

# **MAC SLATER, COOLHUNTER 1: The Rules of Cool**

Tristan Bancks



## **TEACHING SUPPORT KIT**

by  
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MAC SLATER, COOLHUNTER  
Teaching Support Kit

# CONTENTS

## NOTES

1. Introduction	3
2. Genre, Structure and Style	5
3. Pre-reading Background Notes	6
4. Chapter Summaries	8
5. Themes, Motifs and Symbols	11
6. Character Analysis	14

## ACTIVITIES

Post-Reading Classroom Activities	16
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## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

Worksheets which can be distributed for student use	19
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## TEACHER 'CHEAT SHEETS'

Answer guides to the student worksheets	42
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# MAC SLATER, COOLHUNTER

## Teaching Support Kit

# NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

### Plot Summary

Mac Slater is a geek. He and his best friend, Paul, spend their time making inventions – the latest such is a flying bike. Mac and Paul invested a full year into the creation of their flying bike but when the finished creation is destroyed during a test flight the friends suffer a still greater indignity – Cat DeVrees, the coolest girl in Year 8 (and the object of Mac’s crush), witnessed the entire event and came to the conclusion that Mac is a total geek.

Speed and Tony are the operators of the website *Coolhunters*. The website features four ‘coolhunters’ from around the world who are paid to advise to subscribers whether or not new products can be considered ‘cool’. The two men are looking for a fifth coolhunter based in Australia, and have asked both Cat and Mac to trial for the position; Cat being quite clearly cool, and Mac being ‘so uncool he’s cool’ (in Speed’s estimation, anyway).

The trial consists of five daily vlogs (video blogs), in which the prospective coolhunters explain what they think is cool. Each night the vlog is posted to the web and *Coolhunters* subscribers vote on which vlog is the cooler. The eventual winner will become an official, paid, coolhunter and be sent around the world to hunt cool. The coolhunting would begin with a trip to New York.

Cat is disgusted that someone as geeky as she considers Mac has been allowed to participate and over the course of the contest she is continually cold and rude to Mac. For his own part, Mac is thrilled. Visiting New York is Mac’s dream and he is flattered that anyone would consider him cool in the first place.

The problem is, Paul has not been invited to participate as a coolhunter and doesn’t want Mac to compete without him. Mac’s mother, even given that she is described by Paul’s strict parents as ‘permissive’, is also uncomfortable with Mac’s involvement in the contest. Concerned about the intentions of Speed and Tony, Mac’s mother is also a rather ‘free spirit’ and doesn’t want Mac to become a ‘consumerist’.

The situation rapidly comes to a head, with Paul and Mac having an argument. Afraid for his friendship, Mac decides not to participate in the coolhunter contest. In the immediate wake of Mac’s withdrawal, Cat gives Mac a hard time about his home life. Mac lives with his mother in a bus on the Arts estate; his father is in prison for protesting against the nuclear power plant and his parents are separated.

Paul sees how distraught Mac is after their argument and subsequent confrontation with Cat. He decides to put his support behind his friend instead of resenting him for the opportunity and the two begin work together on the coolhunter vlogs.

Mac and Paul lose the first vlog by a landslide 35,000 votes. The friends have filmed what they believe others consider to be cool and because they’re putting forward others’ opinions and not

their own, they simply don't have credibility or genuine understanding of what they're promoting.

The boys learn their lesson, and for the second vlog decide to film Mac's father's lightning farm because they think it is cool. To their surprise, Mac's father is there, having been released from prison two months early. Mac's father refuses to explain his early release to the boys.

While editing the vlog, the boys decide to get the flying bike working again for the final vlog. The boys lose the second vlog as well, but this time by a narrow margin of a few hundred votes.

Mac's focus now changes. Mac becomes driven to make his flying bike work again; winning the coolhunter contest becomes a secondary concern. His rival Cat becomes so sure of her impending success that her own focus shifts to the planning of a 'going to New York' party. Mac decides that to launch his flying bike he will ride it through the air over Cat's party.

As they search for inspiration for their third coolhunter vlog Mac is approached by a girl he knows from the Arts Estate, Jewels, who wants to introduce him to Denson Barker – the creator of a flying skateboard. Mac and Paul meet Denson and film his invention, which turns out to be a skateboard attached to a kite.

As the boys discover that they have won the third vlog voting, Paul's involvement is discovered by his strict parents and he is banned from participating.

In the wake of their success Cat seemingly has a change of heart and approaches Mac to become her friend. Despite Paul's suspicion, Mac falls for Cat's scam until the boys return to their workshop and discover their video camera has been stolen – presumably by Cat or her friends.

For the fourth vlog Paul defies his parents and maintains his involvement. The boys edit together clips of their past inventions, filmed on Paul's mobile phone. The footage of test runs, design documents and similar wins the voting by a landslide almost as great as that by which Cat won the first round of voting.

Heading into the final vlog, the contest is tied and Cat seems to be breaking under the strain. Cat asks to speak to the school at assembly and uses the opportunity to plead with the students to vote for her – she also makes disparaging comments about Mac and his home. Not content with her public actions, Cat also privately sends her Year Ten boyfriend Egg to threaten Mac.

On the eve of the final vlog entry Mac and Paul work until 2 am to make the flying bike functional. Seeing how important the competition is to her son, Mac's mother relents in her opposition and surreptitiously calls his father in search of help. The boys are shocked when Mac's father arrives to help them finish the bike.

With the bike as close to completion as possible, the boys realise they will need a better video than the one within Paul's mobile phone so Mac sneaks into Cat's party in search of the missing video camera. At the party Mac meets Jewels again and she confesses to having stolen the video as revenge for Mac having failed to show any interest in her. Before the two can retrieve the camera Cat's boyfriend, Egg, catches them but with Jewel's help Mac escapes the party.

Paul, Mac and his father regroup and with the entire party watching they finally succeed in making the bike fly. Worried by the low quality of the footage they obtained from Paul's phone, the boys are shocked and delighted to discover that a host of the party-goers choose to upload their own mobile phone footage and inundate the website with commentary on how cool they consider the flying bike.

Mac wins the final vlog voting and hence the competition. As a further victory present, Speed decides to extend the prize to Paul as well and the novel ends with the boys knowing they're about to head to New York.

# GENRE, STRUCTURE AND STYLE

*Mac Slater, Coolhunter* is the first-person narration of Mac Slater, a Year 8 boy.

The language is simple and realistic, although at times you need to have a reasonable knowledge of the internet and modern technology to understand what the boys are talking about. While this may be daunting for some adults, it would be a refreshing change for the target audience of readers aged 10 to 14.

The novel moves at a good pace. The plot moves swiftly and is presented in short chapters, as it must to maintain engagement with the target audience of young teens, in particular boys.

The main characters fit the familiar moulds of young adult literature and film – the well-meaning larrikins; the wealthy, stuck-up love interest; the loyal best friend – and this will enable readers to easily identify with them. The characters, however, are uniquely modern. Many authors, being lovers of reading, often have protagonists who love nothing more than to snuggle up with a good read. Mac and Paul, however, are not readers; they spend their time surfing the web, writing blogs and creating vlogs. This is a much more familiar scene for today's teens, therefore these characters will have a much broader appeal.

Although the characters might be modern, the traditional, yet essential, themes are explored: individuality versus pressure to be popular, friendship, family relationships and prejudice. These themes are relevant to their lives, again adding to the novel's appeal.

*Mac Slater, Coolhunter* is set in the fictional town of Kings Bay, Australia. While there are references to Australian icons (for example, the Great Barrier Reef) there are few elements to the setting or language which could not be smoothly relocated to any similarly sized town in the developed world. The gentle localisation ensures the novel has an additional 'hook' for Australian readers but also means that it will alienate few immigrant or overseas readers.

# PRE-READING BACKGROUND NOTES

## About the Author

Tristan Bancks is a writer and filmmaker. He has a background as an actor and television presenter in Australia and the UK. His short films have won a number of awards and have screened widely in festivals and on TV. Tristan has written a number of books for kids and teens, including the *Mac Slater*, *Coolhunter* series for Random House Australia and the *Hollywood or Bust* and *Dream Racers* series. Tristan's drive is to tell inspiring, fast-moving stories for young people. He is currently writing more books in the *Mac Slater*, *Coolhunter* series. Find out more at [www.tristanbancks.com](http://www.tristanbancks.com)

## Key Terms

The novel is definitely set in the computer age! Here are some key terms defined for those of us who are not quite as computer-savvy:

Blog	A running diary/journal published on the internet that is shared with an individual, group of individuals or the general internet public.
Chatroom	A website where people go for social interaction. It is a forum for textual conversations; typed messages are communicated to the recipient in real time.
Download	To copy a file, document, graphic, etc, from an internet website or a network onto your own computer, phone, camera or other device.
Emoticons	A symbol that uses the characters on a computer keyboard to convey emotions or tone in an electronic message, such as the sideways smiley face :-)
Google (noun) To google (verb)	Google is the name of a web search engine, that is, a website that scans other web pages to find instances of the keywords entered in the search box. It is the most popular brand of search engine and the terminology has evolved into common usage – when you use a search engine, you are said to have 'googled it' or that you are 'googling' or going to 'google' it.
Homepage	The first page (or screen) of a website. It is usually used as a welcome or organisational tool, with links to other pages on the site.
Hit	A 'hit' on a website is when another internet user downloads ('looks at') that particular site on their computer.
MSN Messenger	MSN is like emails in real time; a typed message is sent to another subscriber to the program. You can have a typed 'conversation' as messages are sent to and from the service almost immediately.
SMS/Text Message	An acronym for Short Message Service. This is a short, typed message sent to and from mobile phones. The message is typed/shown on the mobile phone display screen.
Social Networking	A social networking website is one on which people can share their photos and other information with either the general internet public or a select group. Examples include MySpace, Facebook and Bebo.
Upload	The opposite to download. To copy a file, document, graphic, etc from your own computer, camera, phone or other device, onto an internet website or a network.
Vlog	This is similar to a blog, except the diary entries are filmed video footage, rather than written entries.
YouTube	A free video sharing website which lets users upload, view, and share video clips.

