

# Welcome!



Thank you for downloading this Reflective Reading resource pack to accompany the novel *Tiger Skin Rug* by Joan Haig.

We really hope you enjoy reading and sharing Lal, Dilip, and Jenny's adventures with their magical tiger friend!

Please share your work with us on social media using the hashtag #TigerSkinRug. Be sure to tag the author @joanhaigbooks and @cranachanbooks!

Happy reading!

**Watch Joan \*almost live\* on YouTube:**

<https://youtu.be/VfoPLg6BFhI>

Joan Haig is also available for author visits and school events.

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Instagram: @joanhaigbooks



## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch1: Begin a **Character Mind Map** in your jotter or on the A4 sheet provided.

Fill in what you already know. Draw pictures, add notes, facts, and **quotes** as you meet new characters and learn more about them as the story develops.



## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch1:

In the car, Baba is trying hard to 'sell' the house he has bought to his family.

Create an attractive 'For Sale' poster for Greystanes, using details mentioned in the text.

Remember to mention that the house is being sold fully furnished and has an acre of ground!

## READ AND UNDERSTAND

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

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

## CONNECT 4

Ch1: **"But it wasn't home..."**



Try and put yourself in Lal's shoes and imagine how it would feel to leave your old life behind and move to a new country.

Discuss strategies you could use in school to make someone in that situation feel welcome.



  
**Reflective Reading**

**CHAPTERS**

**1-4**



## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch2: Begin an India Fact File.

Lal quickly spots differences between the climate in Scotland and India. Watch this Introduction to India clip: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0114qyl>

Find out the answer to the following questions and write them in your jotter. How many seasons does India have and how are the different seasons described? Write 3 other facts you learn from the film clip in your **India Fact File**.

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch3: **"My lassi filled me with happiness..."**

Find a recipe for **lassi** online and write and illustrate it in your **India Fact File**.

Perhaps you could have a go at making **lassi**, either in school or at home.

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch3:

Read the last section of Chapter 3, from **"The tiger skin rug was coming to life..."**

List some words and phrases in your jotter that the author uses to tell the reader that Lal is in a frantic rush to rescue his brother.

## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch 4:

Draw the tiger, using photographs of tigers and the information from the text to help you.

Annotate your drawing with descriptive words and phrases from the text: **honey-golden eyes, hefty paws** etc.





## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch5: Select two interesting **similes**. Discuss and explain them in your group. Which simile do you prefer? Why? Note your answers in your jotter.

Listen to the story of Rashiecoats, retold by Jean Edminton. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_nOt9g5eFo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_nOt9g5eFo)



## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch6:  
Discuss in your group what you think these words mean. Use a dictionary to find and write the meanings in your jotter. Use each one in a sentence. Can you think of a good **synonym** for each word?

1. poached
2. unpredictable
3. eavesdrop

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch7:  
Plan an overnight trip to London for Lal, Dilip and Jenny.

Find out the cost of 3 return train tickets to London from your local station.

Find Waterloo Station on a map of London and pick a budget hotel nearby.

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch5-8:

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

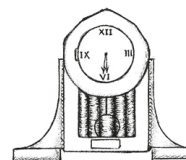


Are you curious to hear/read the rest?  
Why?

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



## Reflective Reading CHAPTERS 5-8



## CONNECT 4

Ch 7:  
Talk about a time you had an argument with a friend or sibling. What was the argument about?  
How did you feel?

Did you manage to resolve it? If so, how?

Discuss useful strategies you could use next time:  
empathising, active listening,  
no put-downs,  
brainstorming solutions.



## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch8:

Do some research and write 4 or 5 facts about Shakti or one of the other Hindu gods or goddesses in your **India Fact File**. Illustrate your work with a colourful drawing of Shakti riding on a tiger.

## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch8: Why did Lal not think of Jenny as brave?  
Why does he change his mind?

