



Angel of Fire

by Wendy Milton

TEACHER'S RESOURCE

Using this resource

This teacher resource is designed to be used as students read each chapter. Each section of this resource focuses on one chapter, and is divided into the following sections:

Vocabulary

This section highlights some of the trickier words or phrases that students will find in this chapter. Work through the list, or pick out a few words of interest, and ask students about each word using these questions:

- What is another word the author could have used instead of _____?
- What does the word _____ mean?
- Can you find the word _____ in a dictionary?
- Can you think of another word that means the same as _____?
- What is a _____?
- What does the author mean by _____?

Comprehension

This section includes questions to help gauge your students' understanding of the text. Some questions can be answered by a straightforward reading of the text, while others may involve students drawing on prior information or drawing conclusions.

Conversation

This section includes questions of a more interpretive, open-ended nature to encourage higher-order thinking. Questions may ask students to make predictions, use their imaginations and draw upon personal experiences.

Worksheets

Worksheets are included for some chapters.

Before you begin

Looking at the cover image, encourage students to predict what this story might be about. Where might this book be set? Will it be realistic fiction?

Chapter 1

Page 1

Vocabulary

prickly p.1
resuscitate p.1

Comprehension

- What building 'caters for people entering the world, people leaving the world and assorted sickly souls in between'?

Conversation

Do you think it is important that this story begins on Saint Valentines Day, the day of love? Why or why not?

Chapter 2

Pages 2-4

Vocabulary

mind's eye p.2
clipboard p.3
tremendous p.4
lurched p.4

Comprehension

- What does Zach want to do to the 'winged thing'?
- Why has Zach been angry for over a year?

Conversation

In this chapter we learn that Zach is being guided to his final resting place. Do you predict that this story will take place in the afterlife?

Chapter 3

Pages 5-9

Vocabulary

prostrate p.5
ironic p.7
jaundice p.8
deity p.8
convulsed p.9

Comprehension

- What do the doctors do to kickstart Zach's heart?
- The man on the roof thinks it's ironic that it's Valentine's Day. Why?
- Is Zach able to return to his body? How do you know?

Conversation

What do we know so far about Zach's personality? What are three words you would use to describe him?

Chapter 4

Pages 10–13

Vocabulary

constusions	p.10
apprehend	p.10
raspy	p.11
ventilator	p.12
murmur	p.13

Comprehension

- What does Zach 'bitterly regret'?
- Who is Bruce Gosling and how does Zach describe him?
- In what order do Bruce Gosling and Zach's dad arrive at the hospital?
- What do you think Zach wants when he thinks 'please, please, pleease'?

Conversation

What sort of relationship do you imagine Zach has with his father? How different is this to the relationship Zach has with Bruce Gosling? Use phrases like 'on the other hand', 'as opposed to' and 'unlike'.

Chapter 5

Pages 14–20

Vocabulary

fitful	p.15
scowled	p.15
engaging	p.16
pouted	p.17
rapport	p.18
bargaining	p.19
relented	p.20

Comprehension

- How is Zach being fed?
- What does Astra mean when she says she will be 'run off her feet'?
- Why do Astra's tears turn to steam?
- About what is Zach surprised that Astra knows?
- What are DUDA and DAPPO?
- To what does Zach, at the end of the chapter, agree?

Conversation

At the end of the chapter, Astra marks her promise with the words 'cross my heart and hope to die'? Is this amusing? If so, why?

Do you know any other businesses or organisations that use acronyms? Why do they do this?



Worksheet 1 TR page 18

Go back through the story so far and find examples of similes and metaphors. Then, rephrase them into your own words.

Chapter 6

Pages 21–23

Vocabulary

tendency	p.21
nonsense	p.22
looming	p.22
crumpled	p.23

Comprehension

- What is an OBE, according to Astra?
- How did Astra come up with the word 'loaming'?
- Do you think Zach trusts Astra? How do you know?

Conversation

If you could 'loam', or float effortlessly and invisibly, where would you go? What sorts of things would you do?

Chapter 7

Pages 24–27

Vocabulary

lurch	p.25
thermometer	p.26
adjoining	p.26
feeble	p.26
feverish	p.27

Comprehension

- Is there a connection between Zach's dislike of football and the 'never-to-be-forgotten shoelace story'?
- How does Zach entertain himself?

