <p>Predict how the story will end.</p> |
| Explain | <p>Why do you think Budi gave all the people cash?</p> <p>How did you feel when Budi gave Rochy the money?</p> |
| Retrieve | <p>What has the Dragon found out about Budi?</p> <p>Where does the Dragon take Aaron and Budi?</p> <p>How does Aaron get into the trucks?</p> <p>How long do they work for?</p> <p>What is in the bag?</p> |
| Summarise | <p>Summarise this chapter by writing a newspaper report about the events.</p> |

Today, Tomorrow and Forever

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| Vocabulary | What is a 'hopeless case'? What is indigestion? |
| Infer | Why are there empty seats in the factory? Who is the senior police officer? How can you tell Budi is excited? Why do Budi and Rochy sneak into the garden? |
| Predict | Predict what Rochy's surprise is. |
| Explain | Explain why Johnson doesn't tell you if the goal goes in. |
| Retrieve | Who now sits in Rochy's place? Why is Uston annoyed at Rochy? Where is Rochy now working? |
| Summarise | Summarise the story in less than 200 words. |