

The Bell Family



By

Noel Streatfeild

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

The Bell Family

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on 1 or 2 chapters and is comprised of five of the following different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/antonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *foreshadowing*.
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Listing homonyms
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identify *anagrams*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify *cliffhangers*
4. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a poem.
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Sheet
9. Write a short story

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Meet the big, happy Bell family who live in the vicarage at St. Mark's. Father is a reverend, Mother is as kind as kind can be. Then there are all the children – practical Paul, dancing Jane, mischievous Ginnie, and finally the baby of the family, Angus, whose ambition is to own a private zoo (he has already begun with his six boxes of caterpillars). And not forgetting Esau, a sure fire competitor for the most beautiful dog in Britain. (Courtesy of the publisher)

Other helpful information can be found on the following website:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noel_Streatfeild

Author Biography

Noel Streatfeild

Mary Noel Streatfeild (24 December 1895 – 11 September 1986), was an English author, best known for children's books including the "Shoes" series inaugurated by *Ballet Shoes* (1936).

She was born in Sussex, England, the second of five children of William Streatfeild, later the Bishop of Lewes. Her life is described in three semi-autobiographical novels: *A Vicarage Family*, *Away from the Vicarage* and *Beyond the Vicarage*. Noel was considered the "plain" sister in her family, but she shone in performances with her sisters for charity. Upon reaching adulthood she sought a career in theatre, and gained ten years of experience as an actress, working for the Charles Doran and Arthur Bouchier companies.

Her familiarity with the stage was the basis for many of her popular books for children, which are often about children struggling with careers in the arts.

Her first children's book was *Ballet Shoes*, published by J.M. Dent in 1936. She recalled, "The story poured off my pen, more or less telling itself ... I distrusted what came easily and so despised the book." It was a commended runner-up for the inaugural *Carnegie Medal* from the *Library of Congress*, recognizing the year's best British children's book, and it launched a successful career in writing for children. For her third book and third "Shoes" novel, *The Circus Is Coming (Circus Shoes)*, she won the 1938 Carnegie Medal.



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Name: _____

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

Briefly predict what you believe the plot-line of *The Bell Family* will be about.



Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

1. Continuous
2. Cathedral
3. Mahogany
4. Habitable
5. Distemper
6. Vicarage
7. Rambling
8. Ambition
9. Atrocious
10. Specialist

- A. The primary residence of a church leader.
- B. A hard reddish-brown timber.
- C. A viral disease found in some animals.
- D. A strong desire to achieve something.
- E. Something unpleasant or of poor quality.
- F. Forming a series with no interruption.
- G. To speak at length during a conversation.
- H. Suitable or good enough to live in.
- I. The primary church of a diocese.
- J. A person, normally a doctor, who is trained in a particular branch of medicine.

Questions



1. Briefly describe the setting of Chapter One.

2. Define the terms *Vicarage* and *Parson*.

Vicarage	
Parson	

b. What do you think it would be like to live in a *vicarage*? Do you think you would enjoy the experience? Why or why not?

3. Which careers did the following characters from our novel pursue?

Alex	
Alfred	

b. How did Alex's father react to hearing about his career choice?

4. Why did the Bell family name their puppy *Esau*?

Language Activities



A. Many authors seem to enjoy using **alliteration** - a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: "... **g**rouching, **g**rouching, **g**rumbling about something or other."



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** using three of the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

Ballet dancing.	
Children playing.	
One from your own imagination.	

B. What do you think?

The Bell Family are forced to live in poverty as a result of their father's career. What sort of adjustments do you think the family will have to make in order to accommodate this lifestyle? How might their lives differ from that of a more wealthy family?



C. Homonyms

Homonyms are words which sound the same but have different meanings. An example is **bait** and **bate**. These chapters feature words which are examples of homonyms. In the chart below, create sentences which show the meaning of each set of homonyms.

Example 1

Homonyms	Sentence
1. Here	
2. Hear	

Example 2

Homonyms	Sentence
1. Shoe	
2. Shoo	

D. KWS Chart

There is a countless variety of careers found across the world. Here's a list of several common career choices; doctor, nurse engineer, police officer, fire-fighter, accountant, teacher, writer, receptionist, carpenter, dancer, electrician, sales clerk, dentist, pilot, and even acting is considered to be a potential career choice! Your task is to choose a career and list any helpful details which would assist someone who is researching your chosen career.



Career

What I Know	What I Want To Learn	Possible Sources

Extension Activity

Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can describe one scene – or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of *The Bell Family*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6

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Chapters 2-3



Before you read the chapter:

Which of the following five adjectives best describes you? Give reasons for your answer.