What new information have you discovered about the main characters in chapters 5-8?

Discuss and add to your own **Character Map** and **Chapter Summaries**.

## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch8:

Imagine Tiger Skin Rug is being made into a film.

Draw an annotated storyboard shot for the scene when the tiger takes flight. Include information on props, camera angles and close ups. What background music would you choose?



## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch9:

Read the exchange between the children and the Customer Services Manager. Write five words or phrases from the text which show he is annoyed with them.

Did you enjoy reading this scene?  
Why/Why not?



## INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Ch9: Put yourself in the shoes of the Customer Services Manager at Waterloo Station. Write his report of the incident on the platform.

NAME:

DATE:

CASE NUMBER:

LOCATION:

RECOUNT

At 6.54 am, on arrival at Platform 4, I came across three children. {description}. They appeared initially to be in need of assistance. However, ...

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch10: *"At first the city was still and sleepy..."*

What type of **literary device** is this? What effect does it have on the reader?

Find three **similes** and write them down.

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

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch11:

The children set off to find a small modern art gallery. Visit the Tate Gallery's Explore page and learn about one of the artists on show.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore>



  
**Reflective  
Reading**

**CHAPTERS  
9-12**



## CONNECT 4

Ch11:

Locate London and some other capital cities on a map of the UK and Europe.

Take turns to tell the group about the capital city you would most like to visit.

Give at least three reasons for your choice.



## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch11:

Read the opening section of dialogue between Joanna Ecks and Lal.

What words show that Lal is nervous and flustered? Can you think of other ways the author might have shown this?

## INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Ch12: *"The tiger...would help get us back to India and everything would be back to normal."*

**Discuss:** Is 'back to normal' possible now that Lal's family has moved to the UK? Predict what you think will happen next. Write the predictions on slips of paper and put them in a box to be opened at the end of the story. Discuss and add your own.

## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch12:

Draw the interior of NAILZ. Include Angela and the other three women in the shop. Add as much detail from the text as you can find, like the bunting, the beaded curtain, the manicure table etc.

Make your drawing of Angela as accurate as possible. You'll need to use your imagination when you draw the other women!

## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch13:

Use a dictionary to find and write the meanings of these words in your jotter.

1. crowed 2. cryptic 3. mannequin

*“The connection ... was slower than a three-toed sloth.”* Why do you think the author has used this simile? Write your own simile for slower than ...



## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch14:

Read from *“At the gates... to ... on our bottoms.”*

In your jotter list three energetic **verbs** used by the author in this section.

Write a short action scene of your own, using as many powerful **verbs** and dramatic **adjectives** as you can.

## INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Ch14:

Towards the end of the chapter, the children are bickering. According to Lal's narrator voice, *“The mission was about so much more than a few promises now.”*

What do you think he means by this? What reasons do they have to keep going?

## EXPLORE SOME MORE


Ch15: *“Mumbai was a mega city...”*

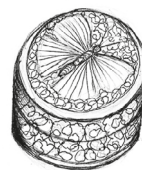
Find 5 facts about Mumbai and write them in your **India Fact File**.

**Namaste** is a respectful greeting in Hindi. *“Mera nama Lal hai.”* I spoke in Hindi—my name is Lal.

Practise greeting someone and saying ‘my name is ...’ in Hindi.



  
**Reflective  
Reading**  
**CHAPTERS**  
**13-16**



## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Watch this video clip about an 11-year-old boy living in poverty in Mumbai.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0114rp3>

Make a bright and attractive group poster to put up next to your school toilets, explaining that water is a vital resource and not to waste it by leaving taps running.

## INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Ch15:

Why do you think Lal looks away from Jenny when she gags at the smell of the slums?

What do you think Lal means when he describes Mani as *being more like broken glass than a shining gemstone*?

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch 16:

Find at least four phrases in the text that show Jenny's fury during the fight with Mani.

