

Lesson 2 - The Giant's Necklace

LC: Can I read a text and make inferences?

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/to-read-a-text-and-make-inferences-part-1-6mr3gr?activity=video&step=1>

Follow the link to watch the online lesson. Then answer the questions on the sheet digitally or in your pink books.

Question	Answer
Who is the author of 'The Giant's Necklace'?	
Who is the protagonist?	
Where is the book set?	

Read the text

The necklace stretched from one end of the kitchen table to the other, around the sugar bowl at the far end and back again, stopping only a few inches short of the toaster. The discovery on the beach of a length of abandoned fishing line draped with seaweed had first suggested the idea to Cherry; and every day of the holiday since then had been spent in one single-minded pursuit, the creation of a necklace of glistening pink cowrie shells. She had sworn to herself and to everyone else that the necklace would not be complete until it reached the toaster; and when Cherry vowed she would do something, she invariably did it.

Cherry was the youngest in a family of older brothers, four of them, who had teased her relentlessly since the day she was born, eleven years before. She referred to them as 'the four mistakes', for it was a family joke that each son had been an attempt to produce a daughter. To their huge delight Cherry reacted passionately to any slight or insult whether intended or not. Their particular targets were her size, which was **diminutive** compared with theirs, and her dark flashing eyes that could wither with one **scornful** look, her 'zapping' look, they called it. Although the teasing was **interminable** it was rarely hurtful, nor was it intended to be, for her brothers adored her; and she knew it.

Vocabulary check - Write a definition for the following words.

	Definition
diminutive	
scornful	
interminable	

How old is Cherry?

Find and copy a word which shows the brothers were always mocking Cherry.

Why is Cherry's reaction to her brothers' teasing a 'huge delight' to them?

'Cherry and her brothers do not have an amicable relationship.' Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer. (Use the speaking frame on the video to help.)

Cherry was poring over her necklace, still in her dressing gown. Breakfast had just been cleared away and she was alone with her mother. She fingered the shells lightly, turning them gently until the entire necklace lay flat with the rounded pink of the shells all uppermost. Then she bent down and breathed on each of them in turn, polishing them carefully with a napkin.

'There's still the sea in them,' she said to no one in particular. 'You can still smell it, and I washed them and washed them, you know.'

'You've only got today, Cherry,' said her mother coming over to the table and putting an arm round her. 'Just today, that's all. We're off back home tomorrow morning first thing. Why don't you call it a day, dear? You've been at it every day - you *must* be tired of it by now. There's no need to go on, you know. We all think it's a fine necklace and quite long enough. It's long enough surely?'

Cherry shook her head slowly. 'No,' she said. 'Only that little bit left to do and then it'll be finished.'

'But they'll take hours to collect, dear,' her mother said weakly, recognising and at the same time respecting her daughter's persistence.

'Only a few hours,' said Cherry, bending over, her brows furrowing critically as she inspected a flaw in one of her shells, 'that's all it'll take. D'you know, there are five thousand, three hundred and twenty-five shells in my necklace already? I counted them, so I know.'

'Isn't that enough, Cherry?' her mother said desperately.

'No,' said Cherry. 'I said I'd reach the toaster, and I'm going to reach the toaster.' Her mother turned away to continue the drying-up.

'Well, I can't spend all day on the beach today, Cherry,' she said. 'If you haven't finished by the time we come away, I'll have to leave you there. We've got to pack up and tidy the house - there'll be no time in the morning.'

'I'll be all right,' said Cherry, cocking her head on one side to view the necklace from a different angle. 'There's never been a necklace like this before, not in all the world. I'm sure there hasn't.' And then, 'You can leave me there, Mum, and I'll walk back. It's only a mile or so along the cliff path and half a mile back across the fields. I've done it before on my own. It's not far.'

Why does the author use the word weakly?

Can you find another adverb in the text that tells us how Cherry's mother is feeling?

Briefly summarise this extract. What is happening?

Which adjectives are appropriate when describing Cherry?

Adjective	Y/N	Explain
Mysterious		
Independent		
Obsessive		
Headstrong		
Selfless		
Funny		

Why do you think Cherry is so keen to finish making her necklace?