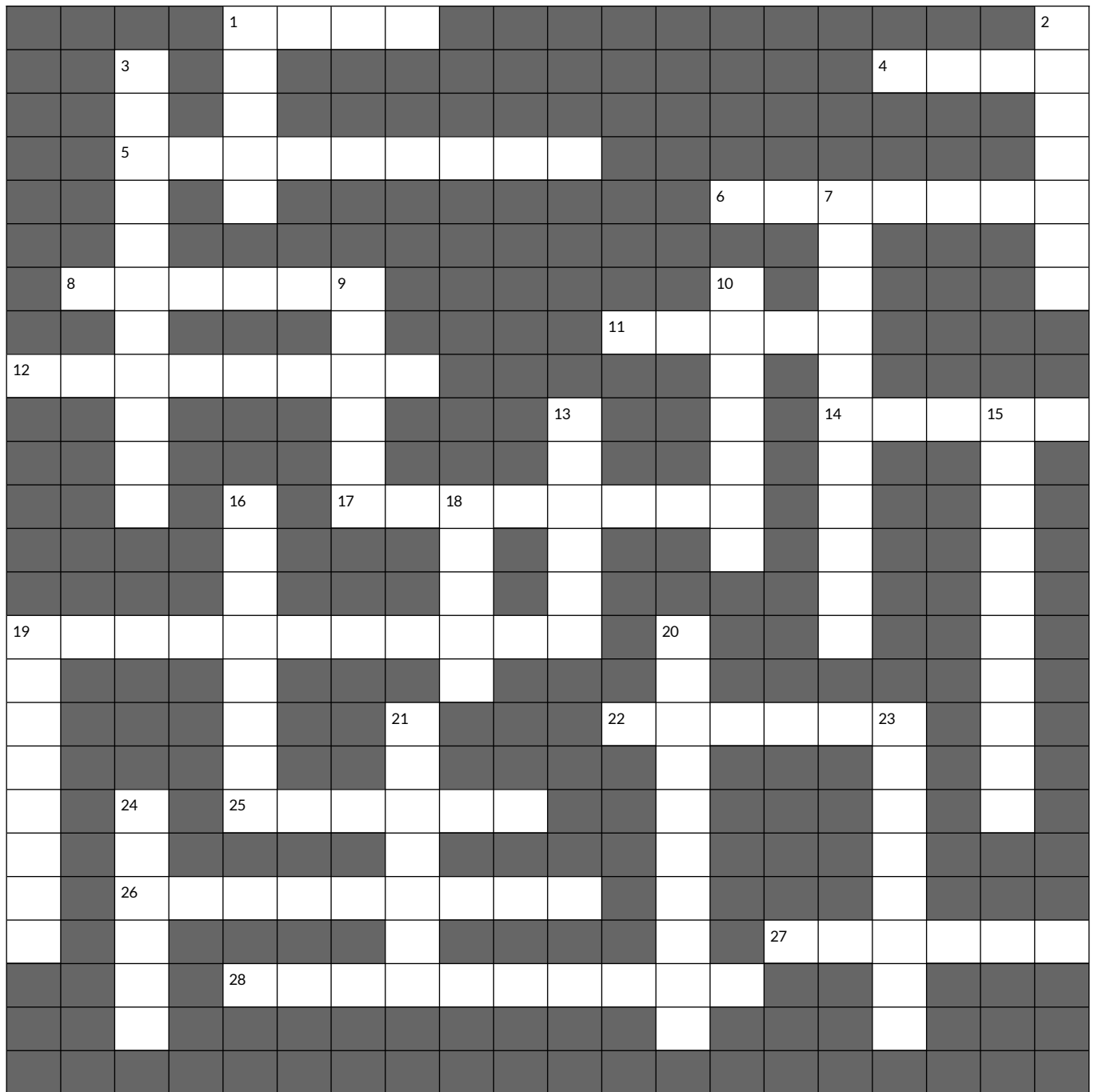
Funny	Serious	Brave	Creative	Passionate



Vocabulary:

Most of the words in this Crossword Puzzle are taken from the last four chapters. Use the words in the box to complete the puzzle.

ACROSS	DOWN
1. A hollow, cup-shaped percussion instrument.	1. The Christian scriptures, consisting of the Old Testament and New Testament.
4. A material made from sheep or goats.	2. A favourite gift on Valentines Day.
5. A district of Los Angeles, the principal center of the American film industry.	3. A grant made to a student's education.
6. A two-wheeled self-propelled vehicle.	7. The larva of a butterfly or moth.
8. An artistic dance form performed to music.	9. A river in southern England.
11. A small rodent.	10. An angry argument or disagreement.
12. An institution providing medical and surgical treatment for sick or injured people.	13. A piece of ground adjoining a house used for growing flowers, fruit, or vegetables.
14. A young member of the canine family.	15. An image made using a camera.
17. An unexpected or astonishing event.	16. A title to address members of the clergy.
19. The activity of striving to win something by defeating fellow challengers.	18. Shortwave, Walkie-talkie, Satellite ...
22. Having a natural aptitude or skill.	19. A hard glossy brown edible nut.
25. A person qualified to treat sick people.	20. A state, period, or place of isolation intended to prevent the spread of disease.
26. A printed daily publication.	21. A small house, typically in the country.
27. Please buy me some eggs at the _____.	23. A common form of communication that was used primarily in the 19 th and 20 th century.
28. A scientific procedure taken to test a hypothesis, or demonstrate a known fact.	24. The capital city of the United Kingdom.