Conversation

Do your parents have a 'never-to-be-forgotten' story about you? How does it make you feel when the story is told?

Chapter 8

Pages 28–33

Vocabulary

involuntary	p.28
hysterical	p.28
scurvy	p.29
channeller	p.30
sleuths	p.32
bicker	p.32

Comprehension

- Why does Zach think the twins are vampires?
- What do the twins tell Zach that shocks him?
- In their song, what are the twins offering Zach?

Conversation

What links can you find between the text and the illustration on page 31? How do these help you understand Billy and Milly?

Chapter 9

Pages 34–36

Vocabulary

fluorescent	p.34
vulnerable	p.35
feral	p.35
undignified	p.35

Comprehension

- How does re-entering his body make Zach feel?
- Why have Billy and Milly made it their mission to help children at risk?

Conversation

Who will be able to help Zach the most, do you think – his new (and only) friend, Astra, or the twins, Billy and Milly? Why do you think this?

Chapter 10

Pages 37–42

Vocabulary

spittle	p.38
prohibited	p.38
assigned	p.39
vigorously	p.39
temporarily	p.41

Comprehension

- Why can't Zach sleep?
- Why does Zach call the grunter 'shower-power'?
- How does Astra know that Zach has been talking to someone?
- What is a TDS?

Conversation

Have you ever been too proud or independent to ask for help? How did the situation work out for you?

Chapter 11

Pages 43–48

Vocabulary

cardiac arrest	p.43
electrodes	p.43
partial	p.44
stimuli	p.44
agitated	p.47

Comprehension

- What is an EEG?
- What has Zach's school arranged?
- Why does Zach's mother leave him alone with Bruce?
- Why does a nurse rush in to Zach's room?

Conversation

Bruce calls Zach 'lippy', 'mouthy' and a 'tittle-tattle'. What do these words mean? What did Zach do that prompted the Goose to use them?

Chapter 12

Pages 49–52

Vocabulary

snuff it	p.49
vicious	p.49
droned	p.50
incapable	p.51

Comprehension

- When does the first classmate from Zach's school arrive?
- Why is Luke Lewis nicknamed 'the Sloth'?
- How does the nurse give Zach's father hope?

Conversation

Why, do you think, is the nurse, Evelyn, cautious in presenting her hope-giving theory to Zach's father?

Chapter 13

Pages 53–57

Vocabulary

devastated	p.53
ambitious	p.54
gross	p.54
vague	p.55
revenge	p.57

Comprehension

- What does Zach recall when he smells his mother's perfume?
- What does Zach discover when eavesdropping on the Goose?
- What is Zach's strongest motive for getting better?

Conversation

In this chapter, the reader hears only one side of a phone conversation. Why does the author do this, do you think?

Chapter 14

Pages 58–63

Vocabulary

offended	p.58
nigh	p.60
evidence	p.60
sidelong	p.62

Comprehension

- What is Zach desperately trying to remember?
- What does the author mean by 'like fishing in a black hole'?
- What is the DSB?

Conversation

What would you miss the most if you could no longer do it?

Chapter 15

Pages 64–70

Vocabulary

traipsing	p.64
infantile	p.66
obliged	p.66
dishonest	p.68
novelty	p.69
whimpered	p.69

Comprehension

- Astra's love of supermarkets isn't shared by Zach. Why?
- Why is Astra so amazed by all the products at the supermarket?
- What does Zach 'eat' in the Kookaburra Café?
- Why is it against the rules for Astra to touch living things?
- What is the name of the pet shop?

Conversation

If you were invisible and your actions could not be attributed to you, would you still follow the rules and behave correctly (like Astra in the supermarket), or would you cause havoc, knowing there was no way you could be blamed?



Worksheet 2 TR page 19

Astra hasn't heard of pasta! How would you describe everyday meals that we take for granted today, to someone who lived long ago?

Chapter 16

Pages 71–77

Vocabulary

generated	p.71
diplomatic	p.71
confronted	p.72
baloney	p.72
indignant	p.75
demoted	p.76

Comprehension

- How many visitors does Zach receive in Chapter 16?
- Why does Zach apologise about his spitting competition comment?
- How does Milly feel about Astra. Why?
- What does Milly mean when she says 'beggars can't be choosers'?

