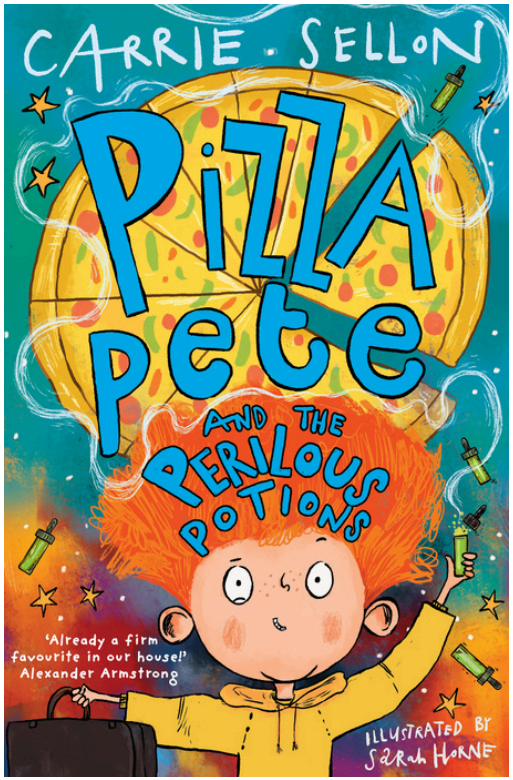
Teaching Resource

Key Stage 2



Pizza Pete and the Perilous Potions by Carrie Sellon

- Discussion questions
- Writing activities
- Cross curricular opportunities

Themes explored:

Home Courage Family Anxiety

Friendship Imagination Bullying Identity

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	Discussion questions	Writing activities	Cross curricular opportunities
Chapters 1-3	• Look at the first page (before chapter 1). Name two things that Pete thinks he is good at. • What ingredients are needed to make dough balls? (p.5/6) • Why had *The Little Pizza Place* been struggling to sell pizzas recently? • '*They're going to evict us.'* What does *evict* mean? • Why did Pete decide not to leave his home again? • *'You've got four days to come up with an ingenious idea...*' What does *ingenious* mean? • Look at the definition of the word *maverick* on p.27. Do you know anybody who you would describe as maverick? • What does it mean to use yourself '*as a guinea pig'*? (p.28) • Why does Pete think that Mrs Winterbottom looks a bit like a pizza?	Pete explains that his favourite word is *home*. Other students in his class choose *football, fart* and *onomatopoeia.* Conduct a survey in your class to find out your classmates' favourite words. Then write a paragraph about your favourite word. Explain why you like it.	**Design**: Pete suggests some ideas for unusual pizza toppings but Anna describes his combinations, like marshmallows and anchovies, as *disgusting* (p.15). Design your own disgusting pizza. Draw and label the toppings using adjectives to describe each ingredient.

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Chapters 4-6	• What had happened to the spider web in the attic? • '*The smell of baked dough and melted cheese enveloped me like a warm hug.'* What technique has the writer used here? Which smell feels like a warm hug to you? • Why does Pete put his Luke Skywalker and Han Solo figures in his pocket? (p.43) • '*It felt like a family of snakes writhing around in my stomach'* (p.43). What does this description suggest about how Pete is feeling? • What does Archie's dad do as a job? (p.46) • After Useless consumes the G*low* potion, what does she do? (p.60) • Why does Anna warn Pete not to drink the *Wish* potion? • What would you wish for if you were to drink the *Wish* potion?	Look through chapter five and hunt for similes (descriptions that use 'like' or 'as' to make a comparison). See if you can find and complete these similes. *-It was as squishy as a ...* *-Her face was as white as ...* *-Her lips swelling up like ...* *-Monsieur Audibert's nose was as large as a ...* *-Her big ears bouncing around like ...* Then write some of your own similes. You could use these sentence starters: *-It tasted salty like ...* *-She looked as angry as ...* *-His laugh sounded like ...* *-The plate was as empty as ...* *-The liquid ...*	**Science:** Animals of various sizes are mentioned In these chapters - a spider, a dog, a rabbit, a mouse and an elephant (*Dumbo*). Pick six animals of different sizes. Draw them in order from smallest to largest. Label their key features. (Eg. *tiny jaws*). Discuss with a partner what you think each animal could turn into it, if it swallowed the *Grow* or *Shrink* potions.