* ONLY USE ANSWERS IF YOU ARE ANABLE TO PROCEED

BELL	RADIO	COTTAGE	HOLLYWOOD	WOOL	QUARREL
DOCTOR	GARDEN	SCHOLARSHIP	PHOTOGRAPH	BICYCLE	BALLET
LONDON	PUPPY	REVERAND	FLOWERS	TELEGRAM	COMPETITION
THAMES	BIBLE	TALENT	CHESTNUTS	QUARANTINE	NEWSPAPER
MARKET	HOSPITAL	SURPRISE	MOUSE	CATERPILLAR	EXPERIMENT

Questions



Part 1 - Chapter 2

1. Using resources from your school library or the Internet, define the term *elocution*.

2. In Chapter Two Jane said that certain caterpillars were actually poisonous! List the name of the caterpillar shown on the right, and what makes this particular species of caterpillar poisonous.



3. In your own words, define the meaning of the word *modesty*.

Part 2 - Chapter 3

1. What gift did the children want to give their mother, and why?

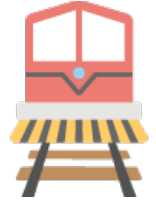
2. Why was Ginnie so worried about catching mumps?

3. What do you think it would be like to have so many siblings, like the Bell family?

Language Activities



A. PERSONIFICATION is giving human qualities to something that is not human. The following is an example of personification: "*The train appeared to scream down the tracks, seeming to charge eagerly towards it's next destination.*"



Why do you think personification is a popular literary device used by many authors?

Create your own example of personification.

B. Choose ten words from these chapters with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example:** some / time.





C. England – Fascinating Facts

Using resources from your school library or the Internet, do some research on the nation of **England** and complete the questions listed below.

Questions	Answers
Population	
Official Language(s)	
Currency	
Largest City	
Capital City	
Land Size (Kilometres or Miles)	
Head of State	
Form of Government (Democracy, etc)	

D. Positive Identification!

Using resources from your school library or the Internet, identify the names of following mushrooms, and indicate which mushrooms are poisonous and which are edible.

			
1)	2)	3)	4)

Fascinating Facts: Mumps

Mumps is a viral infection found in humans which causes swelling of the salivary glands, and often the development of a rash. There is currently no cure or treatment for mumps, but the symptoms are rarely severe or fatal. However, there have been reported cases where mumps has caused serious complications, including arthritis, painful swelling, and even hearing loss.



E. The Eight Parts of Speech

From Chapters 2-3 find at least two examples of each of the eight parts of speech and list them in the appropriate section of the chart below.



Interjections	
Nouns	
Pronouns	
Conjunctions	
Prepositions	
Adjectives	
Adverbs	
Verbs	

Extension Activity

A Book Cover

Create a book cover for *The Bell Family*. Be sure to include the title, author, and a picture that will make other students want to read the novel.



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Chapters 4-5



Before you read the chapter:

If you were awarded \$5000 for winning first prize in a photography contest, how would you choose to spend the money? Give reasons for your answer.



Vocabulary:

Write a **sentence** using the following words. Make sure that the meaning of the word is clear in your sentence.

Irresistible	
Admiration	
Punctual	
Contrary	

Indignant	
Substitute	
Unsuitable	
Agitated	
Variation	
Sufficient	

Questions



Cloze Call

Complete the following exercise filling in the correct words from the **Word Box**.

pompous	dancing	different	hushes	frowning
siding	miracle	stopped	strangled	cook
tears	dreaming	performed	ballet	naughty

'That'll be a waste of time, Veronica. Even if you learn to _____ you'll never make a good man happy, or a bad one either.' There were horrified _____ and 'Be quiet, Ginnie,' and 'Shut up' from Cathy, Alex and Paul, and a faint 'Don't, Ginnie,' from Jane, but nothing _____ Ginnie. 'I don't care. I'm going to say what I want to say. I'm glad Angus is going to learn _____, if he wants to, though goodness knows why he wants to, but I don't see why everybody's _____ against poor Jane...'

Only by the most terrific will-power was Jane holding back _____. There was to be no _____. When, for a moment, you had believed one to be about to happen, that was bad enough, but for years to have longed and worked for a miracle and then to see it _____ for another member of the family, that was too much. But Ginnie mustn't

be cross, it would do no good. She said in a _____ voice, which forced its way through the lump in her throat.

