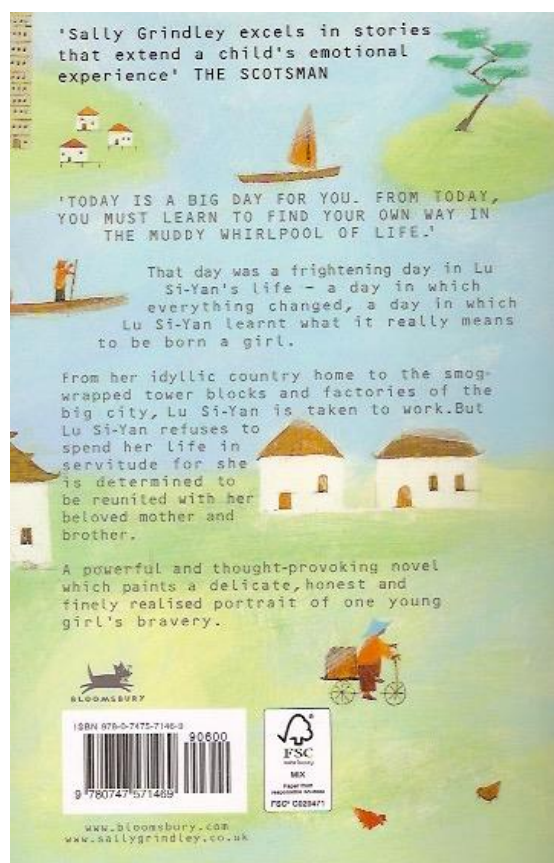
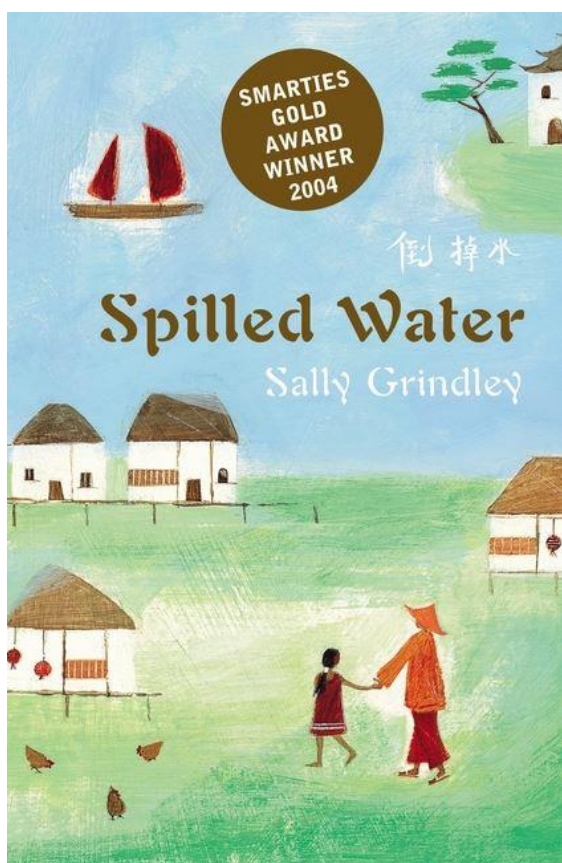


# Y8 English

## Novel

### Spilled Water

by Sally Grindley



Hello Y8, during the next six weeks you will be reading and completing a variety of tasks around the novel '**Spilled Water**'. This is a book that we have read to many classes at Stocksbridge High School and our past students have always really enjoyed it. We have no doubt you will as well.

We have provided a **PDF version** of the novel so that you can read along at home. Alternatively, you may wish to buy the book as a paper copy, a kindle version or through google play, where you can download it and listen to the story.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Spilled-Water-Sally-Grindley-ebook/dp/B0031KG1E0/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=spilled+water&qid=1586525105&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Spilled-Water-Sally-Grindley-ebook/dp/B0031KG1E0/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=spilled+water&qid=1586525105&sr=8-1)

[https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Sally\\_Grindley\\_Spilled\\_Water?id=pO38mQx-hSIC](https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Sally_Grindley_Spilled_Water?id=pO38mQx-hSIC)

Each week you will be set **FOUR activities** that you should aim to complete. There is an **EXTENSION** task for each activity, should you wish to challenge yourself further. We recommend that you share your work with your teacher each week, either on Show My Homework or by email, so that we can see how you are working.

There are a variety of activities to help you learn in different ways. The following **symbols** indicate what you have to do for each activity.

