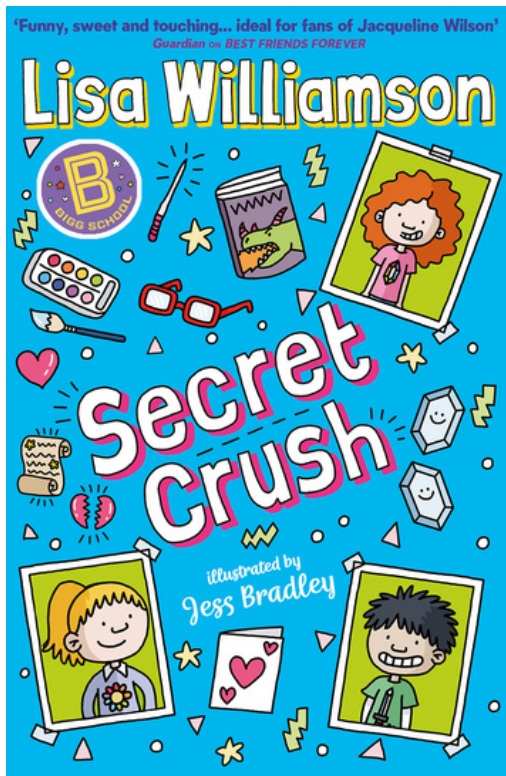


# Teaching Resource

Key Stage 2



## Bigg School: Secret Crush by Lisa Williamson

- Discussion questions
- Writing opportunities
- Creative activities

### Themes explored:

Identity	Self-esteem	Authenticity	Disappointment
Friendship	Rejection	Confidence	Attraction

[www.guppybooks.co.uk/guppy-school](http://www.guppybooks.co.uk/guppy-school)

<https://guppybooks.co.uk/scribblesociety>

	Discussion questions	Writing opportunities	Creative activities
<p><b>Chapters 1-4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think Mrs Lyons thought of Astrid’s book presentation? How can you tell?</li> <li>• What does <i>Cahearah</i> mean?</li> <li>• Jim has tattoos of his favourite book characters including Coraline, Gandolph and Mog. Do you know which stories they are from and who wrote the books? See if you can find them in your school or local library.</li> <li>• What does Astrid love about The Book Burrow?</li> <li>• Do you agree with Astrid that reading can be a <i>religion</i>?</li> <li>• What does the phrase ‘<i>chalk and cheese</i>’ mean?</li> <li>• Astrid is passionate about her story writing and reading <i>The Dragon Tamers</i> series. What gets you this excited?</li> <li>• What most appeals to Astrid about winning the writing competition?</li> <li>• How do the ruby red glasses make Astrid feel? What might they symbolise to her?</li> </ul>	<p>Astrid attempts to explain the <i>Dragon Tamers</i> series to her friends but she finds it difficult to summarise due to the number of different characters and plot lines.</p> <p>What do you think the series is about?</p> <p>Write a story synopsis (brief summary) of either the series or the latest book in the series, <i>Destiny of Dragons</i>.</p> <p>Alternatively, write a detailed description of what you imagine Astrid’s favourite character, Mona the dragon, to be like.</p>	<p>Design a new tattoo for Jim, the bookseller at The Book Burrow, based on one of your favourite book characters.</p> <p>If you find it hard to choose a character, you could base your design on Mona the dragon and what you imagine she looks like.</p>