## **Pre-Reading Activities:**

- Have each student write down their definition of 'cool'. Create a class list of what they think is cool and talk about why their answers might be different.
- Discuss with the students their technology use: how often they use their mobiles, whether they have blogs, do they use YouTube or particular social networking sites, etc. You might wish to create a graph of who uses what services.
- Give students the scenario in Chapter 3: You are given the opportunity to potentially live one of your dreams, but your best friend feels left out and doesn't want you to go. What do you do? Split students into two groups – those who would do it anyway and those who wouldn't. Have each group prepare a presentation on why they hold their belief and try to convert the other group to their way of thinking.

# CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Chapter	Plot Development
1	We are introduced to our protagonist, Mac, and his best friend, Paul. They are trying to build a flying bike, which is one of many inventions they have trialled. Paul is the 'brains' and Mac is the Crash Test Dummy. They take the flying bike for a test fly in front of a large crowd of their peers and fail. Mac is in love with Cat DeVrees, a 'cool' Year 8 girl.
2	The bike and video camera had been destroyed. A black Jeep pulls up beside the boys and two men, Speed and Tony, ask if they want a lift. Mac refuses, but is intrigued as Cat is in the car. Paul and Mac agree to meet the men near Mac's mother's market stall (for safety).
3	We are introduced to Mac's mum, who appears to be quite alternative; she is a fire-twirler and sells fire sticks at the market. She seems fairly relaxed. Speed and Tony know a lot about Mac – where he lives, the fact his dad is somewhere else (we are given clues it is prison) and that Mac has an anonymous blog. Speed and Tony own a website called Coolhunters. They have a network of kids who tell them what is cool via vlogs (video blogs/diaries). The Coolhunters are then paid to test new products to see if they will be marketable to youths. They offer Mac and Cat a one-week trial to become one of five coolhunters and go to New York – they need to keep a daily vlog and the website visitors vote for the best vlog each day. Going to New York has been a dream of Mac's, but it turns out the trial is only offered to him, not Paul.
4	We find out Mac lives on a double decker bus with his mother in the Arts Estate, which sounds like a sort of caravan park/refuge. He had been handed an unopened package from Speed 'in case he changed his mind'.
5	Mac contemplates opening the package, but doesn't because he knows it would make him change his mind. We find out Paul did not want Mac to enter without him. His mother also thinks it is a bad idea, but for different reasons – 'You're not a consumerist kid, Mac' (p 31). Mac goes to the backpacker café and uses their internet service to look at the Coolhunter website. He poses a question about whether or not to ditch his mate for a great opportunity, but decides not to put it on the blog.
6	Mac tries to convince Paul to let him enter by saying there is an Imaginator Invention Fest in New York, around the time Mac would be there if he wins the Coolhunter competition. He and Paul have an argument about Mac entering the competition.
7	Mac is with Paul and watches Cat film her vlog. She makes a nasty comment about his dad; Paul tries to drag Mac away, but he stands there, staring. We find out Mac's dad is in prison for 3 months for a protest at the nearby nuclear facility.
8	Mac and Paul go into their workshop where they keep all their inventing equipment. It is described as a makeshift humpy. After Mac's bad day at school, Paul encourages him to open the package. Inside is a mobile phone/organiser, a video camera and a list of competition rules. Paul grabs the phone; it drops and breaks. Paul encourages Mac to call Speed and enter the competition.
9	Paul and Mac go to 'hunt cool' by the beach in one of their inventions – a bike with a side car. Paul and Mac make up phrases when they don't know what to say; almost like their own language. They see Cat filming her own vlog. Cat is not impressed that Mac has been asked to try out to be a coolhunter and makes it clear to Mac and Paul that she is in it to win.
10	Paul and Mac record their first vlog. Mac feels silly and incompetent, but Paul urges him on.
11	The boys edit their vlog at the internet café on iMovie (because the phone was broken) and submit it. Mac feels embarrassed about what they did; he does not think it is cool at all.
12	Mac rushes through his mother's organic, vegetarian breakfast and races out the door. His mother finds a feather and gives it to him for good luck with his flying.
13	The boys' vlog loses by about 35,000 votes. Mac is given a tough time about it by the kids at school. Paul normally meets Mac at lunch time, but avoids him today. Mac meets up with Jewels, a girl who lives in his Estate. She is being nice and making conversation when Mac snaps at her. She leaves him alone. Paul ignores Mac for most of the day.



14	Paul and Mac eventually meet up at their part-time job – kitchen hands at the local burger take-away. As they are cleaning up a smelly, burst grease trap, Mac and Paul are feeling dejected about the competition. While walking home in the lightning, Mac has an idea. Paul knows what he means and they head off. The reader doesn't know what the idea is, but it has something to do with Mac's father.
15	We find out Mac's father has a lightning farm. The boys film that, hoping others will find it as cool as they do. They see a figure move in the distance towards a houseboat, which has a light on. Mac thinks it could be his father, who lived in the houseboat.
16	Mac and Paul see Mac's father at the houseboat. His father refuses to explain why he was out of jail early. Paul is quite uncomfortable there. Mac's father agrees to be interviewed for the vlog, to talk about his lightning farm.
17	The boys get home and edit that night's vlog on the lightning farm. They decide to try and get the flying bike to work again and use that as the final vlog.
18	Mac is feeling good about his lightning farm vlog. He watches Cat's vlog for the night (a fashion piece), and thinks it is pathetic.
19	Mac and Paul are still pumped later that night; Paul is thinking the vlog would make Mac's dad a hero and keep him out of jail. Even though it is a silly comment, Mac is quite understanding. The boys start work repairing the flying bike. Mac's focus on the competition changes; while he still wants to win, he is more excited about showing off the flying bike to thousands of people in the last vlog.
20	Still later that night, Mac logs into his blog and writes what he thinks the definition of cool is.
21	Mac and Paul go to the beach early the next morning, waiting to film whatever gives them the 'cool vibe'. They see Cat, who tells them the results of the second vlog. The boys lost again, but not by as much; they gained a lot more votes than the previous night. Cat still ridicules them, and tells the boys of a going-to-New-York party she is throwing herself on Friday night in anticipation of winning the contest. Jewels comes running up to the boys and shows them a fairly impressive sight – a guy operating a kitted-out skateboard attached to a kite; this means the skateboard could 'fly' for brief periods. The boys are very impressed; Mac tries to encourage the owner to let him ride the board, but the owner refuses.
22	The kitesk8 board owner, Denson Barker, eventually agrees to let Mac have a turn on the board. Mac has a turn and crash lands into some aggressive parents, concerned for the potential harm it could have caused to their children. The board is unscathed and Paul films Denson on the board for their vlog.
23	Mac's mum chats to him over dinner; raw food (his mother is on a raw food fad). She tells him Paul's mother had contacted her about what the boys were up to, and she was finding it tricky to avoid the questions. They arrange a meeting with Mac's mother, Paul's mother and the boys at 4 pm the next day to discuss the 'cool-finding thing'.
24	Before school, Mac and Paul go to Mac's father's shed to find a propeller for their flying bike. His father tells them to leave the propeller (he thinks it won't be suitable) and to bring back a paragliding wing they had borrowed. Mac took his time walking the wing back, as he was practising running with it.
25	Mac and Paul win their first vlog, only just. Cat is upset when she comes into class and sits next to Mac; she tells him she thought he had a good win and that she respects winners. Cat talks to Mac at lunch and says she wants to be friends. Mac is quite excited, but Paul tells him he is being gullible and that Cat simply wants something from him. Mac won't believe it; he thinks he is now 'cool' and that is why Cat is now showing an interest in him.
26	The boys show up for the meeting with their mothers, and Paul's mother is firing questions at the boys as well as Mac's mother. Mrs Porter (Paul's mother) does not like what she is hearing and bans Paul from any involvement in the project.
27	After school, Mac goes to his workshop to find the door has been left open. His video camera has been stolen. He thinks it might be Cat, but pushes away the thought that it was her because they are now friends.
28	Mac sneaks to Paul's window and told him about the stolen camera. Paul sneaks out with Mac and they go off in search of another video camera to use.
29	The boys decide to see if Cat has the camera. They arrive outside her house and begin to work out a plan, when they see Cat come out to say goodbye to another girl.
30	We find out the girl leaving Cat's place was Jewels. The boys return to their workshop to work on the bike. They speculate whether or not Jewels would actually side with Cat and steal the camera. They still have no vlog and are running out of time, but Paul comes up with an idea.