'Don't Ginnie. Please don't.'

'It's no good saying "Don't Ginnie," and it's no good _____, Mummy, or saying "Hush," Daddy. It was very kind of Uncle Alfred and Aunt Rose to take us to the _____, but that doesn't mean they can tell Veronica things are _____ for her than they are for Jane, just because they're rich and we're poor.'

Everybody, except Jane who dared not speak again, and Angus, who was _____ he was dancing in a ballet, tried to stop Ginnie. Uncle Alfred with a _____ 'Well really!' Grandmother with a shocked 'Be quiet, Ginnie, love.' Grandfather with a roared 'Shut your trap, Ginnie.' Alex with a sharp 'Ginnie!' Cathy with 'Ginnie, be quiet.' Paul with 'Oh, I say, do shut up.' Veronica with an excited 'Ooh, isn't Ginnie _____!'

Language Activities



A. A simile is a comparison using the words "like" or "as". Here's an example taken from Chapter Five; "*Alfred flapped around like an agitated hen.*"

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** using two topics from your own imagination:

Topic 1)

Topic 2)

B. Copy out any three sentences from Chapters Four and Five and underline the **nouns**, circle the **verbs** and highlight the **adjectives**.

C. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **READ** can also form the words **DEAR** and **DARE**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Word	Anagram	Clue
Claimed		Doctors and nurses are in this profession.
Drawer		You obtain this for a job well-done.
Part		To ensnare or capture.
Nameless		A man who sells products and services.
Reset		Oak, Birch, Cedar, Willow, Pine ...
Spiracle		Exact copies or models.
Bustle		Delicate, precise and often difficult to describe.

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Chapters 6-7



Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Write a list of three different antonyms* for each of the following words.

Word	Antonym 1	Antonym 2	Antonym 3
Foe			
Whisper			
Stand			
Scared			
Small			

* A word or phrase that means the opposite of another word.

Questions



Part 1 - Chapter 6

1. How was Ginnie punished for her behavior at the party?

2. Name three steps that you can take to ensure success with your career goals.

3. What affliction was Ginnie diagnosed with after visiting the doctor?

--

Part 2 - Chapter 7

1. Which animal do you enjoy seeing the most when you visit the zoo, and why?

2. Briefly describe what the dance instructors thought of Angus and Jane's auditions?

Angus:
Jane:

3. How did Miss Newton punish Ginnie for her behavior at school?

Language Activities

A. Find nine singular nouns in Chapters 6-7 and write the plural of each noun in the columns below. Careful – you may wish to consult a dictionary for some of these words.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
Child	Children

B. Find ten words in Chapters 6-7 that begin with the letter 'P' and have no less than six characters. Once you have completed your list, arrange them in alphabetical order on the right hand side.



Words	Alphabetical Order

C. Rewrite the following sentences putting in the **correct capitalization** and **punctuation** that you might find.

“as a matter of fact miss virginia bell is quite glad to go to bed she gets bored hearing people talk talk talk all the time”

“no we might hear from miss bronson this morning”

--

jane tried hard to think of something truthful to say

--

D. The word “**dance**” can be used as a **noun** or a **verb**, depending on the sentence. Use your imagination and write sentences to illustrate how this word can be used as both a noun and a verb.



DANCE

Noun	
Verb	

Extension Activity



A Comic Strip

This activity is especially for students with an artistic flair or who love comic books! It can be done for any event up to this point in the story. The first step is to decide on the length of your comic strip (6 to 9 frames is suggested); next consider what events you will include. (You may wish to highlight a brief incident) You may even want to provide an alternate ending to your scene! A quick sketch of the comic strip can first be accomplished in a **storyboard format** before a final, good copy is attempted. The strip should include a title, dialogue, and color. It should be neat and imaginative.

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Chapters 8-9



Before you read the chapters:

The **antagonist** in most novels features a character who is recognized as the “bad guy”. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **antagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word(s).

curious	beseeking	splendid	dignified
tolerable	horrified	reasonable	shouting
proper	wearing	angry	ludicrous

1	Aunt Ann, who was a <u>sensible</u> sort of person, full of good ideas.	
2	It always seemed, when thinking about it, as if London would be <u>endurable</u> when they got back ...	
3	I think you ought to be rather proud. After all, they generally ask someone very <u>distinguished</u> .	
4	Miss Newton fought the governors at every meeting, <u>imploring</u> them to do away with the school whites, but the governors refused.	
5	Thank you, ducks. Why won't I like it? Isn't it <u>laughable</u> ?	
6	Aunt Rose's old black dress was still good, but it was very old, and Aunt Rose was looking so <u>resplendent</u> .	
7	Seeing Jane dance has made me feel most <u>peculiar</u> .	
8	I thought it was going to be a <u>suitable</u> day for a party, but I couldn't know how suitable.	

