A beginner's guide to Serial Mash

Overview

Serial Mash is an online library of fiction books for children. Its purpose is to inspire children to read for pleasure. New books are added at the beginning of each half-term and released in a serial format to keep readers on the edge of their seats. The main library is aimed at children aged 7-11 years old but we also have some books aimed at KS1 children.
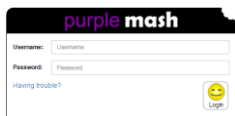
Ethos

Serial Mash is designed to inspire children to develop a love of reading, become better readers and provide support to busy teachers in the classroom.

Through the publication of bespoke weekly fiction Serial Mash leaves every chapter on a cliff hanger encouraging children to keep returning to find out what happens next. Home access is a key part of Serial Mash providing all children, regardless of background, with a growing library they can read for pleasure away from school. Everyone at Serial Mash is committed to helping children have a love of reading and develop the key life skill of reading.

The resources accompanying each chapter help ensure the children develop the skills to become higher level readers and save the teacher's time on preparing them for themselves.
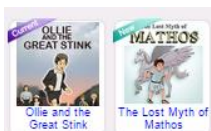
How it works

- When logged in as a teacher you can find the new books for the half term before they are released to pupils. They are found by looking in the Teachers Area, either:
  - go to the Teachers tab (on the main Purple Mash menu bar) to find the Serial Mash Teacher's Area within the Planning section.
  - or access the Serial Mash Teacher's Area by clicking on the Serial Mash button on the home screen.

- Children should click on the Serial Mash button on the on the Home Screen.
- New books are added at the start of each half-term.
  - Children get the KS2 books a chapter at a time.
  - New chapters are released on Mondays.
  - Each KS2 book is designed to last the length of the half term in which it is released.
  - KS1 books have 5 chapters each.
  - The back library of books is accessible at any time in a non-serialised manner so children can go back and read the books again.

Detailed breakdown of the activities

With each chapter, you get:

The chapter (Online and PDF)
- This can be read online where you can adjust the text size, font and colours. You can also click on underlined words to bring up a definition.
- Alternatively, you can download the PDF available inside the chapter to print and read offline.

Online multiple choice quiz (online)
- Test your knowledge of the chapter with the fast paced game-show style quizzes.

Multiple choice quiz (PDF)
- For those who prefer not to do the quiz online, we have prepared the quiz as a PDF that is ready to print and complete in class. This uses the same questions as the online quiz.

Story sequencing activity (PDF)
- In this activity you are presented with events from the chapter and asked to put them in order.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar activity (PDF)
- Here you are given a selection of activities that will help build on students' SPaG skills.

Open ended questions activity (PDF)
- These questions ask for answers based on the chapter. Students have to use their knowledge of the chapter and their comprehension skills to answer.

Extended writing activity (online)
- These activities are created using Purple Mash's publishing program and are developed specifically for each chapter.
- Each activity is designed based around the content of the chapter and contain sentence prompts and clipart as appropriate.
- You can also find the details of the extended writing exercise in the Teaching Resources pack if you do not want to complete it online.

All teaching resources including the answers to multiple choice questions and Spelling, punctuation and grammar questions (PDF – teachers only)
- This pack contains everything listed above that has PDF in parentheses after it.
- It also contains the answers to the multiple choice quiz, sequencing activity and SPaG activity as well as details of the extended writing activity.

Curriculum map that maps the book to the English and Welsh National Curriculum (PDF - available for the entire book – teachers only)
- The curriculum map shows which parts of the English and Welsh curricula for Reading, Spelling and Writing each individual book covers.

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Use this weekly plan to help you integrate Serial Mash into your guided reading sessions each day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Objectives	Links to the English and Welsh National Curricula for Literacy can be found in the teachers tab at the top of Purple Mash in the following place: Teachers → Curriculum Ideas and Resources → Serial Mash Teachers Section → Select the appropriate book				
Activity	**Read the chapter**	**Multiple Choice & Sequencing**	**SPaG: Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.**	**Open Ended Questions**	**Extended Writing**
Description	Read the new chapter from the current book. Read as a class or in small groups or part of reading intervention.	Complete the online multiple choice activity and the chapter sequencing activity. (both also available as a PDF)	Review and recap the chapter with your class and then ask the children to complete the spelling, punctuation and grammar activity.	Ask your class to complete the "open ended questions" activity individually, in pairs or small groups.	Review the chapter and then ask your students to complete the extended writing activity. This is an online activity that should be completed on student's individual Purple Mash accounts.
Notes		Answers to these activities can be found in Serial Mash's dedicated section for Teachers			
Other uses	Serial Mash is also a perfect resource for homework or to support reading interventions.				
Links	• http://www.purplemash.com/site#/serialmash • http://www.purplemash.com/site#/teachers/serialmash_teachers				