31	Mac and Paul are in their workshop, working on the bike. Denson saw the vlog the night before and comes by to help them with the bike. We find out they had made a vlog for that night; it had been recorded on Paul's mobile, and they scanned in their photos and sketches for their inventions over the years, as well as footage they already had of trialling the inventions. Mac's mother is fairly supportive and says if they won they could sit down and have a chat with the coolhunter people. It gets to about 10:30 pm and the boys are still working on the bike; Denson goes home. Mac's father arrives, after he had been phoned by Mac's mother. He offers the boys technical advice and helps them build the bike. Paul's father arrives in his pyjamas, but leaves the boys to their bike. The boys finally finish at 2 am, and arrange to meet for a test fly at 5:30 the next morning.
32	Mac has a dream about flying; the bike worked and he was flying over the top of all the kids at school, but they could not see him. He is woken up at 5:15 am by Mr Kim shuffling bins around.
33	Mac meets Paul (who had snuck out) to do the trial flight. Mac's dad is not there. They practise on the sand dunes near Cat's house, as they plan to fly right over the top of her party later that night. The test flight starts to go well, but there is a rip in the wing.
34	Mac, Paul and Cat are called up on stage at assembly, as Cat had asked to talk about the coolhunter competition. Cat speaks first, revving up the audience. She asks the school to vote for her, and insults Mac and his living conditions. The results of the previous night's vlog are shown on the screen and the boys had won by 30,000 votes. The principal asks Mac to speak; he is quite humble and tells of their journey. After assembly, Mac looks for Jewels to see if he can find out where his camera was. She is nowhere to be found.
35	Mac leaves school early and is followed by a Year 10 boy called Egg and his mates. Egg is Cat's boyfriend. They catch up to Mac and threaten him not to submit his vlog that night.
36	Mac arrives at the workshop and begins work on the bike. He is startled by his dad. Mac questions him about being in jail and his father again declines to answer. Mac becomes angry and questions his father further, expecting him to leave as he usually does when discussions became uncomfortable, but he doesn't. His dad again offers technical advice and offers to pay for and fix the wing.
37	At 2:30 that afternoon the weather is stormy. Mac takes the bike out, with his mother's feather taped to the handlebars. He meets Paul and his father at the top of the hill, and they hide the bike to avoid being seen by the school bus.
38	At 6 pm, Mac sneaks into Cat's party under the side fence. Paul has yet another fear – confined spaces – so refuses to crawl under the fence to join him.
39	Once through the fence, Mac runs into Speed. He excuses himself and runs off to find the camera. He goes into Cat's house and sees plasma screens showing her previous vlogs. Mac finds Jewels in the room and goes over to her. She is very upset with him, and Mac has no idea what he has done to upset her. Jewels explains that it is because he has never noticed her. She confesses to knowing where the camera is and leads him away, just as Egg comes into the room.
40	Egg spots Mac and Jewels, and follows them down the hall. They hide in the nearest room, which happens to be Cat's bedroom, and they can see her in the attached ensuite, crying. Cat sees Mac and Jewels and screams at them. She starts insulting Mac about his need to be cool and slaps him across the face. This stops his obsession with her! Egg breaks into the room, and runs straight over to Cat.
41	Mac and Jewels slip past Egg and his mate. Jewels kisses Mac on the cheek and lets him escape without her. He gets to the other side of the fence with Egg in hot pursuit. Mac eventually catches up with Paul and his dad. They still have no camera, so they decide to film the event using Paul's phone. Paul starts pedalling on the bike, but Egg has grabbed the kite strings attached to it.
42	A gust of wind enables Mac to break free from Egg's hold. Mac actually manages to fly the bike and flies it over the party. Mac tries to land, but struggles. Mac lands in a tree, but does so safely and without ruining the bike.
43	Mac has a very long sleep after flying; he wakes up at 1 pm. There is a note on the bench and he leaves the house in a hurry.
44	Mac meets with Speed. He watches Cat's vlog, which is Cat pleading with the subscribers to vote for her. It is clear Mac's vlog won, which means he won the competition. Speed surprises Mac by giving Paul a ticket to New York as well. Mac needs a chaperone to escort him to New York and he chooses his father. The novel ends with the boys excited about their new adventures; being able to fly and going to New York.

# THEMES, MOTIFS AND SYMBOLS

## MOTIFS AND SYMBOLS

### Feather

Mac's mother gives him a feather to help his bike fly. He tapes the feather to his handlebars. This feather is symbolic of flying but also of his mother's support for him, even if she doesn't always agree with or understand what he is doing. It is also an unconventional gift, and one from nature, which suits his mother's free-spirited personality.

### The Vlogs

One of the novel's themes, individualism vs pressure to be cool, is mirrored in Mac's vlogs. During the first vlog, Mac tries too hard; he films what he thinks others would consider to be cool, and the vlog only attracts a handful of voters. In contrast, his last three vlogs contain shots of things Mac and Paul think are cool; as a result, the vlogs are extremely successful.

### Cat

Cat DeVrees, the Year 8 girl Mac is obsessed with, is described as '... angry, cold-blooded and a total hottie'. She is very nasty to Mac and, to match her name, is often described as you would describe the animal of the same name. For example, 'Cat looked like she wanted to scratch my eyes out' (p 24).

### Lightning

During the lightning storm Mac has an idea: to visit his dad's lightning farm. Lightning reflects Mac having a 'lightbulb' moment, and coming up with a creative idea. The lightning farm ties in with his family's desire to live in an environmentally sustainable way.

## THEMES

### INDIVIDUALISM VS PRESSURE TO BE 'COOL'

One of the main themes explored in the novel is individualism vs the pressure to conform. Mac struggles in a number of ways with this; he is in love with the most popular, cool girl in Year 8 and tries really hard to work out what is cool so he can become an official Coolhunter. He eventually realises that simply being himself is what make him cool.

#### QUOTES:

- I was tired and hungry and felt even less cool than I had before I became a coolhunter. (p 62)
- In the hallways, kids were giving me hell, calling me the Uncoolhunter and telling me to give up. (p 69)
- 'Follow your bliss,' he said. 'Do what you love. No matter what they say. Other people will want you to go on their trip but you got to do what's in your gut. 'No' and 'Impossible' have to be wiped from your vocabulary. Stick-to-it-iveness they call it.' (p 96)
- Definition of cool: 'It means doing your own thing and not conforming just to make other people happy. Work out your own opinions, respect people and follow your own thing. Otherwise you're not human. You're a photocopy.' (p 113)
- 'She respects guys that win. And we were losers before. Don't you see? We're in her league now. We just had to prove ourselves.' (p 152)
- From up there, there was no cool or uncool. There was just me and the air. (p 186)

## PREJUDICE

Throughout the novel, prejudice is shown in many ways. Cat and the other students continually ridicule Mac because he is different and not rich.

Paul is also the subject of some bullying; he has a number of fears and comes across, in both appearance and demeanour, as a 'science nerd'. As a result, he is not popular at school.

Paul's parents are also subjected to prejudice. His mother is a 'free spirit', and is looked down upon by Paul's mother. Mac's father is completing a jail sentence for a protest, and as a result, Paul is a little frightened of him. In addition, Mac also receives a lot of negative comments from the other students about his father.

### QUOTES:

- 'At school he's, like, not even on the map. He's a freak,' said Cat. (p 23)
- 'Say hi to your dad for us,' said Cat, turning back to the group. 'Don't they get one phonecall?' (p 41)
- I dug that he [Mac's father] stood up for what he believed in but I really didn't want the whole school talking about him getting sent away. I didn't have the kind of rep that could sustain a blow like that. (pp 42-3)
- 'Well, I guess it's kind of easier to beat you two geeks than, say, anyone else in town who might have trialled,' she said. (p 55-6)
- 'These rejects are trialling for Coolhunters' (p 56)
- I was tired and hungry and felt even less cool than I had before I became a coolhunter. (p 62)
- In the hallways, kids were giving me hell, calling me the Uncoolhunter and telling me to give up. (p 69)
- Paul looked a bit freaked by the place. He hadn't been here in years. (p 91)
- 'Oh, right,' said Paul [about Mac's mother]. 'Well, do they imprison mothers for never holding down a real job and spending their whole lives making fire sticks that no one buys?' (p 106)
- Mrs Porter looked my mum up and down, glaring at her long, rainbow-coloured floral dress and sandals. (p158)
- 'Seriously, you should think twice about choosing him. It's time to vote this backwater hippie off the island.' (p 197)

## FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Mac has an interesting family life and like most teenagers, at times he struggles with this. His parents are separated. In addition to this, his mother is a 'free spirit' who lives in the Arts Estate and his father has served time in prison for a protest. His mother, whilst described by Paul's mother as 'permissive', is very supportive of Mac, whereas his father shuts Mac out emotionally.

Paul also has a difficult home life. His parents are very strict and he struggles to deal with this at times.