**READ**



**WRITE**



**DISCUSS**



**CREATE/DO**



**WATCH**



**EXTENSION TASK**



## ACTIVITY 1



Follow the link to hear what the author, Sally Grindley, has to say about her novel Spilled Water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XqZgBARtKQ&t=15s>



Why do you think Sally Grindley wrote the book?

What does she hope her audience will gain from reading the book?

What are your first impressions of the book?

Can you make any plot predictions?



Sally Grindley feels passionate about her subject matter. If you could write a book what would it be about? Explain your choices.

## ACTIVITY 2



Using the following **images** as a starting point, **research China** to find at least **TEN facts** about the country and the people who live there. You should present your findings as a **PowerPoint** presentation OR a **poster**.



Write a 'CHINA' **acrostic poem** using the findings from your research.

*Maybe this day is not  
One of your favorites, but  
Never forget that every  
Day you wake up is an  
Amazing gift and it's up to  
You to make it count.*

Suddenly **S**pring is here.  
Flowers **P**ush up through the cold ground.  
Streams **R**un cold with melted snow.  
Birds sing **I**n chorus.  
Nothing beats a **N**ice spring day.  
After a lon **G** hard winter!  
By Tammy Worcester

## ACTIVITY 3



Spilled Water focuses on child labour. This is defined as, “*work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity*”.

**Find** the definitions for the following words: deprives, potential and dignity.

Read the following **article** and **answer the questions**.

### 167 children rescued in China child labour crackdown



Chinese police have rescued 167 children sold into labour in factories after an undercover newspaper investigation alleged that more than 1,000 had been sold "like cabbages", reports said today. The state media said authorities in Dongguan, in the southern province of Guangdong, had launched a drive to rescue them.

The report claimed that children as young as seven, from the ethnic Yi minority, had been sold at a street market in the south-western province of Sichuan before being driven in trucks over 600 miles to the Pearl river delta. Many had fake papers certifying they were adults; more had documents saying they were in their early teens. The youngest was just seven.

China announced a nationwide crackdown on slavery and child labour last year after reports that hundreds of poor farmers, children and mentally disabled people were being forced to work in kilns and mines in Shanxi and Henan provinces, with some beaten to death when they rebelled or tried to escape.

The latest scandal emerged when Sichuan residents tipped off Southern Metropolis Daily about the market. A reporter from the newspaper, well known for its investigative reporting, posed as a clothing factory manager. He was allowed to inspect the children and agreed to pay them 3.5 yuan (25p) an hour. But the newspaper said the children's recruiters could earn around 100,000 yuan within three months and claimed agents within the organisation could earn 200-300 yuan for each child.

China Daily, the official English language newspaper, said Dongguan's party secretary, Liu Zhigeng, had instructed the police and labour departments to crack down on the problem, rescue all youngsters and punish those responsible.

"Our labour enforcement and trade union will investigate all companies in the town, the labour market and agencies," Wang Yongquan, a spokesman, said.

He Zhujian, head of the city's labour enforcement team, said: "Most of the employers are medium-to-small companies. Most small firms are not registered with the labour departments and try to cut operational costs."

Hou Yuangao, a professor with the Central University for Nationalities, told China Daily poverty drove families to send their children to work.

"In Liangshan, where farming alone cannot support a family, children as young eight or nine are sent out to work," he said. "Many parents are happy their children are earning several hundred yuan a month."

Now answer these **questions** in **full sentences**. An example *starter sentence* has been done for you.

1. How many children were rescued from the factories? *The number of children rescued from the factories...*
2. How many children have been sold?
3. How old were the youngest children that were found?
4. Where were the children sold?
5. Where were the children forced to work?
6. How much did the agents earn for each child?
7. What is the name of the English Language newspaper?
8. Who is the head of the city's labour enforcement team?
9. What type of work mostly supports a family?
10. How much do children earn a month doing this type of work?



Imagine you were one of the children rescued. Write an **account of your experience**. You should focus on life in the factory, tasks you were forced to complete, the moment you were rescued and your hopes for the future.

## ACTIVITY 4



Learn the **key words** and their **definitions**. Get a family member to test you.

