

# Day 1: Explore!

This week, we are going to be looking at an extract from a new book, but we won't tell you the title... yet!

Bradley Chalkers sat at his desk in the back of the room—last seat, last row. No one sat at the desk next to him or at the one in front of him. He was an island. If he could have, he would have sat in the closet. Then he could shut the door so he wouldn't have to listen to Mrs. Ebbel. He didn't think she'd mind. She'd probably like it better that way too. So would the rest of the class. All in all, he thought everyone would be much happier if he sat in the closet, but, unfortunately, his desk didn't fit.

What is the name of the main character in this extract?

Where do you think this story is set?

What is Mrs Ebbel's job?

Why do you think the character is described as an Island?

How do you think the character is feeling?



The character is like an island because...

Can you use any of these words in your answer -

separate

isolated

alone

# Day 2: Illustrate it!

Today we continue our extract from our new "secret" book. Read this passage on your own or with an adult then try the drawing activity explained below:

"Class," said Mrs. Ebbel. "I would like you all to meet Jeff Fishkin. Jeff has just moved here from Washington, D.C., which, as you know, is our nation's capital." Bradley looked up at the new kid who was standing at the front of the room next to Mrs. Ebbel. "Why don't you tell the class a little bit about yourself, Jeff," urged Mrs. Ebbel. The new kid shrugged. "There's no reason to be shy," said Mrs. Ebbel. The new kid mumbled something, but Bradley couldn't hear what it was.

Mrs. Ebbel smiled at him. "Well, I guess we'd better find you a place to sit." She looked around the room. "Hmm, I don't see any place except, I suppose you can sit there, at the back." "No, not next to Bradley!" a girl in the front row exclaimed. "At least it's better than in front of Bradley," said the boy next to her. Mrs. Ebbel frowned. She turned to Jeff. "I'm sorry, but there are no other empty desks." "I don't mind where I sit," Jeff mumbled. "Well, nobody likes sitting ... there," said Mrs. Ebbel. "That's right," Bradley spoke up. "Nobody likes sitting next to me!" He smiled a strange smile. He stretched his mouth so wide, it was hard to tell whether it was a smile or a frown. He stared at Jeff with bulging eyes as Jeff awkwardly sat down next to him. Jeff smiled back at him, so he looked away. As Mrs. Ebbel began the lesson, Bradley took out a pencil and a piece of paper, and scribbled. He scribbled most of the morning, sometimes on the paper and sometimes on his desk. Sometimes he scribbled so hard his pencil point broke. Every time that happened he laughed. Then he'd tape the broken point to one of the gobs of junk in his desk, sharpen his pencil, and scribble again.



Using the highlighted sections to help you, draw a sketch of Bradley from Jeff's perspective (viewpoint).

How would he look to Jeff?

Does Bradley look friendly? Scary? Like a bully?

# Day 3: Write about it!

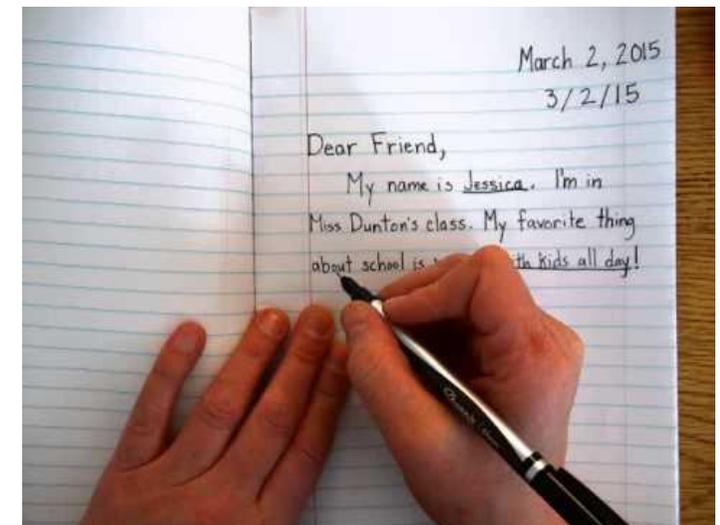
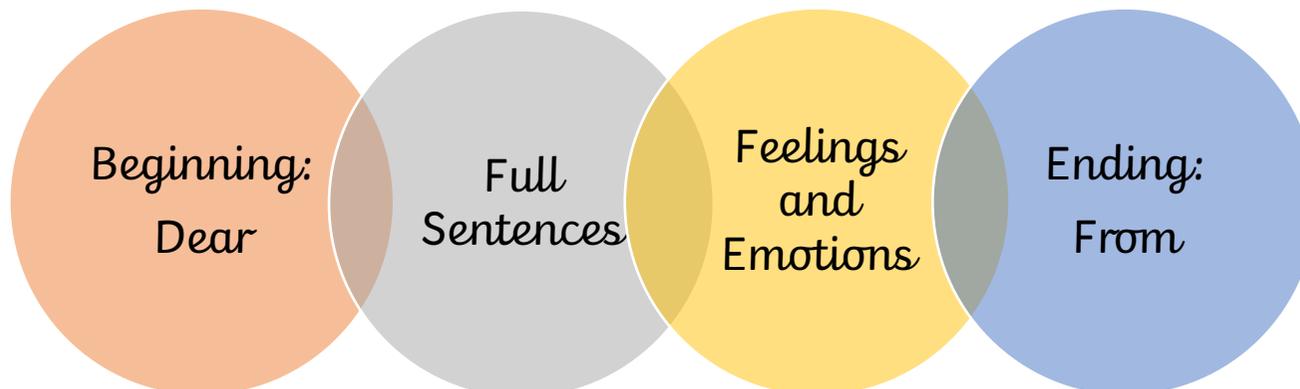
## What Would You Do?



*Imagine* you are someone in Bradley's class and you have noticed that Bradley is lonely and being picked on by other members of the class,

Task: *Write Bradley a letter* showing you understand how he is feeling. Explain how you would be a good friend to him, help and support so he doesn't feel like he has to hide in a cupboard.

### Make sure you include in your writing:



# Day 4: Imagine it!

In the rest of the story, a promise is made and kept that has a massive AND positive impact on the city and the people that live there.

Can you imagine what the promise might be?

- What could they promise to do to make the city **look better**?



Look

- What could they promise to do to make sure people **behave better** in the city?



Act

- What **three things** would you do to improve the town you live in?



Think