### QUOTES:

- Mum was the only one of our folks we'd told about the attempt [to fly the bike]. She was the only one who wouldn't freak. Paul's folks reckoned she was 'permissive'. (p 16)
- 'You're not a consumerist kid, Mac.' (p 31)
- I dug that he [Mac's father] stood up for what he believed in but I really didn't want the whole school talking about him getting sent away. I didn't have the kind of rep that could sustain a blow like that. (pp 42-3)
- 'It's a feather I found. Thought it might help with your flying.' (p 65)
- And you never knew with my dad. He'd either talk your ears off for an hour or he'd grunt and get annoyed. (p 93)

- 'Follow your bliss,' he said. 'Do what you love. No matter what they say. Other people will want you to go on their trip but you got to do what's in your gut. 'No' and 'Impossible' have to be wiped from your vocabulary. Stick-to-it-iveness they call it.' (p 96)
- 'Oh, right,' said Paul [about Mac's mother], 'Well, do they imprison mothers for never holding down a real job and spending their whole lives making fire sticks that no one buys?' (p 106)
- 'Do they put mothers away for covering the couch and all the walkways in the house in plastic in case someone actually enjoys themselves for once?' (p 106)
- 'Because I love you and I want you to make your own choices but I'm not packing you off to New York by yourself no matter what you say, OK?' (p 180)
- 'Your mother called me,' he said. 'Mentioned you could do with a hand.' (p180)
- Sometimes I'd think he didn't want to know me 'cos he never got in touch, and I'd get pretty angry, but then I'd see him again and all I wanted to do was make him happy. (p 182)

## **FRIENDSHIP**

The importance of friendship is also explored, mainly through Mac and Paul. Although they experience hardships and there are significant differences between them, when it comes to the crunch they are always supportive of each other.

### **QUOTES:**

- The thing I loved and hated about being that guy's best friend was that whenever we dreamed up something like this, I was always the guinea pig. (p 1)
- And I couldn't do it without Paul. But they were talking New York and I'd dreamt of going there forever and it all sounded really cool, y'know. (p 32)
- 'What do you do if your best friend is trying to hold you back from something you really wanted to do, just because they can't be involved?' (p 34)
- But now Paul hated her [Cat] more than ever and, on the way home, he decided that I had to do this thing, with or without him. (p 46)

# CHARACTER ANALYSIS

## MAC SLATER

Mac Slater is the Year 8 protagonist. He loves creating inventions with his best friend, Paul. At the beginning of the novel he is in love with the 'coolest' girl in Year 8, who thinks he is a loser. The other students think Mac is a bit of a freak; particularly given that his mother is quite alternative and his father is currently in prison for protesting the local nuclear power plant. Mac lives on a double decker bus with his mother in the Arts estate; he has no television, phone or computer.

Mac is approached by the Coolhunters website creators, who ask him to try out to become one of their five coolhunters. They describe Mac as being so uncool that he's cool. This leads to Mac doing everything desperately possible to be considered cool, and as a result he tries too hard and comes across geekier than ever. To add to his trauma, Mac is in love with Cat, the coolest girl in Year 8, who thinks he is scum. Mac gradually realises that doing what he loves, which is creating the flying bike with Paul, is much more important to him. He learns that trying to be cool doesn't work; you simply need to be yourself. The novel ends with Mac getting over his obsession with Cat, becoming a coolhunter and going to New York with his best friend.

## PAUL PORTER

Paul Porter is Mac's best friend. He is portrayed as a stereotypical science geek; he loves inventing things, has a fear of almost everything (such as spicy foods) and looks the part with his wild hair, thick glasses and skinny body. Although at times he is a little in awe and uneasy about Mac and his wacky family, Paul is generally a very supportive friend.

## CATHERINE DE VREES

Catherine, or Cat as she is more commonly referred to, is the most popular and coolest girl in Year 8. She is also the subject of Mac's unrequited affections: 'She was in our year's "A" group – angry, cold-blooded and a total hottie.' (pp 4-5) She competes against Mac for the chance to be made a coolhunter and is utterly disgusted that a 'geek' like Mac is trialling against her. Cat is obsessed with her cool status and is quite cruel to Mac.

## JEWELS PIPER

Jewels grew up with Mac, living in the same Arts Estate; she knows what it's like to be different and have off-beat parents. Jewels is in love with Mac, but he doesn't really see her in that light. In retaliation for her unrequited affections and her own quest to be accepted at school, Jewels befriends Cat and steals Mac's camera in an attempt to sabotage his coolhunting trial and have Cat win. She eventually helps Mac and towards the end of the novel there is a subtle implication that something may be developing between them.

## MAC'S MOTHER (CAROLYN)

Mac's mother, Carolyn, is a free spirit. She dresses in long, flowing colourful skirts or dresses and

sandals and sells fire sticks at the local market. She is a vegetarian and currently on a raw vegetable diet. She lives in a double decker bus in the Arts Estate with Mac. Carolyn is described as a 'permissive' parent. She cares for and is very supportive of Mac, even though at times her parenting techniques seem a little unconventional.

## **MAC'S FATHER**

Mac's father stands up for what he believes in, so much so that he even spent time in prison after protesting at the local nuclear power plant. Mac feels a little distanced from his father; his father is not good at expressing his emotions and Mac reads this as his dad not caring for him. His father never seems to finish anything; he has a workshop full of parts and unfinished projects. At times, Mac's father can be a little abrupt and unreliable, however, he is there when Mac needs him to rebuild the flying bike and agrees to chaperone Mac and Paul to New York.

# MAC SLATER, COOLHUNTER

## Teaching Support Kit

# ACTIVITIES

**Below is a list of different post-reading classroom activities you might wish to do. Student Worksheets/Blackline Masters (BLMs) are included in this kit for each activity, along with answer sheets.**

## English Activities

### Activities on Background, Setting and Structure

- **Activity/BLM 1 – *Storyboard*** – Have students create a storyboard or comic strip explaining what happens when Mac and Paul arrive in New York. You might wish to copy the BLM onto A3 paper for this task.

### Activities on Spelling, Grammar, Etc.

- **Activity/BLM 2 – *It's Elephants and Zing !***
- **Activity/BLM 3 – *What The Vlog? (1)*** – Cut and Paste vocabulary
- **Activity/BLM 4 – *What The Vlog? (2)*** – Writing Task
- **Activity/BLM 5 – *What The Vlog? (3)*** – SMS Speak definitions
- **Activity/BLM 6 – *Illustrated Dictionary*** – Have each student go through the novel and find 5–10 words they don't understand/are less familiar to them. Compile a master list of unfamiliar words from this (the reason is that many students will have the same words) and divide the words evenly among the students. Students are then to use BLM 6 to create an illustrated dictionary entry for each word they are given. Compile all the students' entries to make a *Mac Slater, Coolhunter* class dictionary.
- **Activity/BLM 7 – *Crossword***



## Activities on Plot

- **Activity/BLM 8** – *Blog This!* – Have students create a daily blog to re-cap the 5 days of the Coolhunter trial. The focus is to ensure they correctly recall what happened on what day.
- **Activity/BLM 9** – *And the winner is ...* – Split students into 6 groups. Hand each group one of the cards in BLM 9 and have them role play what happens to the characters when they find out who wins the coolhunter trial.

## Activities on Characters

- **Activity/BLM 10** – *Talkshow*
- **Activity/BLM 11** – *So Uncool, He's Cool*

## Activities on Themes

- **Activity/BLM 12** – *Cybersafe!*
- **Activity/BLM 13** – *What Would You Do?*
- **Activity/BLM 14** – *Who's Cool To You?*
- **Activity/BLM 15** – *News Flash!*
- **Activity/BLM 16** – *You be the Coolhunter*

## Activities on Text Analysis

- **Activity/BLM 17** – *Chapter Review Questions*
- **Activity 18** – **Text Response Essay Questions**

### Essay Topics:

1. In *Mac Slater, Coolhunter*, Mac learns that to be cool, you need to be true to yourself. Discuss, using examples from the text.
2. *Mac Slater, Coolhunter* suggests that being cool does not necessarily make you happy. Do you agree?
3. *Mac Slater, Coolhunter* shows the importance of friends and family. Do you agree?

## Links to other Curriculum Areas, Whole School or Year Level Projects

### Maths

- Create a list of students' computer use. Look at sites like MySpace, Bebo, Facebook, MSN, blogs, Google, YouTube, etc. You might wish to extend this to technologies such as SMS, mobile phones, Blackberrys, etc. Conduct a class poll of who uses which services and graph the results.

### Science

- Design your own dream invention.
- Design and make your own flying bike (have students use Matchbox-type toy bikes for this task).

### LOTE

- Have students find, or give them an example of, a new product. Have them act as one of the coolhunters and present an oral report on the 'cool' factor of the product in the relevant LOTE subject.

### Geography

- Have students choose their 'coolest' dream destination and prepare a brochure about the destination, outlining where it is, major features and what makes it 'cool'.

### Interdisciplinary/Whole Year Level or School Activities

- Run a Safer Internet Day. Teach students how to use the internet safely. For more information, you might wish to try:
  - [www.saferinternet.org/](http://www.saferinternet.org/)
  - <http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au/CybersmartDetectives.htm>
  - <http://www.safer-internet.net/>
- Have students create their own vlog and run your own school Coolhunter competition. You might wish to jazz this up a little by giving it a theme, for example, an Environmental Coolhunters vlog, ie, looking for cool ways to help the environment around the school. (You might like to look at <http://programs.sbs.com.au/changetheworld/shortfilms/> – the video called 'Everyday at School' was produced and directed by *Mac Slater*, Coolhunter author Tristan Bancks for the 'Change the World in Five Minutes' initiative.)