### Key words

Word	Definition
1. Slavery	A condition of having to work very hard without appreciation.
2. Exploited	To treat a person or situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for yourself.
3. Resilience	The ability of people or things to recover quickly after something unpleasant.
4. Perseverance	The quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties.
5. Companionship	The pleasant feeling that you have when you have a friendly relationship with somebody and are not alone.
6. Bravery	To be willing to do things that are difficult, dangerous or painful.
7. Optimism	A feeling that good things will happen and that something will be successful.
8. Journey	A long and often difficult process of personal change and development.
9. Challenge	A new or difficult task that tests somebody's ability and skill.
10. Forgiveness	The act of forgiving somebody; the quality of being willing to forgive somebody.



Put each word into a sentence.

Example

- Each person showed true **bravery** during this very difficult time.



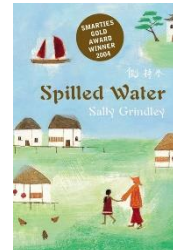
## ACTIVITY 5



Today you will start reading the **novel Spilled Water**.

But before we do, we need a **recap**. Tell a family member or friend the answers to the following questions.

- Who is the author of Spilled Water?
- Why did she write her novel?
- Can you give five facts about China?
- In the article, how many children were sold into the factories?
- What does the word 'resilience' mean?



Now read **chapters 1 – 5 (pages 1 -9)** of the novel Spilled Water.



*After reading...*

What do learn about **Lu Si Yan's family life**? Focus on chapter 2 (pages 3-4)

You should **summarise** your ideas in **50 words**.



Family is very important to Lu Si Yan. Explore your own family and discuss what is important to you all. Present your thoughts in a **30 second video**.

## ACTIVITY 6



What can you remember from Chapters 1 -5 (pages 1 -9).

**Draw three pictures** to show your understanding of what happened in these chapters.



On pages 6 and 7 we learn more about **Uncle Ba**. **Read** this again and answer the **questions** in full sentences.

Uncle Ba was my father's brother. He was ten years older than my father. He had helped their mother to bring up my father when their father had died. I didn't like Uncle much. I thought he was bossy, and he didn't smile very often. He was always interfering in our lives, telling Father that he should go and work in a factory to earn more money, that he spoilt me, that I should go to a minder so that Mother could find work.

Father would chuckle and say, 'Your heart is filled with stone, my brother,' but I knew that he was bruised by such words of disapproval from someone he loved. I once overheard him tell my mother that Uncle had been the most devoted brother to him when they had grown up together, and that he would forgive my uncle anything. He admitted, however, that Uncle had changed since wealth and position had come his way.

Uncle Ba lived in a large house on the other side of the village, though we were never invited to visit. He caught a bus every day to travel to a factory two hours away. He had been a farmer like my father, but had been delighted to give up such gruelling work. He had never married. He used to say that he felt himself incapable of devoting enough time, energy and affection to one person to make them happy, especially having spent so many years looking after my father. Once, when Father wasn't listening, Mother said that Uncle had become far too selfish to invite anyone into his life and how fortunate that was for womankind.

Uncle was family, though, and family was important. Both my father's parents were now dead, as were my grandparents on my mother's side. Father would do anything for his brother, and regularly took him the pick of his vegetables and his prize catch of fish. He invited him to eat with us at least four times a week, even when we were short of food for ourselves. Uncle would sit there telling us about his new life and how much money he was making, how respected he was now and how he expected one day to be able to run his own business.

'Just think, brother,' he would often say, 'if you were like me, you would be able to dress your wife in fine clothes, and she would be able to serve up a meal fit for an emperor instead of a pauper.'

Mother would bridle with anger and reply, 'He is not like you, and I have no desire for fine clothes.'

'Nonsense,' Uncle would insist. 'Every woman yearns for fine clothes.'

'We are happy as we are,' Father would say quietly. 'People are all different in their needs.'

Mostly, Uncle ignored me, except to criticise my table manners, or my behaviour, or, being a female child, the burden I imposed upon my family. I didn't



understand what he meant by that at the time, but I knew that he didn't think much of me. Once, when Uncle spent a whole evening telling me not to put my head in my food, not to lick my chopsticks, not to jig up and down, not to hum, not to speak unless I was spoken to, I kicked him under the table, hard on the shin, and pretended it was an accident. He didn't believe me and demanded that I be sent out of the room. My parents resisted, certain that I would never do such a thing on purpose, and I stayed. Uncle went home, furious. I was triumphant. Father looked at me and said, 'I hope you didn't kick your uncle on purpose,' then he winked and turned away without another word.