	Discussion questions	Writing opportunities	Creative activities
<p><b>Chapters 5-8</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why does Astrid want to look serious in her photo?</li> <li>• What does <i>enigmatic</i> mean? Who would you describe as enigmatic?</li> <li>• What does <i>Takahashi Pet Supplies</i> smell like? Do you think Astrid likes these smells? How can you tell?</li> <li>• Do you think Cleo intended to compliment Astrid when she said that the red glasses suited her?</li> <li>• What is the name of the drawing app that Teddy uses?</li> <li>• What do Teddy and Astrid have in common?</li> <li>• Why did Mrs Lyons mark down Astrid's essay?</li> <li>• Describe Teddy's bedroom.</li> <li>• Have you ever read about, or watched on screen, a character experiencing exactly the same emotion that you have felt?</li> <li>• When did you realise that Astrid had a crush on Teddy? What clues are there throughout these chapters?</li> </ul>	<p>Write down some interesting facts about chinchillas from chapter 7.</p> <p>Then carry out some research to find out more about these cute animals.</p> <p>Create a fact page about them. Include a labelled diagram and some unusual and entertaining facts. Try to organise your page using sub headings.</p>	<p>Look through some library books and find stories that have maps at the front of the books. You are likely to find them in fantasy stories (like <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> and <i>His Dark Materials</i>) where the writer has created a new fictional world. Maps are an important element in 'world building', as they help the reader picture and understand the new world.</p> <p>Have a go at creating your own map of a fantasy world. It could be inspired by one of your favourite stories or games. Or it could be an imaginary world that you would like to visit (e.g., an island inhabited only by puppies or containing a football training academy.) Label all the key places.</p>

	Discussion questions	Writing opportunities	Creative activities
<p><b>Chapters 9-13</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘<i>I was still in turmoil at lunchtime,</i>’ what does <i>turmoil</i> mean?</li> <li>• What made Astrid’s <i>heart race and palms sweat</i> in the canteen?</li> <li>• What does <i>larking about</i> mean?</li> <li>• Astrid chooses to write a dating profile for The Mad Hatter from <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>. Which book characters do you think Lola and Teddy choose to write about?</li> <li>• Do you think Astrid should follow Mrs Suleman’s advice to write a new story for the competition?</li> <li>• What does Lola say she would rather do instead of reading the romance book that she picks up in The Book Burrow?</li> <li>• What does Hari offer to make for breakfast on Valentine’s Day?</li> <li>• ‘<i>Away with the fairies yet again.</i>’ What does Mrs Lyons mean by this?</li> <li>• What is Lola referring to when she says, ‘<i>The eagle has landed</i>’?</li> <li>• Who do you think sent the Valentine’s card to Alice B?</li> </ul>	<p>Valentine’s Day is named after St Valentine, the Patron Saint of Love who lived in Rome in the 3rd Century. His story is not full of romance — it’s actually quite gory!</p> <p>Do some research to find out about St Valentine and why and when the custom of sending cards on Valentine’s Day begun.</p> <p>Write an explanation about who St Valentine was and what he did on the 14th February that inspired the custom of sending cards to loved ones.</p>	<p>Have a go at making a pop-up card. Astrid makes a card for Teddy that includes a big glittery pink heart that pops out when you open it. Your card could include a pop-up balloon, animal, flower, star, football ... whatever you like! (It doesn't have to be a Valentine’s card!)</p>

	Discussion questions	Writing opportunities	Creative activities
<p><b>Chapters 14-18</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do you think Teddy lied to Astrid about being busy at half term?</li> <li>• What is Alice B's favourite film?</li> <li>• What happens at the sleepover that causes Astrid to understand the meaning of the phrase <i>'blood running cold'</i>?</li> <li>• Why does Astrid think that <i>'having a crush'</i> is a suitable term for liking someone?</li> <li>• What makes Astrid think that the 'spell' she cast on Cleo in Year 5 worked?</li> <li>• Why does Astrid make gluten-free cookies?</li> <li>• What makes Astrid feel <i>'radioactive with jealousy'</i>?</li> <li>• <i>'Cleo's entire face lit up like a Christmas tree.'</i> What does this reveal about how Cleo is feeling?</li> <li>• Why do you think Cleo agrees to help Astrid by giving her a makeover?</li> <li>• Why is Cleo's dog called Hovis?</li> <li>• Do you think Teddy will like Astrid more after she has had a makeover?</li> </ul>	<p><i>'As this rose moves out to sea, so true love will come to me.'</i></p> <p>This is the 'spell' that Astrid attempts to cast on Teddy. It is written as a rhyming couplet. (Two lines of poetry that are the same length and end in rhyming words.)</p> <p>Have a go at inventing some fun spells in rhyming couplets. Here are some suggested spells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A spell to change the colour of your hair.</li> <li>-A spell to make a dog turn into a dragon.</li> <li>-A spell to win a competition.</li> <li>-A spell to make you levitate (hover in the air).</li> <li>-A spell to bring a book or film character to life.</li> <li>-A spell to turn pasta into popcorn.</li> </ul>	<p>In chapter 14 Astrid describes Alice B's bedroom and in chapter 18 she describes Cleo's bedroom. Earlier in the story (chapter 7) she describes Teddy's bedroom.</p> <p>How do these rooms reflect the tastes and personalities of their inhabitants?</p> <p>What does your bedroom reveal about you?</p> <p>Draw a plan of your bedroom or your 'dream bedroom' and include elements that express your identity.</p>



