

Literacy World Comets
Stage 3

Title: Insiders
Author: Chris Powling
Year: 5
Genre: Novel by a significant author

Summary

Rio Leverton and his friend Denzel are curious about an artist neighbour, old Mr Emmett. They watch while he paints in a kind of trance, and they speculate about his life. Rio and his sister, Fliss, are the children of Rosie Leverton, the famous star of the soap opera 'Insiders'. In the show, Rosie Leverton plays Rosie Ramone, and the children are well used to the way her acting career spills over into her private life. When Rosie learns she is to be axed from the show she plunges into depression. She puts on a brave face for the press, but is suddenly unsure of her future.

The children are still preoccupied with Mr Emmett, who seems flattered by their interest and lends them a painting. Denzel suggests they take the painting to a gallery to be valued. Ms Marshall, the manager of the gallery, recognizes the painting as a work by J.K. Emmett, a successful artist who sank into obscurity after the death of his mother and a particularly bad review. Mr Emmett is keen to paint a picture of Fliss – she reminds him of someone – and he lets slip that he is an avid fan of 'Insiders'. The children don't want to tell him that he is living next door to its biggest star. For one thing, 'Insiders' dominates too much of their lives already.

Mr Emmett agrees to take the painting of Fliss to show Ms Marshall, but when the painting is unwrapped it proves to be not just of Fliss but also of Rosie Ramone. It's called *Now you see her, and now you don't*. The painting is put on display, and it strikes a chord with the general public who are up in arms about the removal of Rosie from the show. Given all the publicity she is attracting, the programme producers decide they cannot manage without Rosie in the soap. Mr Emmett's confidence as an artist is restored, but should the children break the news that Rosie is his neighbour and Fliss is her daughter?

Primary Framework Objectives:
 Y1 strand 7: Use evidence from across a text to explain events or ideas
 Y1 strand 7: Explore how writers use language for comic and dramatic effects

Literacy World Comets Stage 3: Insiders Guided Reading Card Framework Edition

By Chris Powling

Pearson Education Limited, United Kingdom, 2008. Cards. Book Condition: New. 240 x 160 mm. Language: N/A. Brand New Book. Part of the Literacy World series that provides support to deliver shared reading and writing, guided reading, ICT and speaking and listening at Key Stage 2 and Junior level.



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