Conversation

Why might Astra have been demoted several times? What could be the consequences for her, if she continues to displease her superiors?

Who is Zach's channeller, do you think?

Chapter 17

Pages 78–84

Vocabulary

ghoulish	p.80
psychic	p.80
prune	p.83
mollified	p.83

Comprehension

- How else could you describe someone who sounds like they have 'swallowed a dictionary'?
- What is revealed about Sophie Ferguson?
- What comforts Zach?

Conversation

A diplomat is someone who preserves relations between countries. Diplomats use careful, unoffensive language. After reading Chapter 17, do you think Zach would make a good diplomat?

Chapter 18

Pages 85–89

Vocabulary

landmark	p.86
armed	p.87
pride	p.89

Comprehension

- Why doesn't Zach want to enter his own house?
- What do Eliot and the Goose talk about during their meeting?
- Why is Zach's hospital room filled with steam?

Conversation

'If Zach had expected the driver of the truck to look evil, he was mistaken.' Describe someone who is evil-looking. Is evil so easy to identify?

Chapter 19

Pages 90–94

Vocabulary

obscured	p.90
bizarre	p.91
impenetrable	p.92
protruding	p.92
remnants	p.92

Comprehension

- Where is the Departed Souls Ball held?
- What might explain the fact that the people at the ball are dressed strangely (to Zach), and yet the ball is not a fancy dress event?

Conversation

Which sentence in this chapter describes what you see in the illustration on page 93? Did the illustrator match the text well?

Chapter 20

Pages 95–99

Vocabulary

portly	p.95
nominee	p.95
ignite	p.97
grooved	p.97
woozy	p.97

Comprehension

- Why is William Wisernow given a waterproof alarm clock?
- Where have Zach and Richard Ticker met before?
- In their rap, what are Milly and Billy telling Zach to do?

Conversation

In your own words, describe the atmosphere of the Departed Souls Ball. Do you think it would be a fun event to attend?

Chapter 21

Pages 100–107

Vocabulary

touch and go	p.100
defensive	p.102
patronising	p.104
quavered	p.104
bewildered	p.106

Comprehension

- What is a 'sixth sense' and what does it tell Zach?
- What happens when Sophie tells Zach's father 'the real truth'?
- How does Sophie finally convince Mr Brinkley?

Conversation

If you told an adult something you knew to be true, but that adult didn't believe you, how would you feel?

Chapter 22

Pages 108–110

Vocabulary

agitated	p.108
scurvy	p.108
frustrating	p.109
provoked	p.110

Comprehension

- What does Zach's father find in the State Library?
- How does Zach's father test the truth of what Sophie has told him?
- Why does Zach worry about this test?

Conversation

Have you ever done anything you didn't want your parents to know about? How did it feel when you finally told them?

Chapter 23

Pages 111-117

Vocabulary

materialised	p.111
mangy	p.111
ballistic	p.112
elegant	p.113
reincarnation	p.115
inhaling	p.116

Comprehension

- Why does Zach's father plan to do 'a spot of snorkelling'?
- How would you describe Astra's life when she was alive?
- Who was Scratch?
- Is there any chance of Astra becoming alive again?
- About what does Astra say she'll make 'a few enquiries'?

Conversation

Is Zach becoming more diplomatic? What evidence in Chapter 23 suggests this?

Look up 'phoenix'. How does the definition relate to the lottery run by the Phoenix Centre?

Chapter 24

Pages 118-123

Vocabulary

bamboozled	p.119
hypnotise	p.119
spill the beans	p.119
peevishly	p.121
flustered	p.122

Comprehension

- What is Astra doing to the Goose at the beginning of this chapter?
- Why is the Goose nervous?
- Why does Milly move Zach's hand?
- What does it mean for someone to 'show their hand'?
- Why don't Zach and his father agree with what Milly has done?

Conversation

Do you predict that the Goose will 'show his hand,' as Milly thinks? How might he do this?



Worksheet 3 TR page 20

In Chapter 24, all of Zach's regular visitors – alive and dead – are together in his hospital room. Draw the scene as you imagine it.