Questions



Indicate whether the following statements are **True** or **False**.

1. The musical piece that Jane chose for her school play was called <i>Sheep May Safely Graze</i> , written by <i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i> .	True or False
2. The children of St. Winifred's School loved to wear their school whites.	True or False
3. Ginnie looked fantastic in her new school whites.	True or False
4. Jane's school play was about a farmer and his struggle for survival.	True or False
5. Paul decided to write a letter to his grandfather to ask him to give Jane a chance to train as a dancer at Sadler Wells Dance School.	True or False
6. Veronica is Virginia's cousin.	True or False
7. Uncle Alfred was known to give long, drawn out speeches.	True or False
8. Ginnie was delighted to hear the audience laugh when she curtsied.	True or False
9. Jane's school granted her a full scholarship to Sadler Wells School.	True or False
10. Describe both the positive and negative aspects of wearing a school uniform.	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	

Language Activities



A. Foreshadowing is a literary device used by authors to provide clues (hints) for the reader so that they are able to predict what might occur *later* in the story. How might the following quote from Chapter One be considered an example of foreshadowing: “*Jane, she said, in her opinion had outstanding talent, and should be properly trained. Miss Newton promised to pass on the message, but said she held out no hope. 'They're desperately poor, I'm afraid, and not being a government school we can't get special scholarships for our girls' ... Cathy, when she heard what Miss Bronson had said, looked miserable.*”



B. For each character listed below think of three adjectives that you believe would accurately describe him/her. Consider both appearance and personality for each of the following characters taken from our novel.

Character	Trait 1	Trait 2	Trait 3
Paul			
Ginnie			
Jane			
Angus			

C. Conflict

We have already read about a number of important conflicts in this novel. **Conflict** is an important element in a novel. There are generally three types of conflict: **person against person**; **person against self**; and **person against nature**. Find three examples of conflict in *The Bell Family*, and tell which type of conflict each is.



Type of Conflict:
Description:

Type of Conflict:
Description:

Type of Conflict:
Description:

Extension Activity

Lights, Camera, Action!

Suppose Hollywood decided to make *The Bell Family* into a full-length feature movie. Who would star in this exciting project? Now suppose you were asked to be the casting director for this movie. Who would you cast for the principal roles:

- Mother -
- Father -
- Paul -
- Ginnie -
- Jane -
- Angus -
- Mrs Gage -
- Veronica -
- Uncle Alfred -
- Grandfather -
- Grandmother -



You may wish to choose Hollywood actors for this task, or for some fun, limit your choices to people in your school (teachers and students). Beside each selection write a brief explanation for your choice.



Author Noel Streatfeild writing at her desk.

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Chapters 10-11



Before you read the chapters:

Describe one scene or event in the novel which you have enjoyed the most thus far.



Vocabulary:

Solve the following word search puzzle using the words from the **Word Box**. Remember – the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. They may be forward or even backward!

CATHY	PAUL	VIRGINIA	GAGE	DANCER
ANGUS	ESAU	JANE	BELL	LONDON
REVEREND	VERONICA	ALEX	VICARAGE	DOCTOR

B	X	E	L	A	R	D	A	S	A	G	T	B	G	F
S	D	G	T	E	W	D	V	J	H	E	N	A	J	N
I	L	O	P	E	J	I	T	R	D	A	D	C	D	F
M	P	I	O	G	C	D	N	E	R	E	V	E	R	H
N	G	D	W	A	C	I	N	O	R	E	V	R	S	E
T	G	C	R	G	B	F	S	A	X	I	G	E	N	M
I	O	A	Q	W	A	N	W	E	R	O	T	C	O	D
Y	G	T	U	H	G	O	F	G	C	D	S	N	A	Q
E	E	H	R	G	Y	D	I	J	M	O	U	A	G	D
S	G	Y	H	L	D	N	E	T	R	C	X	D	J	K
A	M	N	L	U	I	O	A	Q	W	E	F	R	G	T
U	H	E	J	A	Y	L	V	S	U	G	N	A	U	I
Y	B	P	L	P	W	A	S	Z	X	D	E	W	Q	R

Questions



Part 1 - Chapter 10

1. How did Alex suggest spending Esau's prize money?

2. What caused Esau to become sick?

3. How would the phrase “she bit off more than she can chew” relate to Ginnie and the circumstances surrounding Chapter Ten?

