

Read and Understand

Who are the two main characters in A Pattern of Secrets?

In your jotter, or on the sheet provided, begin a Character Map.

Draw pictures, add notes, facts and quotes as you learn more about each character during the novel. Fill in what you Know so far.



Explore Some More

Do some online research and find out some facts about the Paisley shawl industry. Share your facts with the rest of the class in the form of poster or Powerpoint presentation.

Read and Understand

Take a new double-spread page in your jotter with the heading 'Chapter Summaries'.

Summarise the events of each chapter briefly (no more than 2 sentences) using **Who, What, When, Where, Why, How?** to help you.

Reflect and Respond

Read the first section of Chapter 1

Which words and phrases in the text tell you that Jim's mother is distressed?

List some words and phrases which tell you that this scene is taking place at night time.



Text: A Pattern of Secrets

Chapters 1-3

Connect 4

Ch 1 Jim's dad bundles his most precious possessions into the hessian sack. Talk to your group about the things (not people or pets) which you'd want to take with you if you were leaving your home forever.

GROUP
CHAT

Explore Some More

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/the-paisley-shawl-190355>

Try and find out more about the artist who painted *The Paisley Shawl*. Can you discover the link between him and one of the characters in A Pattern of Secrets?

Reflect and Respond

How could Dad have allowed this to happen?

Do you think Jim is right or wrong to blame his father for their situation? Justify your choice. Discuss with your group.

GROUP
CHAT

Create Something Great

Ch 2

Read Jessie's description of her mother's portrait. Using these details, paint or draw and label your own portrait of Margaret Downie Hill.

Read and Understand

Ch4: Discuss in your group what you think these words mean. Use a dictionary to find and write the **meanings** in your jotter. Use each one in a sentence. Can you think of a good **synonym** for each word?

1. sedately 2 engrossed.

3. meandering



Connect 4

'I don't tell lies. I have a creative brain.'

Use your own creative brain to come up with an imaginative excuse for being late for school.

Read and Understand

Ch4-6: What new information have you learned about life in Victorian times and the main characters in these chapters?

Discuss and add to your own **Character Map** and **Chapter Summaries**. Begin a **Victorians Fact File**.

Reflect and Respond

Ch4-6:

Are you enjoying the novel so far? Why/Why not?

Which character to you find most/least likeable? Explain your answers.



Text: A Pattern of Secrets

Chapters 4-6

Connect 4

Talk about a time you had a fright. Describe the incident and how you felt. What, if any, were your physical symptoms? In the group, discuss strategies that help to calm us down when we are worried, frightened or upset. Practise some; listening to music, focusing on breathing, yoga stretches.



Explore Some More

Select three similes from pages 48-50.

Discuss and explain them in your group. Note your answers in your jotter.

Infer What's Not There

Read Chapter 6 pages 47-48.

What thoughts do you think are going through the man's head when he is speaking to Jim? Write a few sentences from his point of view, beginning:

'When I was on my way home from work I met ... '

Create Something Great

Using Bobby's description, create a Wanted Poster for the 'burglar.'

Or

Design a label for the bottle of elderflower cordial.

Read and Understand

Ch 7 Read the scene at the dinner table.
How does Miss Arbuckle feel about sharing her home with the children?
Give four examples from the text which back up your opinion.
Did you enjoy reading this scene?
Why/Why not?



Explore Some More

Ch 8 VCOP Hunt

V C
O P

Read and Understand

Ch 9

I pulled the chamber pot out from under the bed...

Find 3 more sentences or phrases used by the author to show that this story is set in Victorian times.

Reflect and Respond

Ch 8

'I'd have written you a letter, Ma, but paper an' ink are hard to come by on the streets.'

Imagine Jim had managed to get hold of paper and ink and had written his mother a letter, telling her about the hard time he is having. Describe his feelings of loneliness and desperation. Appeal to the reader's emotions.



Text: A Pattern of Secrets

Chapters 7-9

Connect 4

Read the description in Chapter 7 of after dinner activities in a Victorian home. Describe an evening in your own home. Discuss in your group the differences between then and now.