	Discussion questions	Writing opportunities	Creative activities
<p><b>Chapters 19-22</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘<i>You can debut the entire look.</i>’ What does <i>debut</i> mean?</li> <li>• Astrid is not sure if she likes her new look but she decides it doesn’t matter, as she thinks only Teddy’s opinion matters. Do you think it is important to like the way you dress?</li> <li>• How has Astrid changed since the start of the story?</li> <li>• Why does Lola not like Astrid’s new look?</li> <li>• What is Alice B’s favourite chocolate?</li> <li>• ‘<i>The thought of reliving it was excruciating.</i>’ What is a synonym for <i>excruciating</i>?</li> <li>• Why did Hari start drinking protein shakes and lifting weights when he was at school?</li> <li>• What advice does Hari give to Astrid? Do you think it is good advice?</li> <li>• What do you think upset Astrid the most, Teddy not liking her the way she wants him to or not being picked as a finalist in the writing competition?</li> </ul>	<p>Write about the non-uniform day from the perspective of Cleo, Teddy or Lola. Explain how you feel about Astrid’s makeover and describe other things that are on your mind that day.</p>	<p>Imagine that Cleo decides to start a small business offering her makeover services. What might she call it? <i>Glamour Glow-ups with Cleo? Cleo’s Chic Changes? Miracle Makeovers?</i></p> <p>Create an advertisement for Cleo’s makeover services. This could be in the form of a poster, a leaflet, a webpage or a video.</p>

	Discussion questions	Writing opportunities	Creative activities
<p><b>Chapters 23-25</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does <i>idol</i> mean? Who are your idols?</li> <li>• What does Astrid discover that she has in common with Teddy?</li> <li>• Discuss the meaning of the term <i>rejection</i>. In what ways does Astrid feel rejected? How are rejection and self-doubt linked?</li> <li>• Why does Astrid lie to avoid going to Scribble Society for the second week in a row?</li> <li>• Do you think Astrid will enter any writing competitions in the future?</li> <li>• In what ways does Astrid feel that she can relate to T.S. McCloud?</li> <li>• Who are the people in Astrid’s life who ‘<i>back her</i>’?</li> <li>• Which book character has Jim recently had tattooed on his ankle?</li> <li>• Do you think Lola will ever have a crush on someone?</li> <li>• How does Astrid describe Samir’s eyes?</li> <li>• Do you think Astrid will change her appearance to try to impress Samir?</li> </ul>	<p>Have a go at the task Astrid is set for homework: Write a letter to someone you admire (dead or alive). It can be anyone you choose – a sportsperson, a politician, an actor, maybe even a member of your own family!</p> <p>Start by introducing yourself and explaining what it is that you admire about the person you are writing to. Make sure to ask them questions and share some information about yourself to ensure that your letter is memorable.</p>	<p>Consider how clothing, accessories, make-up, hairstyles and body art can help can serve as forms of self-expression and reveal aspects of a person's identity. For example, Jim’s tattoos, Teddy and Astrid’s <i>Dragon Tamer</i> sweatshirts and badges, Alice B’s sparkly tiara, Cleo’s make-up and Astrid’s decorated leggings all reveal things about the character’s tastes, styles, personalities and interests.</p> <p>Make a collage that expresses part of your identity. You could cut out images from magazines or posters, or you could collect different fabrics and colours that you like and arrange them to make an abstract design that appeals to you.</p>