Part 2 - Chapter 11

1. List the tasks that each of the following characters were given at the concert.

Mrs Gage	
Alex	
Jane	
Angus	

2. What steps do you think Ginnie should have taken prior to holding the concert?

3. Who was it that gave a speech at the end of the concert? What did he/she say?

Language Activities



A. Chapter Ten contained an important literary device called a **cliffhanger**. A cliffhanger usually occurs at the end of a chapter when the author leaves the reader in suspense. How is this true in Chapter Ten? Why do you think the author ended the chapter this way?



B. Reassemble the word parts listed below into ten compound words found in our novel.

scholar	break	clergy	every	photo
life	top	under	ship	ward
after	body	noon	stood	fast
robe	boat	graph	most	man

1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

D. Observation Chart

The Bell Family is a novel filled with strange sights and sounds. Look back over the novel and get as many examples of the five senses, listing them in the chart below with a description about where each was found. You may wish to choose your examples from one particular scene, or include a number of different scenes.



Sight	Sound	Touch	Taste	Smell

Extension Activity

Collage

Make a collage from magazine pictures illustrating a scene from the novel, or events and characters from the entire novel.



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Chapters 12-13



Before you read the chapters:

We have read a number of examples of Ginnie's stubborn behavior throughout our novel which end up getting her into trouble. Give an example of her stubborn behavior.



Vocabulary:

Write a **sentence** using the following words. Make sure that the meaning of the word is clear in your sentence.

Disagreeable	
Imposing	
Beckoned	
Tribulation	
Commanding	

Questions



Part 1 - Chapter 12

1. Why did Alex request that his children not speak of Uncle Jim's fire?

2. What was Angus's reaction when he heard that he was accepted into Sadler Wells?

3. Do you think Paul made the right decision to become a doctor and give up on the family business, despite losing an allowance promised to him from his grandfather?

Part 2 - Chapter 13

1. What do you think would be an appropriate punishment for Ginnie after she took the baby for a walk without first asking the mother permission?

2. What did Ginnie tell her grandfather when she was asked about her vacation plans?

- b. Do you think Ginnie's grandfather believes her about the vacation? Why or why not?

Language Activities



A. The Five W's Chart

Choose a major event from the novel, then complete the following chart with the important details.



What Happened?

Who Was There?

Why Did It Happen?

When Did It Happen?

Where Did It Happen?

D. Jeopardy

Imagine you are preparing *Jeopardy* categories for ***The Bell Family***. For the two categories below list five answers (a.k.a. questions) for each. The answers should get harder as the dollar value increases.



1. Characters in *The Bell Family*.

\$100	
\$200	
\$300	
\$400	
\$500	

2. Events in *The Bell Family*.

\$100	
\$200	
\$300	
\$400	
\$500	

The Bell Family

By Noel Streatfeild



Chapters 14-15



Before you read the chapters:

Briefly predict how you think the novel will end.



Vocabulary:

Eliminate the following letters from the puzzle to reveal the *secret message*: Z, Q, G, X

F	Z	O	Q	L	G	L	X	O	Z	W	Y	Q	O	G	U	Z	R	X	P
A	G	S	S	Q	I	O	Z	Z	N	G	B	E	Q	P	X	R	E	Z	P
Z	A	G	R	E	D	Q	T	O	Q	W	G	O	Z	R	Q	X	K	G	H
A	R	X	G	D	A	Q	N	D	Z	S	X	A	C	R	Z	I	F	Q	I
G	C	E	Z	A	X	N	D	Q	A	G	B	O	Z	V	Q	E	X	A	G
L	Z	L	Q	D	G	O	G	N	T	X	L	Q	E	Z	T	A	Q	N	Z
Y	G	Q	O	N	Z	E	X	Q	L	Q	I	M	Z	I	G	T	X	Y	G
O	U	X	Z	R	Q	D	R	G	E	A	X	Z	M	Q	S	D	O	N	O
Z	G	V	A	X	N	B	Q	A	Z	I	L	G	X	Q	E	X	Y	G	Z

Message:

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Questions



1. The climax of a story usually occurs at the most exciting or important point of the plot. Where do you think the climax of *The Bell Family* occurs?

2. Were you satisfied with the conclusion of the novel? Why or why not?

3. Suggest two appropriate alternative titles for the novel

4. Using your imagination, briefly describe an alternate ending to the novel.

5. Which character in *The Bell Family* was your favorite, and why?

C. Sequence Chart

List the main events of *The Bell Family* in the order which they occurred.

The Bell Family
First
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Last

D. Further Activities

With a partner or small group complete the following.

a) Recreate an event from the story.

With a small group choose an event from the novel to act out. Create a script including dialogue and stage directions. (If there's time, create a few stage props.) Enact your presentation before the class.



b) Create a book trailer.

Check out a couple of YouTube videos featuring trailers for popular novels. Create a script for the trailer. (If there's time, create a few stage props.) Record the trailer and play the recording to the class.



c) Rewrite an ending to the story.

