

**Task 1 : To predict what a story is about using a book cover and blurb.**

Using just the book title 'Cool as a Cucumber' predict what the story might be about. Give reasons for your predictions.

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Now look at the front cover of the story and the blurb. What do you notice? Has this changed any of your thoughts? Try to add detail to your prediction by thinking about why Peter isn't keen and what the giant cucumber could be.

**Blurb:**

At first Peter isn't keen on his teacher's plan to dig a vegetable garden to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Then he starts to dig up some interesting things - a huge worm, a big beetle, bits of china, an old coin and what looks like a giant cucumber but turns out to be a lot more exciting!

**Second Prediction:**

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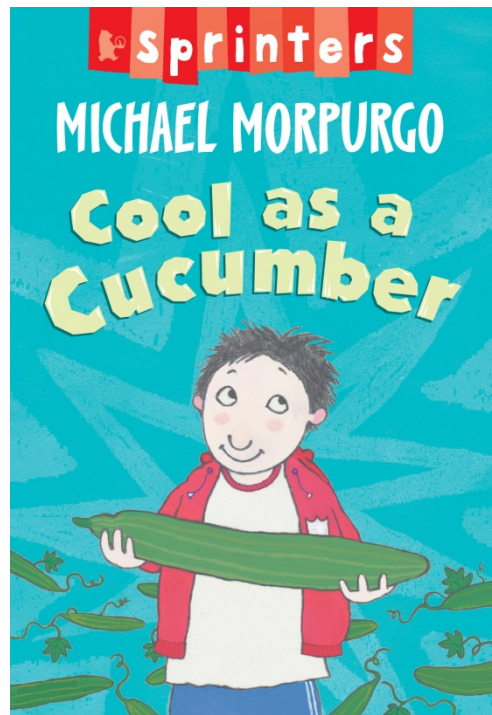
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Task 2 : To develop my reading comprehension skills.

Listen / read the first chapter of Cool as a cucumber. You can make notes of words you need help understanding below.

Words to clarify:

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**Chapter One**

Who is the main character in the text?

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Where does the story take place?

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What group of people are in the text so far? *Tick one*

Football players

School Children

Doctors

Monsters

What is the main character's teacher called?

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Who is telling the story? How do you know?

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Where does Mrs Mapleton always have great ideas?

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Why does Mrs Mapleton ignore Mandy Sharp when she asks a question?

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Task 2 : To develop my reading comprehension skills.

How did the children feel about making a garden? Did their feelings change? Why?

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List 4 things that Peter found when he was digging.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Predict what you think will happen next:

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### Task 3 : To write a letter using Year 2 skills.

Today we are going to pretend we are part of Peter's class and writing a letter to the Queen to tell her what we are doing!

Your Majesty The Queen  
Buckingham Palace  
London  
SW1A 1AA

Peter's Class  
Fens Primary School  
Hartlepool  
TS25 2LY

Dear Your Majesty,

I am very excited to write to you today as I've never written to royalty before!

I'm writing to tell you about my teacher's extraordinary idea that she had in the bath last night. My teacher is called Mrs Mapleton and she wants to celebrate your Jubilee by making a vegetable patch in our school garden!

So far, we have decided to grow potatoes, carrots, onions and parsley. Is there anything else you would like us to plant for you? I hope we will be able to send you some of our delicious vegetables, when they have grown.

We have already started digging the area for your Jubilee Garden. How tiring that was! We didn't mind though as it was very exciting to dig up old, lost objects! A boy in my class found an old shoe and I found some pieces of blue and white china... I wonder where they came from!

I hope that you are happy with our idea. I will write again soon,

Yours sincerely,  
Ruby

Have a look at the example letter. What features make this a letter rather than a different type of writing? Look carefully at the punctuation, use of conjunctions and adventurous vocabulary.

Now you are going to be write your own letter to the queen to tell her Mrs Mapleton's plan!

Use the example letter and the plan below to make sure you include all the key points.

- Dear ,
- why you are writing to her
- Mrs Mapleton's idea
- Ask what she would like us to plant/grow
- What you found so far
- closing comment
- yours sincerely