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Chapters 7-9	• Do you think it is a good thing that the *Wish* potion has been smashed and cannot be used again? • What is Dad's favourite television programme? (p.74) • What does *Agility* mean? Why is Pete tempted to take that potion? • What would you do if you were to test the *Turbo* potion? Read a dictionary? Run to another city and back? Or something else? • What does *clatterfart* mean? (p.85) • Explain why you think Anna calls Pete, *Captain Sensible*? • How does Pete work out who the real Anna is amongst the clones? • How does Pete make more of the *Strength* potion? • Which of the potions would you most like to try?	Pete decides to speed read a dictionary after trying the *Turbo* potion. Look through a dictionary and try and find a word you have not come across before for each letter of the alphabet. Write down the new words you have found and their meanings.	**Computing:** Design a spreadsheet that Pete and Anna could use to record the results of their experiments. List the names of the potions they are testing (invent some additional potions if you wish), how many drops you think will be required and then predict the results of the potions. Add extra columns to record anything else that you think may be useful. Then compare your spreadsheet with Pete's spreadsheet. (See the start of Chapter 10.)

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Chapters 10-12	• What did Anna turn into after taking the *Shapeshifter* potion? • What is the name of the acrobatic move, performed by Granny, that was banned from the Olympics for being too dangerous? (p.117) • Dad and Granny are both delighted by the results when they consume the potions. How does the *Agility* potion make Granny feel? How does the *Shrink* potion make Dad feel? • What is Dad's *secret* for making the *best* hot chocolate? (p.126) • *'We would only serve one customer or family at a time, to avoid total mayhem.'* What does *mayhem* mean*?* • Look at the list of pizza names on p.128? Which is your favourite? Which names include alliteration? Which are 'puns'? (Jokes exploiting different meanings of a word.) • Who does Pete encounter when he takes a step outside the front door?	In chapter 12 Anna makes flyers to advertise The Magical Pizza Place. Write your own advertisement for the pizza shop using persuasive language. Try to use these techniques: • Direct address (we/you). • Alliteration. • Repetition of key words. • Exciting and appealing adjectives. • Rhetorical questions. • Emotive language (consider how you want the reader to feel.) (Persuasive texts often include exaggeration, but you may not need to exaggerate as the magical potions produce incredible results!)	**Design and Technology:** Use the recipe at the back of the book to make Margherita pizzas. Reduce or multiply the quantities of ingredients as required. Then add some additional ingredients of your choice. (For example, fresh seasonal vegetables). Give your pizza a name. Try to use some alliteration or word play.

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Chapters 13-15	• The *Animal* potion turns Anna into a fox. What does she say foxes stand for? (p.137) • The potion turns Pete into a butterfly. Anna says that this means he's about to go through big changes in his life. What do you think these changes might be? • Which is the first potion that Jeremy tries out? • Why does the teacher, Mr Shah, eat a slice of *The Need for Speed* pizza? (p.150) • How many pizzas do they sell on their first day of trading as *The Magical Pizza Place*? • What happens to Ben after he has consumed the *Grow* potion? (p.157) • What kind of snake does Anna turn into? (p.165) • Why are the potions not working correctly?	Imagine that a local newspaper has heard about *The Magical Pizza Place*. Write an article about the shop's first day selling magical pizzas. Try to include these features: • An attention grabbing headline using alliteration, a pun or rhyme. • An introduction explaining *what* has happened, *where, when,* to *who* and *why.* • Quotes from visitors to the shop describing their experiences. • A picture with a caption. • Interesting details about the day's events. • Speculation about the shop's future.	**PSHCE:** When Archie turns into a pig, Pete initially finds it funny, but afterwards he feels really bad for Archie. Pete remembers how embarrassed he felt when he had a panic attack. Discuss times that you felt embarrassed and share ideas for how to make Archie and Pete feel better about what has happened to them. Then talk further about anxiety and the different ways people experience and manage anxiety.

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Chapters 16-18	• *Anna was watching him warily.* (p.169) What does *warily* mean? • What happens to the bath? • *My bedroom was part of me, as much as my hair was part of me.* Why do you think Pete feels this way about this room? Do you feel this way about any rooms or places? • What is Dad holding while he is crying on his bed? Why is this item important to him? • *He'd become a prisoner in his own house. As trapped as I was.* What does Pete realise about Dad's life, before and after Pete was born? • What do you think gave Pete the confidence to finally leave his house? • Why does the caravan remind Pete of the TARDIS from Doctor Who? • What do Pete and Archie have in common? • What does Anna describe as being 'a *bit fishy* '? Do you have any predictions about Silva Tregoning?	Imagine that Pete, Anna and Archie set up a three way messaging chat to communicate with each other over the rest of the summer holidays. Write or type some of their messages. What will Pete tell his friends about his trip? What will Anna and Archie have to say? Will they mention their dogs - Useless and Jaws? How are they all feeling about returning to school?	**Geography:** Pete and his dad are going to travel around the UK, selling pizzas from their caravan. Dad suggests going to Scotland first. Look at a map of the UK and find Loch Ness in Scotland. Plot a route from there to Penzance in Cornwall (in the far South West of England). Choose six towns or cities that Pete and Dad could stop at on the way. Research each stop and decide on a pizza topping they could sell that would suit the location. (E.g haggis in Scotland, seafood by the coast, Wensleydale cheese in Wensleydale.)