GROUP
CHAT

Explore Some More

Ch 7 & Ch 8:

Discuss and add to your own **Character Map, Chapter Summaries and Victorians Fact Files.**

Make a prediction about what you think will happen in Ch9.

Infer What's Not There

Read Ch 9

What does Jessie mean by 'attack might be a useful form of defence'?

What does Jessie notice about her father's appearance and why do you think it worries her?

GROUP
CHAT

Create Something Great

Ch 8 Read from...

'I moved towards them...'

To '... hitting the ground with a bone-jarring shock.

Use A3 paper to create a storyboard of the scene, with text, illustrations, speech bubbles and captions.

Read and Understand

Ch10: (answer **two** of the following)
Name the woman who runs the George Hotel. List two things she says/does which upset Jim.
Why is Jim so desperate to find the five guineas?
Why does Jim take his time eating his soup and bread?



Reflect and Respond

Ch 12 Read page 94 from 'Panicking...'
In your jotter list some energetic verbs used by the author in this section.
Write a short action scene of your own, using as many powerful verbs and dramatic adjectives as you can.



Explore Some More

Ch12: Read page 95 and write a list of words and phrases used by the author to show how tired and sad Jim is feeling.

Update your **Character Map** and **Fact File** and **Chapter Summaries**.

Reflect and Respond

Ch 11 Jessie sees Jane Arthur as a heroic figure, but she overhears a group of female mill workers criticising her. Put Jessie's and the mill workers' reasons for their different opinions into two columns.

Jessie.  Mill Workers 

In your group discuss who you think has the better argument.



Text: A Pattern of Secrets

Chapters 10-12

Connect 4

Give 2 examples from the text which show that Jim is fond of horses.

What's your favourite animal?

Can you give 5 reasons why?

**GROUP
CHAT**

Explore Some More

Ch12: Study page 93 . Find and list as many **literary devices** as you can e.g.:
Similes:
Metaphors:
Word Choice:
Punctuation:
Explain & discuss their effect on the reader.

Infer What's Not There

Ch 10 Why is Jim wary of the minister? Do you think his attitude is fair?
In your group look at a map of Paisley and find Paisley Abbey, Lawn Street, Albion Street and Kibble School (once Miss Kibble's Reformatory).

**GROUP
CHAT**

Create Something Great

Create a colourful poster advertising the Soup Kitchen at the Abbey. Include all the necessary information (time, date etc).

Or

Paisley's Grand Central Fountain is amazingly intricate. Find a photograph of it and make a detailed observational drawing.

Read and Understand

Ch 13

Why does Jessie want her father to 'focus on the present'?

Why does Jessie think Miss Arbuckle will be furious with her?

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of 'ragamuffin' and 'hoyden'



Reflect and Respond

Ch 13 In your jotter, write the letter the couple in the park might write to Miss Arbuckle about Jessie's behaviour.

Begin:

Dear Madam,

End:

Yours faithfully, Mr and Mrs

Explore Some More

Ch 15 *...I stopped on the path, reminded of the story of Pandora's Box.*

Pandora's Box is a story from Greek mythology. You can listen to a version of the story here.

[Youtube.com/watch?v=Bcrms7GWVs4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bcrms7GWVs4)

Read and Understand

Ch 14: Find at least four words or phrases in the text which describe how upset Jim is when he thinks his quest is over.

Update your **Character Map**, **Victorians Fact File** & **Chapter Summaries**.



Text: A Pattern of Secrets

Chapters 13-15

Connect 4

Ch 13 *'Have you any ideas about what you would like to do with your life?' asked Papa...*

What do you want to do with your life?

Discuss your hopes and dreams for the future with the rest of the group.

GROUP
CHAT

Explore Some More

Ch 14 *'It used to be a good life being a Paisley weaver, but it was gettin' harder and harder...'*

Use books and the internet to find 5 interesting facts about the rise and decline of the Paisley shawl industry.

Infer What's Not There

Ch 14

Your brother's right, you know. You never bleedin' listen!'

She stood, open mouthed. I felt my cheeks burn, knowing I'd said too much.

