

Year 4 Spring 1 English Book

During Spring 1 term, Year 4 will be reading and learning about the text *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes.

Ted Hughes **the Iron Man**



The poet and children's writer Ted Hughes was born in Yorkshire, in 1930. His writing is immensely varied, but often concerns the relationship between nature and industry.

The Iron Man tells the story of a gigantic metal robot who appears out of nowhere, crashing onto the beach and shattering into many parts. He is discovered by a young boy called Hogarth, who becomes his friend. The Iron Man proceeds to devour farm machinery, until the farmers rise up against him and threaten to bring in the army.

Hogarth comes to his rescue and suggests that the monster should be left in peace to feed from the scrap metal yard.

But the Iron Man isn't the only strange creature to visit Earth. The story continues with appearance of the 'Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon', an alien monster from outer space. Will the Iron Man defeat him? Is he a friend or foe? Will there ever be lasting peace on Earth and harmony between man and nature?

It will be helpful for your child to have access to this book during the Spring half term so that they can start reading the story.

Year 4 will be writing a persuasive letter, a recount of the chapter using dialogue and an alternative ending to the story. Please find attached at the back of this letter a word mat with key vocabulary we will be using this term.

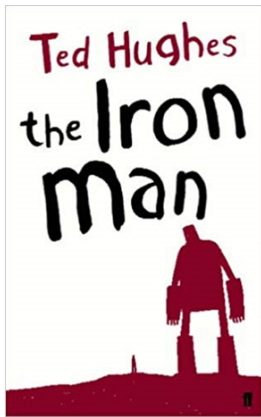
Some useful links for Spring 1 can be found on Espresso and BBC Bitesize:

Fronted adverbials: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmwgsk7>

Inverted commas for speech: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z4rbgwxx>

Please encourage your child to practise their Yr3/4 spellings that have been sent home with them along with timetables activities. Furthermore, it is expected that your child reads every night for a minimum of 20 minutes. They are assigned books on Bug Club weekly, which they can read along with other books or sources at home.

Iron Man Knowledge Organiser



Blurb:

'Reckoned one of the greatest of modern fairy tales.'

Observer

'Starts superbly with a clanking iron giant toppling from a cliff and lying smashed on the rocks below. Then his various parts get up and search for each other. Hughes has never written so compelling.'

The Times

Key Information:

Plot: Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction caused by the Iron Man. A trap is set for him, but he cannot be kept down. Then, when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world.

Setting: Science fiction/fairy tale: a coastal farm

Themes: bravery, prejudice, irrational fear, inclusion, teaching children not to fear people who are different to themselves, but to learn to understand and accept them. It is also critical of warfare and violence, showing how intelligence can succeed where weaponry fails.

Key Characters:

The Iron Man	The giant "metal man" of unknown origin
Hogarth	The local boy who lures the Iron Man
Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon	The space-being who resembles a dragon
Farm hands	Hatch a plan to trap and bury the Iron Man

Author Voice:

The Iron Man was a story for his own small children, and that he later wrote it out just as he had told it over three or four nights. He described the story as "like a kit or blueprint for putting together a little boy", and he said that he felt he should tell his children stories to make things possible for them: stories that allowed them to win. He described The Iron Man as bringing the boy into a friendly relationship with the mysterious world of technology and machines in such a way that he can control it. And, in the "creature from space", he said, "you have the terrible, possibly demonic world of what comes up from inside, out of the elements" and the boy and the Iron Man are "brought into a workable relationship with that, too."

Key Vocabulary:

Astronomer	(in general use) a tablet of any mild painkilling drug
brink	the extreme edge of land before a steep slope or a body of water
harmony	the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce a pleasing effect
hush	A silence
petroleum	a liquid mixture of hydrocarbons which is present in suitable rock strata and can be extracted and refined to produce fuels including petrol, paraffin, and diesel oil
Scrap metal	a small piece or amount of something, especially one that is left over after the greater part has been used.

Key Quotes:

"The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff. How far he had walked? Nobody knows. Where he had come from? Nobody knows. How he was made? Nobody knows."

"If you're all so peaceful up there, how did you get such greedy and cruel ideas?"
The dragon was silent for a long time after this question. And at last he said: "It just came over me. I don't know why. It just came over me, listening to the battling shouts and the war-cries of the earth - I got excited, I wanted to join in."

Discussion Points:

- Why would the Iron Man turn from villain to hero?
- What key message was Ted Hughes getting across?
- Which character would you describe as the bravest and why?

Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spellings

accident	caught	eighth	heard	minute	possible	strange
accidentally	centre	enough	heart	natural	potatoes	strength
actual	century	exercise	height	naughty	pressure	suppose
actually	certain	experience	history	notice	probably	surprise
address	circle	experiment	imagine	occasion	promise	therefore
answer	complete	extreme	increase	occasionally	purpose	though
appear	consider	famous	important	often	quarter	although
arrive	continue	favourite	interest	opposite	question	thought
believe	decide	February	island	ordinary	recent	through
bicycle	describe	forward	knowledge	particular	regular	various
breath	different	forwards	learn	peculiar	reign	weight
breathe	difficult	fruit	length	perhaps	remember	woman
build	disappear	grammar	library	popular	sentence	women
busy	early	group	material	position	separate	
business	earth	guard	medicine	possess	special	
calendar	eight	guide	mention	possession	straight	

These are the Year 3 and 4 statutory spelling words that your child.