Chapter 25

Pages 124–131

Vocabulary

rabbiting on	p.124
rhythmic	p.126
blurted	p.127
spite	p.129
stagnant	p.129

Comprehension

- Why is Zach panicking?
- When and how did the Plumber die?
- What does Zach remember, with the Plumber's help?

Conversation

Do you read the parts spoken by the Plumber in an accent? How does the way the author has written these parts help you 'hear' the Plumber's voice?

Chapter 26

Pages 132–138

Vocabulary

fateful	p.132
food chain	p.134
crude	p.134
recounting	p.136
malnutrition	p.136

Comprehension

- What does Milly mean when she says Zach doesn't 'know his limitations'?
- What is Milly's explanation for the Goose wanting to kill Zach?
- What does Zach conclude about 21st century life after listening to Astra's stories?

Conversation

How do you feel when you read about Astra's life in the 17th century? Do the stories change your opinion of Astra?

Chapter 27

Pages 139–145

Vocabulary

chorsed	p.140
envious	p.141
wheedled	p.143
putrid	p.144
jubilant	p.144

Comprehension

- What are the signs that Billy is very competitive?
- How does Zach feel about his mother and the Goose fighting?
- Why does Zach desperately want his mother to ring his father?

Conversation

What words would you use to describe Goose at this point in the story?

Is there any way he can redeem himself?

Chapter 28

Pages 146-151

Vocabulary

hysterical	p.147
dilapidated	p.147
diversion	p.148
euphoria	p.148
cavernous	p.149

Comprehension

- Why is Zach so happy that he joined the spying mission?
- What happened to the truck that hit Zach?
- Why is it important for Eliot and the Goose to use a truck?

Conversation

Trace back through the story and describe how the relationship between Zach and Astra has changed. Have you ever grown to like someone you disliked at first?

Chapter 29

Pages 152-157

Vocabulary

aligning	p.154
objective	p.155
dumbstruck	p.156
sleuthing	p.157

Comprehension

- How do the others feel about Sophie's report?
- What is Sophie's explanation of why she's the only visitor from Zach's class?
- What 'one more thing' does Sophie want to tell Zach's father?

Conversation

Do you think Zach's parents will get back together? Why or why not?

Chapter 30

Pages 158-162

Vocabulary

distraught	p.159
intention	p.159
forensic	p.162

Comprehension

- Why did Zach's father put the Goose's medallion where Zach's mother would find it?
- What does Sophie mean when she says that 'Zach has friends in high places'?

Conversation

Zach's mother was deeply betrayed by the Goose. How do you think she must be feeling?

Chapter 31

Pages 163–166

Vocabulary

disguise	p.164
clout	p.165
poetic licence	p.166

Comprehension

- Why can't Zach provide the police with proof about the Goose?
- About what does Milly remind Astra?
- Why, according to Astra, is not being able to touch people a 'stupid rule'?

Conversation

Can you think of an example where doing what seems right might actually break a rule?

Chapter 32

Pages 167–171

Vocabulary

prevent	p.168
luminous	p.170
jitters	p.170

Comprehension

- Why are the Goose and Eliot dressed in white coats?
- What 'promise' does Astra make to Zach? How does this promise make him feel?

Conversation

Astra has a theory about why Billy sneers and laughs at Zach. Do you think she is right?

Chapter 33

Pages 172–175

Vocabulary

assailant	p.173
reeling	p.173
embedded	p.173
jubilant	p.144

Comprehension

- How many times does the syringe penetrate the Goose?
- How are the Goose's jacket and hair set alight?

Conversation

How do you feel about what Astra has done?

Chapter 34

Pages 176-180

Vocabulary

jubilant p.176
indifferent p.178

Comprehension

- Why are the grunTERS coming for Astra?
- Why do the nurses leave Zach's room exactly as it is after the Goose's foiled attempt?
- How do the nurses explain the burns to the Goose's skin and hair?

Conversation

Do you think the grunTERS should let Astra go, given the special circumstances of her rule-breaking?

Do parents or teachers ever lessen a punishment in special circumstances?