Update your **Character Map**, **India Fact File** & **Chapter Summaries**

## CONNECT 4

Ch16: *“Dilip was funny and carefree, Dilip was cute, and even the tiger had chosen Dilip.”*

Why do you think Lal feels envious of his younger brother? What strategies can we use to counter envy?

Think about focusing on our own strengths, using envy as self-motivation, and working on being grateful for all the positive things in our own lives. Make a list of the key strengths of each person in the group.





## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch17:

We learn about **Varsha**, the monsoon season. Go through the book and find other words in Hindi and find out their meanings.

Make a glossary of as many as you can, and add it to your **India Fact File**.



## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch17: Read from “*The tiger sprang up... to ...ink on thin tissue.*”

Find and list as many **literary devices** as you can  
e.g.: Similes:  
Metaphors:  
Word Choice:  
Punctuation:

Explain & discuss their effect on the reader.

## INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Ch17:

After being so keen to come ‘home’ to India, Lal seems to be missing some aspects of life in Scotland. Find two examples in the text.


Discuss why you think Lal might still be feeling ‘**homesick despite being home**’. Give at least three reasons.

## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch18: Look at Henri Rousseau’s famous painting **Surprised!** on this website.  
<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/henri-rousseau-surprised>

Follow the Make and Create instructions on the site to create foliage using cut or torn paper. Draw a tiger from oil pastels and place him in the undergrowth.



  
**Reflective  
Reading**  
**CHAPTERS**  
**17-20**



## CONNECT 4

Ch18: Midway through the chapter, Mani takes the tiger to go in search of the ring, but Jenny doesn’t trust Mani. Lal has lost a little trust in Jenny, since she lost the ring. The children often ‘trust’ the tiger.

Discuss ideas of ‘trust’. What does it mean to trust someone? How do we show this? When might we stop trusting someone? How do we regain trust if it is lost?



## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch19: Discuss in your group:

- Why does Jenny offer to stay behind?
  - In what ways does the professor’s appearance differ from his photograph?
  - “**Dilip was standing ...like a meerkat.**”
- Give two reasons why this simile works well.
- Why does Lal try to hide from Dilip the fact that he too is terrified?

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch19:

The **pipal tree**, also known as the **peepal** or **sacred fig**, is very important to Hindu culture.

Find out three facts about the pipal tree and add them to your **India Fact File**.

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch20:

Write 3 words or phrases that make the reader aware that the professor is struggling to believe the children’s story.

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

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch21:

<https://www.actionaid.org.uk/school-resources/resource/chembakolli-fairtrade>

Download Action Aid's Powerpoint and teacher's notes about a Fairtrade tea plantation in India. Take turns to be the 'teacher', who reads the slide notes aloud and asks the questions.



## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Ch21: Lal lists some instances when he heard bells. Why does he believe now that the sound of bells is significant?

Why did the professor and his son fall out all those years ago?

Over the years, how has the professor felt about their falling-out, and how does he feel now about being back in India?

## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch22: *"Tiger species are highly endangered now. If we're not careful, we will lose them forever."*

Choose a sub-species of tiger, and create a presentation about it. Include at least 5 interesting facts, plus information about how endangered your tiger is and about any conservation efforts being made to save it.

## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch23:

- What has Menon's father been doing to help to protect the local wildlife?
- Why does Lal go *'prickly all over'* when he hears that the shot tiger was never found?
- Who do you think is responsible for what happens to Menon in this chapter? Back up your reasoning with clues from the text.



  
Reflective  
Reading

CHAPTERS  
21-26



## CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Ch24: *"There are other animals than tigers..."*

India is home to a wide variety of birds and animals. The peacock is India's national bird.

Follow the instructions to create a beautiful peacock. You'll need paper, a black marker and oil pastels. <https://thecraftyclassroom.com/crafts/india-crafts-for-kids/peacock-oil-pastel/>

## READ AND UNDERSTAND

Ch25:

In the opening scene of this chapter, the children confront Kam, who is trying to trap the tiger.