1. What does Father say Uncle Ba's heart is filled with?

2. Where does Uncle Ba live?

3. How does Uncle Ba travel to work?

4. Why do you think Uncle Ba didn't get married?

5. How many times a week did Uncle Ba eat with the family?

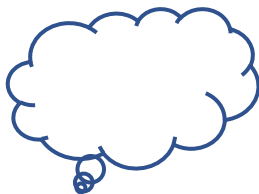
6. During these meals what did Uncle Ba talk about?

7. How did Uncle Ba treat Lu Si Yan?

8. What does Lu Si Yan do to Uncle Ba at the dinner table?



Imagine you are sat at the dinner table with the family and you can see into their minds. **Draw a thought bubble** for each character (Lu Si Yan, Father, Mother and Uncle Ba).



## ACTIVITY 7



Unscramble the following **key words**.

yvesarl

ptdexloei

celiresine

ceseperarvne

Now read **chapters 6 – 11 (pages 10 -24)** of the novel Spilled Water.



**Video call a friend** to discuss Spilled Water.

What have you enjoyed so far in the book? What questions do you have?

## ACTIVITY 8

What was to become of me? I was eleven years old, far from my home, far from my family, in the hands of a stranger, and nobody cared. As I followed Mr Chen from the building, I was certain of only one thing: that no matter what happened, one day, one day soon, I would see my mother again.



**In chapter 10 (pages 16-18),** Lu Si Yan is sold at the market. Using the following images as inspiration, write a first-person account of the experience. If you need them, use the paragraph guide and key vocabulary to help you. You should aim to **write for 30 minutes**.



**Paragraph 1**

The taxi journey. Focus on the countryside around you.

- Start with an 'ing' word.

**Paragraph 2**

Arriving outside the wooden barn. Seeing the other girls.

- Include a simile.

**Paragraph 3**

Lining up with the other girls, being chosen by the man.

- Include smell/sound and personification.

**Paragraph 4**

Leaving Uncle Ba behind, seeing the other girls leave.

- Include a metaphor.

**Key vocabulary**

petrified  
neglected  
apprehensive  
obscured  
stench  
familiarity  
foreboding  
ramshackle  
isolated  
vulnerable  
filthy  
deafening  
yearning

**Success Criteria**

- Develop your ideas in detail
- Use interesting and exciting vocabulary
- Use clear and linked paragraphs
- Use a range of sentences
- Use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar



Highlight your **best sentence** and explain why you have chosen it.

Can you read your piece of writing to a family member?

Ask them for some feedback. What did they enjoy? What changes would they make?

## ACTIVITY 9



**After reading chapters 1 -11** (from a previous task) you should complete the cloze exercise to show your understanding.

In the beginning of the novel we learn that \_\_\_\_\_ lives in \_\_\_\_\_ China with her family. Lu Si Yan enjoys spending time with them and always likes going into town with her \_\_\_\_\_ on his rickshaw. Her father works in the rice \_\_\_\_\_ and her mother looks after the home. Although they are not a \_\_\_\_\_ family they are happy. Lu Si Yan enjoys reading, playing \_\_\_\_\_ and spending time with friends. Uncle Ba is father's \_\_\_\_\_ brother and he visits the family four times a week to eat a meal with them.

Lu Si Yan believes that Uncle Ba is a \_\_\_\_\_ but she understands that family is important. Tragedy strikes when Lu Si Yan's Father dies. Unfortunately, more \_\_\_\_\_ follows as Lu Si Yan's Mother falls ill and struggles to \_\_\_\_\_ with the loss of her husband. Although she tries hard to support her family she becomes very \_\_\_\_\_ with a terrible fever. A terrible drought means that life is incredibly challenging for the family. Uncle Ba must support the family even more during this time. After a conversation with Mother it becomes clear that the family cannot survive much longer. Lu Si Yan is taken to a \_\_\_\_\_ and sold as a domestic servant to \_\_\_\_\_.

Lu Si Yan	older	fields	cope	Mr Chen
market	rural	wealthy	father	
devastation	bully	mahjong	ill	



Now read **chapters 12 – 13 (pages 25 -34)** of the novel Spilled Water.

**On page 28** Lu Si Yan goes shopping in town with Mrs Chen.

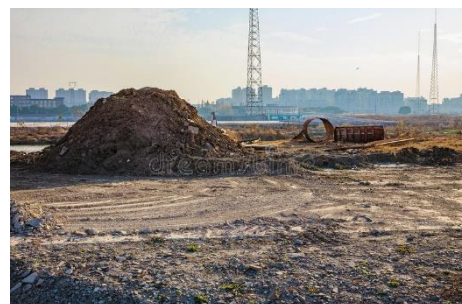


Imagine you could go on a huge shopping spree. Explain **where** you would go, **who** you would go with and **what** you would buy. You have £1000 to spend!