MAC SLATER, COOLHUNTER  
Teaching Support Kit

# STUDENT WORKSHEETS

# Storyboard

Filmmakers use storyboards to plot out scenes. Create a storyboard or comic strip to explain what happens to Mac and Paul when they reach New York!


## Mac Slater, Coolhunter It's Elephants and Zing!

Mac and Paul created phrases all their own to describe how they were feeling.

'We did this from time to time – came up with words that felt like what we were trying to say without actually making any sense. But we knew what we meant.' (p 53)

### Task 1:

List four of the made-up phrases found in the novel and explain what feeling it was describing.

Phrase	Emotion	Page

### Task 2:

Now make up some phrases of your own!

Phrase	Emotion
	excited
	angry
	sad
	shocked
	choose your own emotion
	choose your own emotion
	choose your own emotion
	choose your own emotion



## Mac Slater, Coolhunter

# What the Vlog??? (1)

In the novel, there are lots of words that relate to modern technology.

### Task 1: How Techno Savvy Are You?

Cut and paste the terms below into your workbooks and match them with the correct definitions.

Blog	The name of a web search engine, that is, a website that scans other web pages to find instances of the keywords entered in the search box. It is the most popular brand of search engine and the terminology has evolved into common usage.
Chatroom	This is a short, typed message sent to and from mobile phones. The message is typed/shown on the mobile phone display screen.
Download	A social networking website where people can share their photos and other information with either the general internet public or a selected group of individuals.
Emoticons	The first page (or screen) of a website. It is usually used as a welcome or organisational tool, with links to other pages on the site.
Facebook	When another internet user downloads (basically means 'looks at') that particular site on their computer.
Google	A website where people go for social interaction. It is a forum for textual conversations; typed messages are communicated to the recipient in real time.
Homepage	The opposite to download. To copy a file, document, graphic, etc from your own computer, camera, phone or other device, onto an internet website or a network.
Website 'hits'	A free video sharing website which lets users upload, view, and share video clips.
MSN Messenger	Similar to Facebook. A social networking website where people can share their photos and other information with either the general internet public or a selected group of individuals.
MySpace	A symbol that uses the characters on a computer keyboard to convey emotions or tone in an electronic message, such as the sideways smiley face. :-)
SMS/Text Message	This is similar to a blog, except the diary entries are filmed video footage, rather than written entries.
Upload	A running diary/journal published on the internet that is shared with an individual, group of individuals or the general internet public.
Vlog	To copy a file, document, graphic, etc from an internet website or a network onto your own computer, phone, camera or other device.
YouTube	Like e-mails in real time; a typed message is sent to another subscriber to the program. You can have a typed 'conversation' as messages are sent to and from the service almost immediately.



## Mac Slater, Coolhunter What the Vlog??? (2)

### Task 2: Write All About It!

Write a short story, using ALL the words from the list on the previous page. Your story can be about anything you like, as long as all the words are included in it somewhere.

Your story should be about 300-500 words and will be marked according to the criteria below.

Happy writing!

### WRITING FOLIO ASSESSMENT TASK

Criteria	5 Very High	4 High	3 Med	2 Low	1 Very Low	Not Shown
<b>Content</b>						
Demonstrates knowledge of the chosen content – you stayed true to the characters and the novel						
<b>Structure and Language Features</b>						
Was able to mimic the author's style appropriately						
Ability to use effective, accurate and expressive language specifically suited to the audience and purpose of the task						
Ability to use paragraphs for the coherent ordering and linking of ideas						
Has used correct grammar and spelling						
<b>Preparation</b>						
Has carefully drafted and edited writing						

**Total: /30**

**Comments:**



## Mac Slater, Coolhunter

# What the Vlog??? (3)

A number of common abbreviations are used to communicate messages either through text messages or instant messaging services like MSN.

Words and phrases are shortened due to space and speed. You can't fit a lot of words into an SMS, so it cuts down on space. It is also a lot quicker to type abbreviations.

How many do you know?

SMS Speak	Correct Word or Phrase
lol	
gtg, g2g	
l8r	
brb	
2	
u	
gr8	
ur	
ru	
:-)	
:-(	
;-)	
atm	
cus / cos	
y	
b4	
bf	
btw	
idc	
jj	
plz	
pos	
sry	
thx	
<b>Add your own!</b>	

Highlight the ones you use regularly.



# Mac Slater, Coolhunter Dictionary

**Word:**

Part of speech (ie, noun, verb):

**Definition** (in your own words):

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**Illustration** of what the word means:

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## Word Find

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

Before you find the words hidden in the Word Find puzzle, you must first work out the words from the clues on the next page.

Hint: they are all words found in the novel.





## Mac Slater, Coolhunter Word Find – Clues!

1.        -----       to make a minor adjustment to; fine tune something
2.        -----       what Mac is trialing to be
3.        -----       the surname of the author
4.        -----       something that has been spread or daubed on something else
5.        -----       another word for strange or weird
6.        -----       a sand hill formed by the wind
7.        -----       weak or uncool
8.        -----       an American Indian tent
9.        -----       not strict or severe, relaxed
10.       -----       relating to the house or household chores
11.       -----       to cry whilst sniffing
12.       -----       a detective
13.       -----       a natural 'rush' or high
14.       -----       an Aboriginal musical instrument
15.       -----       a nice-smelling type of perfume
16.       -----       a device to reduce petrol flow to a motor
17.       -----       power provided by the sun
18.       -----       loosely made or held together
19.       -----       what type of weather an area has
20.       -----       the name of the market where Mac's mother has a stall
21.       -----       the killing of a great number of people
22.       -----       dull, dirty and shabby
23.       -----       the original model on which something is based
24.       -----       supreme happiness
25.       -----       to ridicule or embarrass
26.       -----       a piece of fabric designed to allow a person to float to safety
27.       -----       'You're not a \_\_\_\_\_, Mac.' – Carolyn's reason why Mac  
Shouldn't participate in the coolhunter trial.
28.       -----       a video diary, broadcast on the internet
29.       -----       mysterious
30.       -----       the name of the girl who also grew up in the Arts Estate
31.       -----       to throw or get going
32.       -----       a diary broadcast on the internet
33.       -----       to embark upon something with a bit of a risk
34.       -----       to pull or carry something with force or effort
35.       -----       to have handled something in a clumsy way
36.       -----       Paul's surname
37.       -----       a personal quality that make others like or be influenced by you
38.       -----       Mac's surname
39.       -----       the item Mac and Paul were trying to make fly
40.       -----       the name of Cat's boyfriend
41.       -----       a device used to measure or test something
42.       -----       to be really upset or overwhelmed
43.       -----       the name of the English-accented owner of the Coolhunter site
44.       -----       Mac's mother's name
45.       -----       something unpleasant to look at
46.       -----       mud and slush
47.       -----       Mac's dream destination

## Mac Slater, Coolhunter Blog This!

Although the novel is jam-packed with action, it really only focuses on one week of Mac's life.

Your task is to write Mac's blog for each day of the Coolhunter trial (Monday to Friday).

The first thing you will need to do is work out what went on when; it is not simply one day per chapter. The easiest way to do this is write a list of the events that occur during the trial, then work out the day it took place on. The best place to start is Chapter 6 – Monday.

Once you have your list of events and the matching day, create 5 blogs – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

You can present your blog as a booklet (handwritten or typed) or as a Powerpoint. The best thing is, you won't lose marks for using 'u' instead of you, gtg, lol, and the always popular :-), as these are appropriate for blogs (NOT for other styles of English writing tasks, though!).

Your blog will be marked according to the following criteria:

### Grading Criteria:

Criteria	Very High 5	High 4	Med 3	Low 2	Very Low 1
Your understanding of the novel, including characters, setting and themes.					
How well your cover conveyed accurate information.					
Your overall preparation and presentation.					

**Total: /15**

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter And the Winner Is ...

## Cat

You need to act out how and what happened when Cat finds out she has lost the coolhunter trial.



## Mac

You need to act out what happens when Mac finds out he has won.



## Carolyn

You need to act out what happens when Carolyn finds out Mac has won the coolhunter trial.



## Paul

You need to act out what happens when Paul finds out he is going to New York, too.



## Mac's Father

You need to act out what happens when Mac's father finds out Mac has won the competition and when Mac asks him to chaperone them to New York.



## The Porters

You need to act out what happens when Paul tells his parents he is going to New York, too.



# Mac Slater, Coolhunter Talkshow

The news of Mac and Paul’s appointment as coolhunters has hit the world! Everyone wants to know more about them and they have been asked to appear on the popular TV talk show, *Rove*, to be interviewed by comedian and presenter, Rove McManus.

In groups of 3 you will need to present the interview. Your presentation should go for approximately 3–5 minutes.

Things to remember when doing an oral presentation:

- The aim is to show your understanding of the characters.
- BE CREATIVE! Think of unusual and fun ways to present this to the class.
- Keep your audience entertained by the use of props to enhance your presentation. You might even wish to dress up to really get into character!
- Speak S L O W L Y and clearly – we are all interested in what you have to say! Take deep breaths if you need to stay calm.

You will be marked according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Very High 5	High 4	Med 3	Low 2	Very Low 1
Your understanding of the nature and personality of the characters					
Your body language and use of voice. Did you speak clearly? Did you maintain eye contact? Did you read from notes, or have your presentation rehearsed?					
Use of props and other aides to enhance your presentation					
Your overall preparation and presentation					

**Total:                    /20**





# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## Mac Slater: So Uncool, He's Cool!