Choose two of the characters (including the tiger) and write down words describing their body language.

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

Ch26: Read the beautiful description of the children's return flight from *"We flew...to... edges in the dark."*

Rewrite the passage using synonyms for each adjective and verb. Try to maintain the atmosphere of the original.  
Illustrate your work with a pencil drawing of the scene.

## CONNECT 4

Ch26:

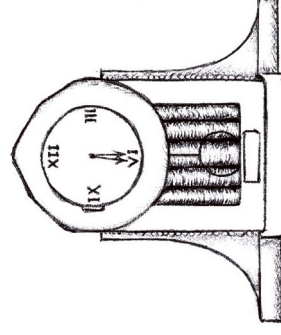
Read Lal's lovely list of what home means to him. He has thought carefully about the things that mean most.

Write your own Top 5 list of what home means to you.

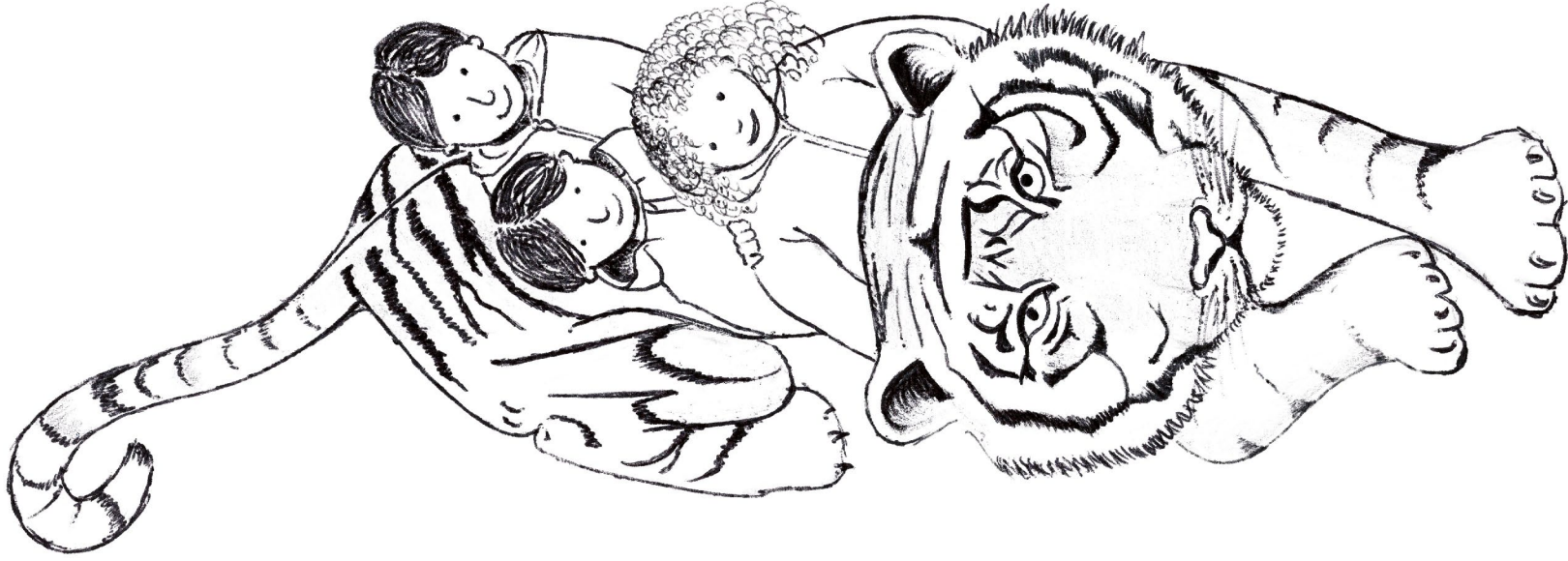


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Illustrations by Marian Brown







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