

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

## THE CHAOS CLOCK by Gill Arbuthnott



www.florisbooks.co.uk

### Themes/issues addressed in this book

Friendship; death of a parent; space-time continuum; Edinburgh

### Book Summary

Kate and David are eleven-years-old and best of friends, playing football and doing their museum project together. But in Edinburgh, where they live, time is coming unstuck and the past is breaking loose. Old Mr Flowerdew needs their help in the war between the Lords of Chaos and the Guardians of Time, centred around the mysterious Millennium Clock at the Royal Museum. Can Kate use her grandmother's golden necklace to restrain the power of Chaos, and will David be able to help the Guardians, even if it means losing his mother all over again? This is a thrilling read which uses real, recognizable locations in and around Edinburgh for the main action.

## BEFORE READING

### Group Activities

- Discussion: do you believe that 'time-travel' is possible? Why?
- Discussion: have you visited the Royal Museum or New Museum on Chambers Street in Edinburgh? If so, what did you see? Did you see the Millennium Clock? What did it look like, and what did you think of it?

## AFTER READING

### Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when
  - a) Kate and David are in the round room with Mr Flowerdew (chapter 4)
  - b) Gordon Syme finds the paw-print in the museum (end of chapter 7)
  - c) Mr Flowerdew tells Kate and David that time could come unstuck (chapter 8)
- Time-travel: if you were able to travel through time, where and when would you like to go? Write at least 4 paragraphs on your ideal destination (place and time) and say what you would do when you got there.

### Group Activities

- Class visit: if you live in or near Edinburgh, arrange a class visit to the Royal and New Museums on Chambers Street to see the Millennium Clock (which chimes every hour), the British mammal hall where Kate and David camp overnight, and the circular room with the Pictish stones. See how many other locations from the book you can spot in and around the museum. Afterwards, write your own description of the Millennium Clock and what happens when it chimes.
- Group project: pick an area close to your school. If time came unstuck, and the past and the present got jumbled together, as it does in the book, what or who might you see appear in that area? What would they look like and what would they do? Find out about the history of your chosen area on the Internet or in the library before writing your report.

### Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean:

anvil	affectionate	coincidence
forging	taxidermy	anarchy
chaos	bivouac	hallucinating
millennium	smirked	incongruous
mechanism	disquieting	investigate
geometric	enamelled	defiance
inevitable		

### Kelpies Series Summary

*The award-winning Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Floris Books took over publication of these books in 2001. The series includes such classic novels as Kathleen Fidler's The Desperate Journey, Mollie Hunter's The Thirteenth Member, and Theresa Breslin's Simon's Challenge. Genres included in the series range from historical and folklore to detective and adventure stories.*

### CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

#### 5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P6-P7, S1-S3

Reading:

Reading for Information

Reading to Reflect

Awareness of Genre

Talking:

Talking in groups

Talking about texts

Talking about experiences, feeling and opinions

Writing:

Functional

Imaginative

#### National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stages 2 and 3

English: Reading

Reading Strategies

Response to Texts, inc analysing and evaluating

Reading for Information

National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading

Text-Level Writing

Vocabulary