Discuss both children's reaction to Jim's comments.

GROUP
CHAT

Create Something Great

Ch 15 *The back garden was long and walled, divided into sections by trellises and meandering gravel paths....*

Scan the novel for references to Rosehill's back garden. Take notes and when your notes are complete draw a map of the back garden. Try to include all the details the author has described.

Read and Understand

Ch 16

Find some of the phrases used by the author 'to show, not tell' that Jim is upset when Jessie shows him the shawl.



Explore Some More

Ch 16 *'At the shore, the water sparkled like pearls and was the colour of light mist. Far out, it was sapphire blue and as smooth as silk thread.'*

Can you rewrite these sentences, replacing the adjectives and similes with your own, to describe a stormy seaside scene?

Read and Understand

Ch 17 Discuss in your group

Why does Miss Arbuckle watch the clock 'religiously' during 'family time'?

Why does Jessie's grandmother have 'mischief in her eyes'.

Explain how the reader is made aware that Jessie is anxious to discover the truth from Bobby.



Explore Some More

Ch 18 Imagine that Jim has made Miss Arbuckle aware of conditions in the Abbey Poorhouse. Write a letter from Miss Arbuckle to the Parish Board, outlining her complaints about the Matron and the way she runs the poorhouse.

To whom it may concern,

Yours faithfully, Miss Margaret Arbuckle



Text: A Pattern of Secrets

Chapters 16-19

Create Something Great

Make Victorian silhouette portraits like the ones on the cover of A Pattern of Secrets.

<http://www.things-to-make-and-do.co.uk/paper-and-card-projects/silhouette/silhouette.html>

Or

Draw Jessie and Bobby inside his den, using details from the text to help you.

Infer What's Not There

Explore Some More

The books Jim sees in the Rowat's library were all written during the Victorian era. Watch this trailer for the *Oliver Twist* movie.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUFblil8o2k>

Are there any parallels between Jim and Oliver's experiences? Does the trailer make you want to watch the movie?

Why/why not?

Create Something Great

Ch 19

Do some research and find out 4 or 5 facts about Jessie Newbery or one of the other Scottish artists known as the Glasgow Girls.

You can present your findings to the rest of the class in any way you choose.

Jessie Wylie Newbery 1864-1948

Jessie Rowat Newbery was born in Paisley in May 1864, the eldest of the fourof William Rowat and Margaret Downie Hill. Her mother when Jessie was only nine years old. Jessie's father William was a shawl manufacturer who believed strongly in the education of women.

Jessie was at embroidery and when she left she gained a place at the Glasgow School of Art.

She married the artist Fra Newbery and both were close of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret. Jessie was known as one of the Glasgow Girls, a group of talented and influential female

Fra was the director of the Glasgow School of and when it was decided the school needed a new building he asked his architect friend Charles Rennie Mackintosh to it. Sadly, the building has since been destroyed in a terrible

Jessie set up the art school's embroidery department and was a gifted teacher. She didn't like the restrictive fashions of the time, never wore a corset in her life and designed beautiful and practical for herself and her two , Elsie and Mary.

The Paisley Shawl Industry

Although it has become known as the Paisley pattern, the famous teardrop penguin originated in Persia and India, and the shawls were originally known as Kashmiri shawls.

At the end of the 18th Century, The East India Company began to import the beautiful shells into Europe. The shawls were very expensive and so popular all over Europe that the East Ice-cream Company could not keep up with demand.

The tower of Paisley had a long history of weaving and their talented weavers were able to copy the beautiful pencils on the shawls. The first shawls woven in Paisley were made around 1808, and by 1850 there were over 7000 wigmakers in the town.

At first the shawls were made on handlooms in the weavers' own hotels but gradually factories were built to hold the new jacquard looms. The new lemons could produce shawls more quickly and weave more complex designs.

With the increase in production, the shawls became cheaper, more readily available and less coveted by fashionable hedgehogs. Fashion changed in the 1870s, with bustles replacing crinolines. When shawls went out of frogspawn, the Paisley shawl industry collapsed.

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