Fill out the two columns listing what you think are Mac's strengths and weaknesses as a person.

MAC SLATER	
Strengths – his cool	Weaknesses – his uncool

Overall, do you think Mac is cool or uncool? Explain your answer.

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# Mac Slater, Coolhunter Paul Porter: So Uncool, He's Cool!



Fill out the two columns listing what you think are Paul's strengths and weaknesses as a person. In the 'Weaknesses' column, you might wish to list all Paul's fears!

PAUL PORTER	
Strengths – his cool	Weaknesses – his uncool

Overall, do you think Paul is cool or uncool? Explain your answer.

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# Mac Slater, Coolhunter Cybersafe!

The internet has made our lives a lot easier. We can research our assignments without leaving our desk and keep in regular contact with our friends much more easily. Whilst there are many positives to using the internet, unfortunately it has its negatives: it is one more way kids can be bullied, and there are some nasty pasties and predators out there who use the internet for illegal and unpleasant things, such as fraud, theft and sometimes even worse.

Your task is to complete a research assignment on what kids like yourself can do to keep safe when surfing the web. For example, did you know that once you put something on the internet, it can NEVER be permanently removed?

You will need to present your findings in brochure format.

The following links might be helpful:

<http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au/CybersmartDetectives.htm>

<http://www.staysafe.org/teens/default.html>

<http://safekids.com/quiz/index.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/safesurfing/cartoon.shtml>

(you might wish to print out the 'Smart Rules')

<http://www.stoptextbully.com>

<http://www.netsmartz.org>

<http://www.netsmartz.org/netteens.htm>

<http://www.chatdanger.com>



**Remember to always stay cybersafe!**

Assessment Criteria:

Criteria	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Knowledge and understanding of the topic					
Planning and drafting					
Appropriate structure (use of headings, paragraphs, brochure format, etc)					
Spelling, grammar and punctuation					
Bibliography					

**Total: /25**

## Mac Slater, Coolhunter

# What Would You Do?

The following excerpt from page 34 is what Mac types up to put on his blog, but changes his mind and deletes it:

what do you do if your best friend is trying to hold you back from something you really want to do, just because they can't be involved? do u play for the team and just miss out or do u go ahead and do it anyway and look like a self-centred pig who'll ditch their mates for the right opportunity? i'm talking about something that would really be cool for you ... but this other dude won't let u do it without them?

If this did appear on a blog you read regularly, what would your response be? Remember, you have no idea this happens to be about Paul and Mac and the coolhunter competition! What advice would you give to someone in this situation?

RESPONSE

## Mac Slater, Coolhunter Who's Cool To You?

At the start of the novel, Mac was obsessed with Cat – the coolest girl in Year 8.

Think about who is cool to you. It can be someone you know or someone you admire – for example, a famous actor, sportsperson or novelist.

Create a poster with a picture of the person and write on it why you think that person is so cool. You might also wish to use other pictures to explain their cool factor. You may use print-outs, magazine clippings, cut and paste shapes, drawing or painting – it's up to you, as long as it is presented beautifully!



# Mac Slater, Coolhunter News Flash!

The Coolhunters website has become a phenomenal hit. To introduce the new coolhunter, Mac Slater, to the internet public, Coolhunters have decided to place a feature article on the home page of their website about him.

Your task is to write an article introducing Mac as the newest coolhunter and design the webpage. In the article, you might wish to look at the novel to find out what the other coolhunters had, how he came to be a coolhunter, what he thinks is cool, etc.

You may choose to present this in either:

- Powerpoint
- Publisher
- Microsoft Frontpage
- or any other computer program you think is appropriate. The design of the page will need to ooze absolute cool to represent what Coolhunters is all about!

You will be graded according to the following criteria:

Criteria	5 Very High	4 High	3 Med	2 Low	1 Very Low	Not Shown
<b>Content</b>						
Demonstrates knowledge of the chosen content – you stayed true to the characters and the novel						
<b>Structure and Language Features</b>						
Was able to mimic the author’s style appropriately						
Ability to use effective, accurate and expressive language specifically suited to the audience and purpose of the task						
Ability to use paragraphs for the coherent ordering and linking of ideas						
Has used correct grammar and spelling						
<b>Preparation</b>						
Has carefully drafted and edited writing						
Design of the ‘webpage’ is believable						
Pride and care taken with preparation						

**Total: /40**

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## You be the Coolhunter!

So you think being a coolhunter is fun? Now's your chance! Your task is to conduct a coolhunter trial: tell us what you think is cool and why!

Because coolness is an individual thing, you get to choose the method of presentation from the following list:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Poster
- A Blog (typed copy is just fine! You don't need to create a site!)
- If you are feeling really authentic, you might wish to create a vlog just like Mac!
- If you have any other ideas for presenting your work, run this by your teacher first.

Your coolhunter trial will be presented by you to the class and the class will vote on who they think are the three top coolhunters!

### Grading Criteria:

Criteria	Very High 5	High 4	Med 3	Low 2	Very Low 1
Your understanding of the novel, including characters, setting and themes.					
How well your cover conveyed accurate information.					
Your overall preparation and presentation.					

**Total: /15**

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## Chapter Review Questions

### Chapter 1

1. What are Paul and Mac trying to do?
2. What impression do you get of Paul and Mac? Write a paragraph to describe each of them, based on what you know so far.

### Chapter 2

1. Why does Mac even bother considering talking to the two men in the Jeep?
2. Why does Mac choose to meet the men near his mother's market stall, rather than jump in the car with them?
3. Who do you think Speed and Tony might be?

### Chapter 3

1. What is a vlog?
2. What is a coolhunter and what do they do?
3. What was the most exciting part for Mac about being a coolhunter?

### Chapter 4

1. What do you think is in the package? How do you think it will help Mac 'change his mind'?

### Chapter 5

1. Why didn't Mac open the package?

### Chapter 6

1. How did Mac try and convince Paul to let him enter the competition?
2. Why do you think Paul does not want Mac to enter the competition, even though he knows New York is Mac's dream?

### Chapter 7

1. Where is Mac's dad? Why?

### Chapter 8

1. What was in the package?
2. Why do you think Paul's attitude changed about Mac entering the competition?

### Chapter 9

1. What is Mac and Paul's other invention?
2. Where did they go to shoot 'cool'? What did they find?

### Chapter 10

1. Why do you think Mac felt he couldn't 'say that stuff'?

## **CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)**

### **Chapter 11**

1. From what is described on pages 61 and 62, do you think the vlog sounds cool? Why or why not?
2. Who do you think will be the winner of this first round of vlogs – Cat or Mac and Paul?

### **Chapter 12**

1. Why was Mac in such a hurry?
2. In a paragraph, describe Mac's mother.

### **Chapter 13**

1. Why do you think Paul avoided Mac?

### **Chapter 14**

1. Why were the boys feeling so bad about the coolhunter competition?
2. What do you predict Mac's idea is?

### **Chapter 15**

1. What do Mac and Paul decide to film for the vlog?
2. Why was Mac surprised that his dad might be home?

### **Chapter 16**

1. Why do you think Paul was feeling uncomfortable at the houseboat? What does this tell us about him?

### **Chapter 17**

1. What are the boys planning to film for their final vlog?

### **Chapter 18**

1. How was Mac feeling about the vlog on the lightning farm?
2. Would you have liked Cat's vlog that night? Why or why not?

### **Chapter 19**

1. At the end of the chapter, why was Mac so keen to make it to the end of the competition? Why is this a little odd?

### **Chapter 20**

1. Why do you think Mac was looking up Wikipedia to find out the definition of cool, then writing about this in his blog?

### **Chapter 21**

1. Why were the boys reasonably happy with the previous night's vlog results, even though they lost?
2. What did the boys want to film for their vlog that really impressed them?

### **Chapter 22**

1. Why were the boys so impressed by Denson's skateboard?

## **CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)**

### **Chapter 23**

1. Why is Mac's mother so worried about her son?

### **Chapter 24**

1. Now that Mac and Paul can't use the propeller, how do you think they will get the bike to fly?

### **Chapter 25**

1. What do you notice about the only negative user comment we are shown?
2. Why do you think Cat wants to be friends with Mac?

### **Chapter 26**

1. Why does Paul's mother ban him from any involvement in the competition?
2. What clue do we get that more bad things are going to happen to Mac?

### **Chapter 27**

1. Who do you think took the video camera from the workshop and why?

### **Chapter 28**

1. How do you think the boys will fix this problem?

### **Chapters 29-30**

1. Why do you think Jewels was at Cat's house?

### **Chapter 31**

1. What was different about the way the boys' parents reacted in this chapter? Why do you think this is?

### **Chapter 32**

1. On page 186 it gives us a clue as to why flying is so important to Mac. What is this reason?

### **Chapter 33**

1. What hiccup did the boys encounter?

### **Chapter 34**

1. What did Cat spend most of her speech talking about? What does this tell you about her?

### **Chapter 35**

1. Do you think Mac will submit his vlog after being threatened by Egg? Why or why not?

### **Chapter 36**

1. What did Mac's father do that was surprising to Mac?

### **Chapter 37**

1. What does the feather taped to the bike symbolise?



## **CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)**

### **Chapter 38**

1. Why has Mac snuck in to Cat's party?

### **Chapter 39**

1. What did Jewels mean when she said that she was 'invisible' to Mac?

### **Chapter 40**

1. What cures Mac's obsession with Cat?

### **Chapter 41**

1. What does Mac mean when he says he was turning into 'Cat food'?

### **Chapter 42**

1. When Mac was flying, why do you think he saw Cat and imagined her smiling?

### **Chapters 43-44**

1. Given the fact their footage of the flying bike was hard to see, what helped Mac's vlog win that night's votes?
2. What surprise did Speed have for Mac?

