

Worksheet

Answer Key

Level 1



Help! Philip Prowse

Summary

This is a comic fantasy set in contemporary London. The protagonist is Frank Wormold, an unsuccessful writer, married to Teresa, a successful, workaholic lawyer. The story begins as Teresa leaves for work and they argue about Frank's job and not having enough money. Teresa leaves but forgets her laptop computer. Frank falls asleep and is woken by the postman with a letter from Megamonster, a Hollywood film studio. Frank remembers that Teresa sent copies of one of his unfinished novels to all the main film studios the previous year.

The letter informs Frank that Megamonster is interested in his story and that Mel Parks, the studio boss, is in London at the Waldorf Hotel. Frank telephones and arranges to meet Mel. Over a fabulous lunch Mel offers Frank \$200,000 for his story. However, the story must be completed immediately and Mel buys Frank an expensive computer to help him to do this.

Back in his flat, the computer is set up and Frank discovers a female tutor on it called Chip. To get assistance all Frank has to do is type 'help'. With Chip's help Frank rapidly masters the computer and gets to work. Teresa phones to say she's working late and is going to stay in a hotel.

The next day Chip wants Frank to let her help him with spelling. Then Frank discovers that the microwave in the kitchen is making him coffee, and then spaghetti.

In the afternoon Chip tells Frank to set the book in New York, not London. He tries to argue but fails. Then two men deliver a new television. A little later they return with a luxury car. Clearly Chip has organised the delivery of both the television and the car. Frank goes down by (talking) lift to look at the car, which also talks to the driver.

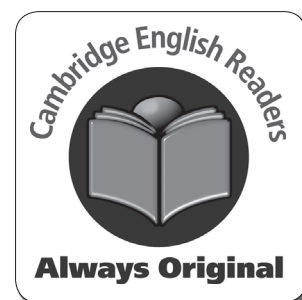
When he gets back to the flat he finds that Chip has finished the book for him and emailed it to Mel Parks. Not only that but she has changed the main character and the ending. Mel Parks phones, delighted with the story and demands another book for \$500,000 by the weekend.

Chip eagerly tells Frank to get to work. Frank doesn't want to. He unplugs the computer, avoids talking to the lift and gets into the car. He tells it to drive to London Bridge, where he throws the computer into the River Thames. The car now refuses to drive him home so he walks. When he gets back he is tired so he goes to sleep.

He is woken by Teresa returning to the flat to get her laptop. It is still morning and Frank has been dreaming. Frank tells her everything and Teresa realises that he was unhappy because she was angry with him.

They kiss and make up, and Teresa gives Frank a good idea for a new story. Frank sits down to write the story of 'Help'.

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Check your reading

Chapter 1

- a We need money to buy things.
b You need new clothes.
c Look at your old clothes.
d I had an old pullover and jeans on.
e She had expensive black clothes on.
- a Frank
b Teresa
c Teresa
d Frank
- laptop computer

Chapter 2

- 9 am – The postman came.
9.30 am – Frank started writing.
11 am – Frank changed his clothes.
12.30 pm – Lunch at the Waldorf.
- a T, b F, c F, d F
- a Mel Parks
b the first half of Frank's book, 'Every Morning'
c movie
d 29th and 30th

Chapter 3

- 1 b, 2 d, 3 c, 4 a

Chapter 4

- c, d, e, b, a

Chapter 5

- a 4.15 pm, b 4.45 pm, c 4 pm
- a the man (in a white coat)
b the lift
c Frank

- Mel
- Chip
- the car
- Frank

Chapter 6

- a T, b T, c F, d T
- a A nice car and a new television are important.
b But you are much more important.
c Did you hear anything?
d Why don't you write down the dream?
e She stood up and went to the door.

After reading

- Word search.