Chapter 35

Pages 181-185

Vocabulary

agony p.181
sedative p.182
lethal p.182
flammable p.183
consistent p.185

Comprehension

- What first words from Zach do his parents hear?
- Do the police believe Zach when he tells them what happened to the Goose?
- Why does SD Fisher tell Dr Plumber: 'It's the Mad Hatter's tea party in there'?
- Did the forensics team uncover any evidence?

Conversation

How do you predict Zach will feel, having emerged from his coma? Will he be overjoyed, or will his emotions be more complicated?



Worksheet 4 TR page 21

Complete a crime scene report using the information that the police know by the end of Chapter 35.

Chapter 36

Pages 186–189

Vocabulary

sullen	p.186
grieving	p.186
withdrawal	p.186
eradicate	p.187
persevere	p.189

Comprehension

- Why does Zach want to stay asleep?
- Why does Zach's father want him to have a dog?
- What does Sophie say to Zach's father when he asks her to continue visiting Zach?

Conversation

Was your prediction about Zach's emotional state correct?

Chapter 37

Pages 190–193

Vocabulary

avenging	p.190
revelations	p.191
insisted	p.192

Comprehension

- Before she became Zach's channeller, would Sophie have believed his stories about Astra?
- What does Sophie tell Zach he shouldn't do?

Conversation

How does talking about something or someone that you really miss make you feel?

Chapter 38

Pages 194–197

Vocabulary

antidote	p.195
therapy	p.195
congealed	p.196
nagging	p.196
nuzzled	p.197

Comprehension

- What does Zach mean by 'back on the right side of halfway'?
- What does the author mean when she says a 'grey mist had descended'?

Conversation

What is 'puppy therapy'? How do you think animals help sick or sad people recover?

Chapter 39

Pages 198–203

Vocabulary

tantrum	p.199
exasperated	p.201
immortal	p.202
ridiculing	p.203

Comprehension

- What is the name of Zach's puppy?
- What makes Zach believe Astra is 'around'?
- What 'serious thoughts' does Zach have when he loams onto the hospital roof?

Conversation

Is Zach a good patient? What do you think happened to his diplomacy?

Chapter 40

Pages 204–207

Vocabulary

notoriety	p.204
furore	p.205
alleged	p.206
dignified	p.206

Comprehension

- How does the tide turn against Zach once the media gets hold of the story?
- What does Sophie reveal about herself at the end of Chapter 40?

Conversation

On his first day back at school it seems that Zach is still clinging to an old habit. What is it?

Chapter 41

Pages 208–210

Vocabulary

bedraggled	p.209
lurched	p.209

Comprehension

- Why can Zach only loam at night?
- Why does Zach go to the Kookaburra Café?
- How was Astra punished?
- Why does Zach's 'sore spot' vanish?

Conversation

Are you satisfied by the ending? Does it make you want to read more about the adventures of Zach and his friends?

After you finish

Did Zach change throughout this book? For better or for worse?

Debate the topic: 'Anything that needs doing is best done alone,' using evidence from the book.

Design a poster that lists the important traits to have in order to be a good friend.

Imagine a problem that Zach, Sophie, Astra, Milly and Billy might help solve. Write a short story that explains the problem and how the group solved it.



Worksheet 5

TR page 22

Write a book review of *Angel of Fire*.

Name: _____

Describing Modern Meals

Astra hasn't heard of pasta! How would you describe everyday meals that we take for granted today to someone who lived long ago?

Pasta:

Weetbix:

Pizza:

Lamingtons:

Name: _____

Picture This

In Chapter 24, all of Zach's regular visitors – alive and dead – are together in his hospital room. Draw the scene as you imagine it.



Reporting Officer: _____

Crime Scene Report

Complete a crime scene report using the information that the police know by the end of Chapter 35.

Crime scene location:

Description of alleged incident:

Description of crime scene, as found by officers:

Actions taken by officers and evidence found:

Name: _____

Book Review

Write a book review of *Angel of Fire*.

Story type: *Was this story a mystery, an adventure, fantasy fiction, realistic fiction, non-fiction...?*

Plot outline: *What happens in the beginning, middle and end of this book?*

Characters: *Describe the appearance and personality of two of the main characters.*

Opinion: *What was your favourite part and why? Did the story have a moral? What was it?*

My rating: 