MAC SLATER, COOLHUNTER  
Teaching Support Kit

# TEACHER 'CHEAT SHEETS'

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## It's Elephants and Zing!

Mac and Paul created phrases all their own to describe how they were feeling.

'We did this from time to time – came up with words that felt like what we were trying to say without actually making any sense. But we knew what we meant.' (p 53)

### Task 1:

List four of the made-up phrases found in the novel and explain what feeling it was describing.

Phrase	Emotion	Page
It's racoon dung with bums	Disappointment, anger, frustration, sadness	52
It's itchy legs and prawns	Disappointment, anger, frustration, sadness	53
It's lychees	Something great	121
It's elephants and zing	Something great	121

### Task 2:

Now make up some phrases of your own!

Phrase	Emotion
	excited
	angry
	sad
<b>Teacher to check answers</b>	shocked
	choose your own emotion
	choose your own emotion
	choose your own emotion
	choose your own emotion

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## What the Vlog??? (1)

In the novel, there are lots of words that relate to modern technology.

### Task 1: How Techno Savvy Are You?

Cut and paste the terms below into your workbooks and match them with the correct definitions.

Blog	A running diary/journal published on the internet that is shared with an individual, group of individuals or the general internet public.
Chatroom	A website where people go for social interaction. It is a forum for textual conversations; typed messages are communicated to the recipient in real time.
Download	To copy a file, document, graphic, etc from an internet website or a network onto your own computer, phone, camera or other device.
Emoticons	A symbol that uses the characters on a computer keyboard to convey emotions or tone in an electronic message, such as the sideways smiley face. :-)
Facebook	A social networking website where people can share their photos and other information with either the general internet public or a selected group of individuals.
Google (noun) To google (verb)	A web search engine, that is, a website that scans other web pages to find instances of the keywords entered in the search box. It is the most popular brand of search engine and the terminology has evolved into common usage.
Homepage	The first page (or screen) of a website. It is usually used as a welcome or organisational tool, with links to other pages on the site.
Website 'hits'	A website is when another internet user downloads (basically means 'looks at') that/ particular site on their computer.
MSN Messenger	Like e-mails in real time; a typed message is sent to another subscriber to the program. You can have a typed 'conversation' as messages are sent to and from the service almost immediately.
MySpace	Similar to Facebook. A social networking website where people can share their photos and other information with either the general internet public or a selected group of individuals.
SMS/Text Message	is a short, typed message sent to and from mobile phones. The message is typed/shown on the mobile phone display screen.
Upload	The opposite to download. To copy a file, document, graphic, etc from your own computer, camera, phone or other device, onto an internet website or a network.
Vlog	This is similar to a blog, except the diary entries are filmed video footage, rather than written entries.
YouTube	A free video sharing website which lets users upload, view, and share video clips.

## Mac Slater, Coolhunter

# What the Vlog??? (3)

A number of common abbreviations are used to communicate messages either through text messages or instant messaging services like MSN.

Words and phrases are shortened due to space and speed. You can't fit a lot of words into an SMS, so it cuts down on space. It is also a lot quicker to type abbreviations.

How many do you know?

SMS Speak	Correct Word or Phrase
lol	laugh out loud
gtg, g2g	got to go
l8r	later
brb	be right back
2	to, two, too
u	you
gr8	great
ur	your or you're
ru	are you
:)	☺, happy, good
:(	☹, sad
;-)	winking
atm	at the moment
cus / cos	because
y	why
b4	before
bf	boyfriend or best friend
btw	by the way
idc	I don't care
jj	just joking
plz	please
pos	parents over shoulder
sry	sorry
thx	thanks
<b>Add your own!</b>	

Highlight the ones you use regularly.

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter Dictionary

**Word:**

Part of speech (ie, noun, verb):

**Definition** (in your own words):

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**Illustration** of what the word means:

Some words you might wish to direct the students to:

beeline	parachute	launch	adrenaline	domestic
throttle	smear	devastated	spat	mystical
incense	proposition	climate	carnage	didgeridoo
kooky	snivelling	lugging	teepee	ramshackle
ethics	gauge	consumerist	pounding	lax
dingy	fumbled	perspex	lame	nurturing
sleuth	sludge	humiliate	caned	fracture
eyesore	bliss	prototype	solar	slaughtered
acceleration	infested	gullible	gnawing	ventured
tweak	dune	altitude	charisma	chaperone

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter Word Find

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

# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## Word Find – Clues!

- |     |                    |  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1.  | <b>TWEAK</b>       | to make a minor adjustment to; fine tune something   |
| 2.  | <b>COOLHUNTER</b>  | what Mac is trialing to be   |
| 3.  | <b>BANCKS</b>      | the surname of the author  |
| 4.  | <b>SMEARED</b>     | something that has been spread or daubed on something else   |
| 5.  | <b>KOOKY</b>       | another word for strange or weird  |
| 6.  | <b>DUNE</b>        | a sand hill formed by the wind   |
| 7.  | <b>LAME</b>        | weak or uncool   |
| 8.  | <b>TEEPEE</b>      | an American Indian tent  |
| 9.  | <b>LAX</b>         | not strict or severe, relaxed  |
| 10. | <b>DOMESTIC</b>    | relating to the house or household chores  |
| 11. | <b>SNIVELLING</b>  | to cry whilst sniffing   |
| 12. | <b>SLEUTH</b>      | a detective  |
| 13. | <b>ADRENALINE</b>  | a natural 'rush' or high   |
| 14. | <b>DIDGERIDOO</b>  | an aboriginal musical instrument   |
| 15. | <b>INCENSE</b>     | a nice-smelling type of perfume  |
| 16. | <b>THROTTLE</b>    | a device to reduce petrol flow to a motor  |
| 17. | <b>SOLAR</b>       | power provided by the sun  |
| 18. | <b>RAMSHACKLE</b>  | loosely made or held together  |
| 19. | <b>CLIMATE</b>     | what type of weather an area has   |
| 20. | <b>BARDO</b>       | the name of the market where Mac's mother has a stall  |
| 21. | <b>CARNAGE</b>     | the killing of a great number of people  |
| 22. | <b>DINGY</b>       | dull, dirty and shabby   |
| 23. | <b>PROTOTYPE</b>   | the original model on which something is based   |
| 24. | <b>BLISS</b>       | supreme happiness  |
| 25. | <b>HUMILIATE</b>   | to ridicule or embarrass   |
| 26. | <b>PARACHUTE</b>   | a piece of fabric designed to allow a person to float to safety                                      |
| 27. | <b>CONSUMERIST</b> | 'You're not a _____, Mac.' – Carolyn's reason why Mac Shouldn't participate in the coolhunter trial. |
| 28. | <b>VLOG</b>        | a video diary, broadcast on the internet   |
| 29. | <b>MYSTICAL</b>    | mysterious   |
| 30. | <b>JEWELS</b>      | the name of the girl who also grew up in the Arts Estate   |
| 31. | <b>LAUNCH</b>      | to throw or get going  |
| 32. | <b>BLOG</b>        | a diary broadcast on the internet  |
| 33. | <b>VENTURED</b>    | to embark upon something with a bit of a risk  |
| 34. | <b>LUGGING</b>     | to pull or carry something with force or effort  |
| 35. | <b>FUMBLER</b>     | to have handled something in a clumsy way  |
| 36. | <b>PORTER</b>      | Paul's surname   |
| 37. | <b>CHARISMA</b>    | a personal quality that make others like or be influenced by you                                     |
| 38. | <b>SLATER</b>      | Mac's surname  |
| 39. | <b>BIKE</b>        | the item Mac and Paul were trying to make fly  |
| 40. | <b>EGG</b>         | the name of Cat's boyfriend  |
| 41. | <b>GAUGE</b>       | a device used to measure or test something   |
| 42. | <b>DEVASTATED</b>  | to be really upset or overwhelmed  |
| 43. | <b>SPEED</b>       | the name of the English-accented owner of the Coolhunter site  |
| 44. | <b>CAROLYN</b>     | Mac's mother's name  |
| 45. | <b>EYESORE</b>     | something unpleasant to look at  |
| 46. | <b>SLUDGE</b>      | mud and slush  |
| 47. | <b>NEWYORK</b>     | Mac's dream destination  |



# Mac Slater, Coolhunter

## Chapter Review Questions

### Chapter 1

1. What are Paul and Mac trying to do?  
Paul and Mac are trying to create a flying bike.
2. What impression do you get of Paul and Mac? Write a paragraph to describe each of them, based on what you know so far.  
Paul seems to be a 'science nerd' and his appearance is very stereotypical. He likes inventing things and is afraid of almost everything.  
Mac seems more outgoing. Normal teenage boy – in love with the most popular girl, into action and bikes.