## ACTIVITY 10



In **chapter 12** we learn about Lu Si Yan's new home. **Read** the extract again and complete the **four questions**.



It was a pretty room, a clean room, a finer room than any I had seen before. 'This is my room,' I tried out, rejecting the idea even as I said it.

I was beginning to swelter under the weight of my blanket, and curiosity was getting the better of my fear of intruders. With one swift movement, I thrust the blanket aside, leapt across the room and peered out through the curtains.

We were miles up in the air! I'd had no idea. A dull mist clung to the dozens of bright, white apartment blocks on either side, and hovered eerily below. It was thin enough for me to be able to make out the decrepit tops of older apartment blocks on slopes further down. Around and beyond them lay a vast, desolate, rubble wasteland. Where was this place? I wondered. Not a hint of colour punctured the whiteness of the new apartment buildings, the mottled white of the mist and the blotchy greyness of the older landscape. I felt as though I were looking out on a ghost city where some imaginable catastrophe had occurred.

1. How is Lu Si yan feeling at this point? E.g. shocked
2. **Highlight** three quotations that show how Lu Si yan is feeling.
3. **Pick one quotation** and write as much as you can about what it suggests to the reader. Use the example below to help you.



### "We were miles up in the air"

This suggests that Lu Si Yan is feeling shocked. She will never have been in a high-rise building like this one and she would have thought it new and possibly exciting.

4. Write a **PEED (point, evidence, explanation, development) paragraph** using your ideas. How does the writer use **language** to show these feelings?

Use the example below to guide you. If you need the *sentence starters*, please use them.



Li Su Yan is in **shock** because she has never spent time in such a luxurious place before. This is shown when Li Su Yan tries out 'This is my room'. The way she 'tries' out implies she cannot quite believe it. She refuses to accept it is her own space. This highlights the contrast between the place she is now with her new home.

Although she states that she has never seen a grander place before, there is a sense that she doesn't like where she is. Lu Si Yan feels **uneasy**. This is first shown when she leaps out of her bed saying that she was beginning to 'swelter under the weight of my blanket'. This could give an underlying sense of tension and entrapment. Li Su Yan is beginning to feel claustrophobic and uneasy in her new enclosed space. Although it is fancy, it is extremely different to her home where she was not cooped up in a small room and was free to go wherever she liked. The weight of the blanket is a metaphor for the weight of all that has happened to her and it is beginning to get too much and she may soon long to escape. This is also shown when she looks out of her bedroom window...

**Point** - Lu Si Yan is feeling...because....

**Evidence** -In the text, it says that..." "

**Explanation** - This could suggest that...

**Development** - It could also show





What would your **ideal bedroom** look like? Draw a picture and annotate it with all your super ideas.

## ACTIVITY 11



Unscramble the following **key words**.

Yevrbar

nmcophispanio

smiotpmi

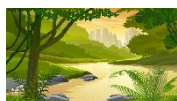
ryneoj



Now read **chapter 14 (pages 35 - 37)** of the novel Spilled Water.



Look at the following **images** and **explain** how they link to chapter 14.



*For example: The picture of the river represents the view from Lu Si Yan's bedroom. Seeing this river gives her hope for the future. The river is a metaphor for her journey home and how one day she will travel down it and return to the happiness and security of the life she had before she was sold at the market.*



**Friendship** is important in this chapter.

At this time, it is really important to keep in touch with our friends. **Send them a message** telling them how much they mean to you. 😊



Using some of the **key words** for this unit of work, **explain** Lu Si yan's journey so far.

Slavery
Exploited
Resilience
Perseverance
Companionship
Bravery
Optimism
Journey
Challenge
Forgiveness

## ACTIVITY 12



Read the key word definitions and **fill in the missing key words**. The first letter is there to help you BUT cover it up if you do not need it!

Word	Definition
1. S_____	A condition of having to work very hard without appreciation.
2. E_____	To treat a person or situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for yourself.
3. R_____	The ability of people or things to recover quickly after something unpleasant.
4. P_____	The quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties.
5. C_____	The pleasant feeling that you have when you have a friendly relationship with somebody and are not alone.
6. B_____	To be willing to do things that are difficult, dangerous or painful.
7. O_____	A feeling that good things will happen and that something will be successful.
8. J_____	A long and often difficult process of personal change and development.
9. C_____	A new or difficult task that tests somebody's ability and skill.
10. F_____	The act of forgiving somebody; the quality of being willing to forgive somebody.