With a partner create a new ending to the story. Make sure your story is exciting and believable and contains the appropriate details.



d) Pretend you are a character and interview the other characters.

With a small group of other students have the host introduce each of three or four characters to the class with a brief description, then ask each character two or three pertinent questions.



e) A book advertisement on the school PA.

With a small group create a short advertisement for the novel. During the morning announcements for the school have the students present this advertisement. (It works best if the school library has a few copies of the novel so interested students can borrow a copy.)



Answer Key



Chapter 1

Vocabulary:

1-F, 2-I, 3-B, 4-H, 5-C, 6-A, 7-G, 8-D, 9-E, 10-J

Questions:

1 – Answers will vary – A description of the Thames River in London, which leads into a description of the home where the Bell family lives.

2 – A **vicarage** is the residence, or former residence, of one or more priests or ministers. A **parson** is the priest of an independent parish church, also known as a vicar.

b – Answers will vary

3 – **Alex** wanted to be a parson, and **Alfred** chose to work in the family wool business.

b – Alex's father was very upset with his choice of career. He also told him that he would cut Alex off financially if he decided to go ahead with his plans to become a parson.

4 – The biblical character of **Esau** was said to be a very hairy man.

Chapters 2-3

Vocabulary:

ACROSS	DOWN
1. BELL	1. BIBLE
4. WOOL	2. FLOWERS
5. HOLLYWOOD	3. SCHOLARSHIP
6. BICYCLE	7. CATERPILLAR
8. BALLET	9. THAMES
11. MOUSE	10. QUARREL
12. HOSPITAL	13. GARDEN
14. PUPPY	15. PHOTOGRAPH
17. SURPRISE	16. REVEREND
19. COMPETITION	18. RADIO
22. TALENT	19. CHESTNUT
25. DOCTOR	20. QUARANTINE
26. NEWSPAPER	21. COTTAGE
27. MARKET	23. TELEGRAM
28. EXPERIMENT	24. LONDON

Questions:

Part 1 – Chapter 2

1 – The skill of clear and expressive speech, especially of distinct pronunciation and articulation

2 – **Saddleback caterpillar:** This species of caterpillar secretes venom out of the small hairs covering its body. Their sting causes nausea, swelling, and can often leave a rash for days.

3 – Answers will vary – Oxford Dictionary defines *modesty* as the following: Behaviour, manner, or appearance intended to avoid impropriety or indecency.

Part 2 – Chapter 3

1 – They wanted to buy her a new dress because all she had was her sister's hand-me-down.

2 – She knew that if she caught mumps everyone would have to be quarantined, which meant the birthday party would be canceled, there would be no ballet, Paul would miss his cricket coaching, Jane wouldn't be able to dance, and they couldn't go to the zoo.

3 – Answers will vary.

Language Activities

C. Population: 53,012,456 **Official Languages:** English and Cornish **Currency:** Pound sterling

Largest City: London **Capital City:** London **Land Size:** 130,395(KM²)/50,346 (MI²)

Head of State: Queen Elizabeth II **Kind of Government:** Constitutional monarchy

D. 1) Amanita: Poisonous **2) Boletus edulis (penny bun or porcino):** Edible **3) Coprinus comatus (shaggy mane):** Edible **4) Shitake:** Edible

Chapters 4-5

Questions:

'That'll be a waste of time, Veronica. Even if you learn to cook you'll never make a good man happy, or a bad one either.' There were horrified hushes and 'Be quiet, Ginnie,' and 'Shut up' from Cathy, Alex and Paul, and a faint 'Don't, Ginnie,' from Jane, but nothing stopped Ginnie. 'I don't care. I'm going to say what I want to say. I'm glad Angus is going to learn dancing, if he wants to, though goodness knows why he wants to, but I don't see why everybody's siding against poor Jane ...'

Only by the most terrific will-power was Jane holding back tears. There was to be no miracle. When, for a moment, you had believed one to be about to happen, that was bad enough, but for years to have longed and worked for a miracle and then to see it performed for another member of the family, that was too much. But Ginnie mustn't be cross, it would do no good. She said in a strangled voice, which forced its way through the lump in her throat.

'Don't Ginnie. Please don't.'

'It's no good saying "Don't Ginnie," and it's no good frowning, Mummy, or saying "Hush," Daddy. It was very kind of Uncle Alfred and Aunt Rose to take us to the ballet, but that doesn't mean they can tell Veronica things are different for her than they are for Jane, just because they're rich and we're poor.'

Everybody, except Jane who dared not speak again, and Angus, who was dreaming he was dancing in a ballet, tried to stop Ginnie. Uncle Alfred with a pompous 'Well really!' Grandmother with a shocked 'Be quiet, Ginnie, love.' Grandfather with a roared 'Shut your trap, Ginnie.' Alex with a sharp 'Ginnie!' Cathy with 'Ginnie, be quiet.' Paul with 'Oh, I say, do shut up.' Veronica with an excited 'Ooh, isn't Ginnie naughty!'