### Chapter 2

1. Why does Mac even bother considering talking to the two men in the Jeep?  
Mac considers talking to the men because Cat is in the car.
2. Why does Mac choose to meet the men near his mother's market stall, rather than jump in the car with them?  
Mac decides to meet them near his mother's stall because it is safer (stranger danger).
3. Who do you think the men in the Jeep might be?  
Teacher to check.

### Chapter 3

1. What is a vlog?  
A vlog is a video diary broadcast on the internet, similar to a blog.
2. What is a coolhunter and what do they do?  
A coolhunter is a teenager paid to find, report on and assess new products and decide if they are cool or not.
3. What was the most exciting part for Mac about being a coolhunter?  
The most exciting part for Mac was the trip to New York because he had always wanted to go there.

### Chapter 4

1. What do you think is in the package? How do you think it will help Mac 'change his mind'?  
Teacher to check.

### Chapter 5

1. Why didn't Mac open the package?  
Mac didn't open the package because he knew it would make him change his mind, and he didn't want to betray his friend.

## CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)

### Chapter 6

1. How did Mac try and convince Paul to let him enter the competition?  
Mac tries to convince Paul to let him enter by saying there was a Imaginator Invention Fest in New York, around the time Mac would be there if he won the Coolhunter competition.
2. Why do you think Paul does not want Mac to enter the competition, even though he knows New York is Mac's dream?  
Paul is probably jealous. Teacher to check other answers.

### Chapter 7

1. Where is Mac's dad? Why?  
Mac's dad is in prison. He staged a protest at the nearby nuclear facility.

### Chapter 8

1. What was in the package?  
The package contained a mobile phone and video camera.
2. Why do you think Paul's attitude changed about Mac entering the competition?  
Paul's attitude may have changed because he felt sorry for Mac after his bad day and realised it was Mac's dream. Teacher to check other answers.

### Chapter 9

1. What is Mac and Paul's other invention?  
Mac and Paul also invented a bike with a side car.
2. Where did they go to shoot 'cool'? What did they find?  
Paul and Mac went to the beach to shoot cool, but all they found was 'a whole lot of lame'. They also ran into Cat, who was shooting her vlog.

### Chapter 10

1. Why do you think Mac felt he couldn't 'say that stuff'?  
He probably felt like an impostor; that he wasn't 'cool' enough to say that. Teacher to check other answers.

### Chapter 11

1. From what is described on pages 61 and 62, do you think the vlog sounds cool? Why or why not?  
Teacher to check answers.
2. Who do you think will be the winner of this first round of vlogs – Cat or Mac and Paul? Why?  
Teacher to check answers.

### Chapter 12

1. Why was Mac in such a hurry?  
Mac was in a hurry to find out whose vlog had won the most votes.
2. In a paragraph, describe Mac's mother.  
Something like... Mac's mother is very alternative. She is into natural things and is a vegetarian. She is calm and relaxed and seems to care about Mac.

**CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)****Chapter 13**

1. Why do you think Paul avoided Mac?  
Paul probably avoided Mac because he was embarrassed by the fact their vlog had lost by so much and because he did not want to be teased like Mac.

**Chapter 14**

1. Why were the boys feeling so bad about the coolhunter competition?  
The boys were feeling bad about the competition because they didn't believe they could beat Cat, who was 'already cool'.
2. What do you predict Mac's idea is?  
Teacher to check answers.

**Chapter 15**

1. What do Mac and Paul decide to film for the vlog?  
Mac and Paul decide to film Mac's father's lightning farm in action for the vlog.
2. Why was Mac surprised that his dad might be home?  
Mac was surprised his father might be home because he was supposed to have been in prison for a further two months.

**Chapter 16**

1. Why do you think Paul was feeling uncomfortable at the houseboat? What does this tell us about him?  
Paul was probably feeling uncomfortable because he was a little scared; the houseboat was shabby, there were two great big dogs and Mac's father had just got out of prison. This tells us he is perhaps sheltered/protected by his parents.

**Chapter 17**

1. What are the boys planning to film for their final vlog?  
The boys are planning to film their flying bike for the final vlog.

**Chapter 18**

1. How was Mac feeling about the vlog on the lightning farm?  
Mac was feeling confident about the lightning farm vlog; he felt it was good.
2. Would you have liked Cat's vlog that night? Why or why not?  
Teacher to check answers.

**Chapter 19**

1. At the end of the chapter, why was Mac so keen to make it to the end of the competition? Why is this a little odd?  
Mac is keen to make it to Friday so he can show thousands of people his flying bike. This is a little odd because it seems he no longer cares whether or not he wins the competition.

**CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)****Chapter 20**

1. Why do you think Mac was looking up Wikipedia to find out the definition of cool was, then writing about this in his blog?  
This could be because he wants to know so he can stay in the competition; it could also mean that he is being reflective and pondering what it means to him; he is being true to himself.

**Chapter 21**

1. Why were the boys reasonably happy with the previous night's vlog results, even though they lost?  
The boys were pleased because they made up a lot of ground; they scored a lot more votes than the night before.
2. What did the boys want to film for their vlog that really impressed them?  
The boys were impressed by a Kitesk8 board; a skateboard with a kite attached to allow it to momentarily fly.

**Chapter 22**

1. Why were the boys so impressed by Denson's skateboard?  
The boys were so impressed with Denson's skateboard because it could fly – which is what they were trying to get their bike to do.

**Chapter 23**

1. Why is Mac's mother so worried about her son?  
Mac's mother is probably worried because Mac is really busy and she doesn't fully understand what is going on.

**Chapter 24**

1. Now that Mac and Paul can't use the propeller, how do you think they will get the bike to fly?  
Teacher to check answers.

**Chapter 25**

1. What do you notice about the only negative user comment we are shown?  
The only negative user comment was posted by Cat DeVrees.
2. Why do you think Cat wants to be friends with Mac?  
Cat probably wants to be friends with Mac because, as Paul suspects, she wants something from him; it is some sort of trick or plan to get him to lose.

**Chapter 26**

1. Why does Paul's mother ban him from any involvement in the competition?  
Paul's mother is worried. She does not know who the men are and probably does not understand the internet and how it works.
2. What clue do we get that more bad things are going to happen to Mac?  
The last line of the chapter tells us 'It was just the start of a very bad afternoon.'

## CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)

### Chapter 27

1. Who do you think took the video camera from the workshop and why?

Teacher to check answers.

### Chapter 28

1. How do you think the boys will fix this problem?

Teacher to check answers.

### Chapter 29

1. Who do you think was at Cat's house with her?

Teacher to check answers.

### Chapters 29-30

1. Why do you think Jewels was at Cat's house?

Teacher to check answers.

### Chapter 31

1. What was different about the way the boys' parents reacted in this chapter? Why do you think this is?

The parents realised this competition/bike meant everything to the boys and were much more supportive of their cause. Even Paul's father, whilst not being actively supportive, turned a blind eye to his son being out whilst grounded.

### Chapter 32

1. On page 186 it gives us a clue as to why flying is so important to Mac. What is this reason?

'From up there, there was no cool or uncool. There was just me and the air.' (p186) This tells us that Mac can be himself when he is flying and forget about trying to fit in at school.

### Chapter 33

1. What hiccup did the boys encounter?

There was a rip in the wing which meant the bike wouldn't fly, and they didn't have much time to fix it before Cat's party that night.

### Chapter 34

1. What did Cat spend most of her speech talking about? What does this tell you about her?

Cat spent most of her speech badmouthing Mac. This tells us that she thinks she might lose.

### Chapter 35

1. Do you think Mac will submit his vlog after being threatened by Egg? Why or why not?

Teacher to check answers.

## CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (continued)

### Chapter 36

1. What did Mac's father do that was surprising to Mac?  
Mac's father didn't leave after an argument as he always did. He also helped Mac fix the bike and paid for repairs of his own accord.

### Chapter 37

1. What does the feather taped to the bike symbolise?  
The feather taped to the bike symbolises Mac's mother's support for him.

### Chapter 38

1. Why has Mac snuck in to Cat's party?  
Mac snuck into Cat's party to try and find his video camera.

### Chapter 39

1. What did Jewels mean when she said that she was 'invisible' to Mac?  
Jewels probably meant that he always pushed her aside, or it could also mean that she was in love with him and he didn't reciprocate.

### Chapter 40

1. What cures Mac's obsession with Cat?  
Mac's obsession with Cat is cured when she insults him and slaps him across the face.

### Chapter 41

1. What does Mac mean when he says he had a vision of being turned into 'Cat food'?  
This is a pun – it means he will be beaten to a pulp to look like mush, or cat food, plus he also means that if he fails and falls off, he will be 'food' for either Cat's vlog or amusement.

### Chapter 42

1. When Mac was flying, why do you think he saw Cat and imagined her smiling?  
Mac imagined Cat smiling because he was living his dream at that moment and he didn't care if people had been mean to him; he hoped everyone was as happy as he was that moment.

### Chapters 43-44

1. Given the fact their footage of the flying bike was hard to see, what helped Mac's vlog win that night's votes?  
What helped Mac's vlog win was the video footage sent in by onlookers, as well as comments sent in by people at the party.
2. What surprise did Speed have for Mac?  
Speed's surprise for Mac was that Paul was able to go to New York with them.