

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl – Session One

Read Prologue and Chapter 1



Word analysis – I understand how to explore the meaning of words in context

1. On page 7, it says,  
Just then, *Dragonfly's* rudder shifted, and she **pitched**...  
What does the word pitched mean?
2. On page 10 it tells us that the escape pod left the airship. It says  
As John watched it through the open hatch, **shrinking** away in the sky...  
Why is the pod shrinking?
3. Chapter 1 starts by telling us that Lily **trudged** along at the back of a line of girls.  
What does the word trudged tell us about how Lily feels?
4. Page 12 tells us The Kraken is **obsessed** with posture.  
Which phrase is closest in meaning to the word obsessed?  
a) liked a lot                      c) always on their mind  
b) completely hated              d) couldn't care less
5. On page 15 the Kraken uses a word to describe Lily's penny dreadfuls which means she thinks they are nonsense. What is the word?
6. On page 23 Lily wants to hit Lucretia. What does it mean when it says, she **ground her teeth**?

Fact retrieval

1. Why does Malkin let out a bark of alarm? (page 8)
2. What does John stuff into the leather pouch around Malkin's neck? (page 9)
3. Why does John put a key on a chain and hang it around Malkin's neck? (page 9)
4. In Lily's penny dreadful where did Varney capture the heroine? (page 11)
5. What causes Lily to trip and step on Gemma's foot? (page 13)
6. What happened that meant Lily was sent to Miss Scrimshaw's Academy? (page 17)
7. What does the school motto *Vincit Omnia Veritas*, mean? (page 24)
8. Why is the stool in the coal bunker precarious? (page 26)

## Inference – I understand how to make inferences and justify these with evidence from the text

1. In what ways does the author make the silver airship seem dangerous? Give at least 2 examples from the text on pages 7 & 8.
2. What do we find out about John's personality on page 9? Give at least 2 features of his character with evidence from the text.
3. What do you think the thin figure did to John at the end of the prologue?
4. How are the girls in Lily's department class made to seem different from Lily? Give examples from the text on pages 12 & 13.
5. Do you think Lily's Pa would like Miss Scrimshaw's Academy? Explain why using evidence from the text.
6. How can you tell from Lily's conversation with Molly the mechanical maid, that Lily cares about mechanicals more than the other girls do? Give examples from pages 20 – 22.
7. How does the author make the coal bunker seem an unpleasant place? Look at page 26 for examples.

### Deep thought

Cogheart is written in the third person narrative. Discuss how the story might have been different if it had been told in the first person from Malkin's point of view.

What do you think we might have learnt or seen in these first opening chapters?

Have a go at rewriting the prologue as if it is Malkin recalling the airship disaster.