Language Activities

C. Medical (Also spells: Declaim and Decimal), **Reward** (Also spells: Redraw, Warder and Warred), **Trap** (Also spells: Rapt), **Salesman** (Also spells: Lameness), **Trees** (Also spells: Steer and Terse), **Replicas** (Also spells: Calipers), **Subtle** (Also spells: Bluest, Bluets, and Sublet).

Chapters 6-7

Vocabulary:

1. Chum, Buddy, Crony, Pal, Brother, Sidekick.
2. Shout, Yell, Bellow, Scream, Holler, Shriek, Screech.
3. Run, Walk, Jump, Dash, Fly, Sprint.
4. Brave, Courageous, Heroic, Gallant.
5. Big, Giant, Huge, Enormous, Gigantic, Massive.

Questions:

Part 1 – Chapter 6

- 1 – She had to go to bed early for an entire week.
- 2 – Answers will vary.
- 3 – She had a sore tooth, which was eventually pulled.

Part 2 – Chapter 7

- 1 – Answers will vary.
- 2 – **Angus:** They thought he was too young to attend the school, but they said he could sit in on some of the classes, and if he showed promise he could join the school at a later date.
Jane: They said she had real potential to be a dancer, but was in need of further training.
- 3 – She would have to complete two and a half hours of homework on her weekend.

Language Activity

C. 'As a matter of fact Miss Virginia Bell is quite glad to go to bed, she gets bored hearing people talk, talk, talk, all the time.'
'No. We might hear from Miss Bronson this morning.'
Jane tried hard to think of something truthful to say.

Chapters 8-9

Vocabulary:

- 1 – Reasonable 2 – Tolerable 3 – Dignified 4 – Beseeking 5 – Ludicrous
6 – Splendid 7 – Curious 8 – Proper

Questions:

- 1 - True
- 2 - False
- 3 - False
- 4 - False - It was a love story between a Shepard and a Shepherdess.
- 5 - True
- 6 - True
- 7 - True
- 8 - False - She was very upset, and began scolded the audience for laughing.
- 9 - True
- 10 - Answers will vary.

Language Activities

A. We later learned that St Winifred's had given Jane a scholarship to attend Sadler Well's Dancing School. This would also become the 'miracle' that Jane was hoping for.

Chapters 10-11

Vocabulary:

	X	E	L	A										
							V			E	N	A	J	
				E		I								
				G	C	D	N	E	R	E	V	E	R	
				A	C	I	N	O	R	E	V	R		
		C	R	G						I		E		
		A				N			R	O	T	C	O	D
	G	T				O		G				N		
E		H				D	I					A		
S		Y		L		N						D		
A			L	U	I	O								
U		E		A		L		S	U	G	N	A		
	B			P										

Questions:

Part 1 - Chapter 10

- 1 - The family would divide up the money, and each family member would receive eight pounds. The remaining two pounds would purchase a new collar and leash for Esau.
- 2 - The children gave Esau a lot of treats, which caused him to become sick.
- 3 - Answers will vary - She promised the elderly that she would hold a concert for them without first asking permission from the school's headmaster.

Part 2 – Chapter 11

1 – **Mrs Gage:** Singing old favorites (community singing) **Alex:** Singing *Cockles and Muscles* **Jane:** Dancing to two songs, including *The Sugar Plum Fairy* and the song by J.S. Bach. **Angus:** Singing *Cherry Ripe* and *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* **Ginnie:** Served as host.

2 – Answers will vary – She could have asked for permission first, and lined up performers.

3 – An old gentleman stood up and thanked them all for their performance.

Language Activities

B. Scholarship, Everybody, Breakfast, Photograph, Clergyman, Wardrobe, Lifeboat
Afternoon, Topmost, Understood

Chapters 12-13

Questions:

Part 1 – Chapter 12

1 – He didn't want the neighbors to put together a collection for their family because he thought they needed the money more than they did.

2 – He said 'I suppose I'm pleased', but he seemed to be rather ungrateful. He also said that he was having a hard time getting excited about something that would happen the following year.

3 – Answers will vary.

Part 2 – Chapter 13

1 – Answers will vary.

2 – She told him that their family was going to a fancy hotel by the sea, and that she could have all the free ice-cream she wanted inside the hotel.

3 – Answers will vary.

Chapters 14-15

Vocabulary:

Secret Message: Follow your passion, be prepared to work hard and sacrifice, and, above all, don't let anyone limit your dreams. Donovan Bailey.

Questions:

1 - Answers will vary (When the family found Esau)

2 - Answers will vary

3 - Answers will vary

4 - Answers will vary

5 - Answers will vary