

LITERACY network

Connect,
plug in,
switch on...

for middle and
upper primary

Critical Literacy Boxes

*Develop critical literacy with
high-interest novels and activities*

The **Critical Literacy Boxes** contain high-interest novels accompanied by activities students can undertake independently to develop their **critical literacy** and **comprehension skills**.

The novels are written by well-known authors, and are supported by individual **Critical Literacy Cards** that provide activities based on a specific critical literacy skill. These include analysing text structures, authors' purpose and point of view, symbolism, characterisations, settings and plots. Each card also includes detailed teacher notes with discussion questions.

Literal, inferential and evaluative questions are provided.



Activity Card

Mademoiselle Marmalade


IT IS A REGULAR SUNDAY, not unlike each and every other weekend. As per usual, I want Billy to help me practise my French for my overseas holiday.

When I asked Mum and Greg if I could go to Paris with them, Mum said it was out of the question because I could speak next-to-zero languages, besides English. Mum speaks French, German and Cantonese. This is because she jets around the world each and every month. Greg told me he speaks French and slang. This is because he is a teacher, which means he hangs around with kids each and every day.

I imagine Mum will be as pleased as Punch and

Judy when I tell her I am fluent in French. Billy, typically, wants me to help him practise his football for his afternoon game. He tells me he would rather I did not go to France, because he would rather I stayed in the sticks with him. I tell him I would rather he did not go to football. 'If you skip football then I will skip France,' I say, because I know Billy would not miss his afternoon game for all the truffles in Paris.

'I will be back in less than two hours,' he argues.



Activity 1
Using the Critical Literacy skill - character development
Read the following passage with a partner.

Miss Greyhound cackled with glee, and delved into her bag. 'Here we are,' she said, slipping down the paper in front of Eric. 'Let's see those answers 'pop' into your head, all!' She laughed so much that her false teeth fell out into Eric's lap. 'Let me just 'pop' those back in. Hee-hee.'

With your partner, talk about how the author has built up the character of Miss Greyhound. Remember Eric thinks she could be a witch. Look at the language closely.

- What does her name tell you about her?
- How would you describe Miss Greyhound?
- How big would that handbag be if she had to 'delve'? Check the dictionary.

Let's Write
Have a go at writing your own paragraph about a character. A nd then share it with your partner.

First choose a character you want to write about. Think about characters you have read about or seen in films. Write your character in your notebook.

Remember to:

- Start with a strong statement. *She stood as tall and straight as a young tree. She took the wrong and played it to the hilt.*
- Describe your character. Is he or she good or evil? This will make a difference to how you describe what your character does.
- Think about what you want to tell your reader and how you want your reader to feel.

Activity 2
Language of the text - names reflecting the character
Giving characters interesting names that reflect their personality is a fun way an author can inform readers about the characters for their stories.

- Einstein - is a very brainy mouse named after a very brainy scientist.
- Doctor Von Burpschneider - what does he do in the opening of the book?
- Tikazza Beque - Read this quickly. What does it sound like? Thick as a brick - and he is!
- Nathan Sharp - he thought he was sharp in the playground!

Looking at names carefully helps you to be a good reading detective.

Draw the table below in your notebook. Write five fun character names in the left column and write character descriptions beside them.

Name of character	Description of the character
Miss Sally Softly	She always spoke very quietly.

Activity 3
Graphic organiser - main ideas and details
Draw the graphic organiser below in your notebook and record what you find out about Albert Einstein. Some headings are done for you and there is one blank for you to add something special that you have found out.

This is a useful way to organise information. It helps your planning and makes your notes easy to follow.

Date and place of birth	Names of parents
Date and place of death	Albert Einstein
Achievements and discoveries	How he changed the world

Activity 4
Write critically - story plan
In the last line of the book the doctor says, 'Oh yes. *He'll definitely be back!*' This leaves the story open for further adventures.

Write the next adventure where the doctor again tries to get Einstein back. Do a detailed story plan with the headings: Beginning; Middle; and End. Include conflict to make the story exciting and lots of action language. Share your plan with a partner.

Activity 5
You be the critic - True or False
Write the numbers 1 to 4 in your notebook. Read the following statements and write True or False beside each number.

1. When Eric said he'd had enough quizzing his mother pulled on the floor, pulled her hair out and wept.
2. Eric didn't answer the last question and Einstein was going to give him the wrong answer anyway.
3. When Eric saw the mouse in the window he picked the one he thought was the strongest.
4. Eric was under a lot of pressure from his parents to succeed with his 'new gift'.

Let's write!
Write a short paragraph for the Mighty Mouse Newspaper (remember your audience is mice) about the adventures of Einstein. Think of an eye-catching headline. You only need to choose one small episode from the book and report it. Use *How*, *What*, *Where* and *Why* to help you write it. Remember it has to be fast and clear, mice read newspapers fast.

There are two boxes – one for middle primary and one for upper primary. Each contains:

- 60 books – 6 copies of each Chapter Book x 10 titles
- 60 cards – 6 copies of each Critical Literacy Activity Card x 10 titles
- 10 Teacher Answer Cards (one for each title)

Critical Literacy – Middle Primary

	ISBN	RRP
Middle Primary Critical Literacy Box Set	9781420277548	\$651.50
Alien Antics	9781420273410	\$12.50
The Bookworm Mystery	9781420273397	\$12.50
Eric and Einstein	9781420273465	\$12.50
Golbin's Storybook	9781420273564	\$12.50
Hugo Cranium: Ungenius	9781420273441	\$12.50
The Mystery of the Mummy's Mask	9781420273403	\$12.50
Say My Name	9781420273427	\$12.50
Stunt Kid	9781420273434	\$12.50
The Super Specs	9781420273458	\$12.50
X Marks the mp3	9781420273571	\$12.50
Student Activity Card Set (1x 10)	9781420220667	\$27.50



Critical Literacy – Upper Primary

	ISBN	RRP
Upper Primary Critical Literacy Box Set	9781420277555	\$651.50
All About Lee Lin and Loudmouth	9781420273557	\$12.50
Everything's Wonderful... Not	9781420273519	\$12.50
Famous Horse Snatched!	9781420273489	\$12.50
Five Reasons (Plus One) to tell the Truth	9781420273526	\$12.50
Frankie Goes to France	9781420273502	\$12.50
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The Next Finder	9781420273540	\$12.50
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Walking for My Eyes	9781420273496	\$12.50
Student Activity Card Set (1x 10)	9781420220674	\$27.50
Middle + Upper Boxes Pack	9992101209134	\$1277.50



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