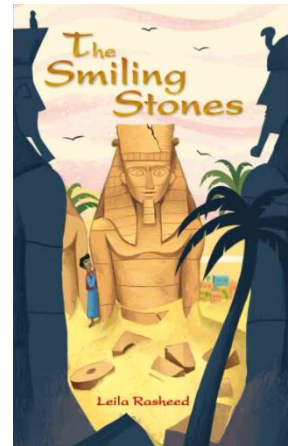


Week 2.

Suggested reading/writing activities for children in Y5 based around the book 'The Smiling Stones on Rising Stars Mars/Grey B

Nothing ever happens in the sleepy village of Bani Rashid, which is why Jamal is so excited when an explorer from Europe takes an interest in his home town. At first, Jamal tries to impress Mr Moneta – until it becomes clear that this visitor wants to do more than just admire the statues that Jamal sits beneath and tells his secrets to. Jamal realises that he needs to prevent Mr Moneta from taking the Smiling Stones away ... and from discovering an amazing lost chamber of riches hidden beneath Bani Rashid. But how can a penniless village boy defeat a man the size of a giant? A battle of wits has begun, but as the heat of the summer grows, there can only be one winner



Before Reading:

Introduce children to the book by looking at the front and back cover.

- Point to the book title. Ask: Can stones smile? (A sculpture/statue of a face can smile.) Discuss the title and the cover illustration. Note the alliteration: 'Smiling Stones'.
- Where and when is the story set? Look for clues in the cover illustration, the blurb and the foreword on page 4. (In Egypt; in history/over 200 years ago.)
- Have children read any other books about Egypt/ Egypt's history/the Egyptians? The illustration on the cover may remind them of a pharaoh or king from Egypt's past, e.g. they may have heard of Tutankhamun.
- Read together the cover blurb. Ask: What type of story is this? Have you read any other stories like this?

Following on from the reading this book, here are your writing activities for the week:

- Find out more about Giovanni Belzoni, whom the character of Moneta is based on. Where did many of Belzoni's discoveries end up being kept after they were taken from Egypt?
- Create a poster to advertise the wonders of Bani Rashid, with Jamal as your tour guide. Make sure it persuades visitors to come to see the Smiling Stones and the amazing chamber of riches hidden beneath this quiet village!
- Write a diary entry from the point of view of Tizemt. What happened to her on the day that she met Jamal?

Thank you for all your hard work. Please don't forget to send any completed work to our year group email: year5@oliprimaryschool.co.uk

Mrs Coulson and Miss Topping.

Smiling Stones similes

The words underlined in the sentences below are similes from the story. What does each of these similes mean? Tick the answer you think is best.

1 The River Nile looks like a line of silver or gold along the horizon.

The river was very precious. ☐

The river was straight and gleaming. ☐

The river was wide and deep. ☐

The river was raging. ☐

2 Moneta's deep voice was like the distant rumble of cannon fire.

His voice was shrill and scary. ☐

His voice was deep and rough. ☐

His voice was hoarse and croaky. ☐

His voice was loud and booming. ☐

3 Machines with levers jutting out like the legs of a giant beetle.

The machines each had six levers. ☐

The machines had lots of levers sticking out. ☐

The machines had long legs. ☐

The machines had wheels. ☐

4 My friend was like a ship's towering mast tangled in the rigging.

The ropes were from a ship. ☐

The ropes were very thick. ☐

The ropes were loose. ☐

The ropes were wrapped around him. ☐

5 The sun's rays were like burning hands.

The sun was high in the sky. ☐ The sun was behind the clouds. ☐

The sun burned the skin it touched. ☐ The sun was shining. ☐

True or false

Read the statements below. Decide whether each is 'True' or 'False'. Find evidence from the story to support your answer.

Statement	True?	False?	Evidence
The story is set in Africa.			
Jamal dreamed of travelling the world.			
Jamal wanted to find out more about the stones.			
Moneta wanted to share the gold leaf with the workers.			
The Pasha could buy machines in return for the stones.			
Moneta was defeated by the ifreet in the end.			