Now read **chapters 15 - 17 (pages 38 - 47)** of the novel Spilled Water.



We learn more about **Yimou** in these chapters. Look at the following **FIVE** quotations and **discuss Yimou's character** with a friend or family member.

**1**

He was so handsome that I must have gawped,

**2**

'No hot towels, Grandma.' Yimou leant conspiratorially across the table to whisper loudly to Mrs Hong.



3

'Pretty girl, Grandma.'

4

seemed I was destined to marry a boy who was as handsome as any girl could wish, but who acted like a very young child, though he looked about eighteen.

5

child was brain-damaged at birth. She has never come to terms with it, wants someone to blame, and is desperate for Yimou to be normal. Of course he won't ever be, but he's such a sweetheart. The trouble is, my daughter-in-law simply can't cope with the burden of him.'

You could perhaps consider:

- How does Grandma protect Yimou?
- Why do you think Mr and Mrs Chen are planning the marriage?
- How do you think life could be difficult for Mrs Chen?
- How does Lu Si yan feel towards Yimou?
- What advice would you give to Lu Si yan?



If you had the opportunity to **meet Grandma**, what would you like to ask her? Try to think of FIVE questions.

# ACTIVITY 13



After reading chapters 12 - 17 (from a previous task) you should read the following statements and decide which ones are **TRUE** and which ones are **FALSE**.

STATEMENT	TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)
Lu Si Yan has to share a bedroom at the Chen's apartment	
Lu Si Yan eats the tastiest meal of her life when she arrives at the apartment	
Lu Si Yan learns how to do the housework	
Mrs Chen takes Lu Si Yan on a shopping trip	
Xiong Fei is a cleaner for the Chens	
Xiong Fei agrees to post a letter for Lu Si Yan	
Yimou has learning difficulties	
Mrs Hong is really nasty to Lu Si Yan	
Lu Si Yan has help cooking the meal on Sunday	
Xiong Fei is sacked from his job	



Now read **chapters 18 - 19 (pages 48 - 54)** of the novel Spilled Water.

After perhaps an hour, maybe two hours, the voices and the music stopped. I was struggling to keep my eyes open, but I stayed awake for another half an hour or so, before deciding that the two men must be asleep and that I was safe at least for a while. I lay down, pulled the collar of my coat round my ears, wrapped the blanket round the lower part of my body and hid my bag under it as well, then fell asleep myself.



Using the above extract as inspiration, **write Lu Si Yan's diary entry**. You should focus on her leaving the Chen's apartment, missing the ferry and spending the night in the abandoned apartment block. You should aim to write for **20 minutes**.

## Success Criteria

- Develop your ideas in detail
- Use interesting and exciting vocabulary
- Use clear and linked paragraphs
- Use a range of sentences
- Use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar

## Key vocabulary

adrenaline  
frustrated  
dread  
startled  
neglected  
exhaustion

*My heart was pounding...*

*I had never known kindness like this...*

*Glancing around my torture chamber...*

*Freedom was within my grasp...*



Do you think Lu Si Yan should have made **different choices**?

Pick **three things** that you would advise she did after leaving the Chen's apartment.

## ACTIVITY 14



The last activity was to read chapters 18 – 19. Tell a friend or family member what happened to Lu Si Yan during these chapters.



Now read **chapters 20 - 21 (pages 55 - 67)** of the novel Spilled Water.



After reading chapters 20 and 21, show your understanding by writing **three headlines** to summarise the events. For example:

WAVING GOODBYE TO HELL

FACTORY FARCE

**'BEAR'LY TIME TO SEW**

**CHALLENGE** - can you use a **device**? E.g Alliteration, rhetorical question, pun etc.



Write a **newspaper article** to go with one of the headlines? Remember to use the 5ws (who, what, when, where and why). You should focus on Lu Si Yan and her **arrival at the factory**.

## ACTIVITY 15



Using your knowledge from **chapters 20 and 21**, write **five questions** for the answers below. An example has been done to help you.



If the ANSWER is '**ferry**' the QUESTION could be '**Which mode of transport did Lu Si Yan travel on?**'

Here are the answers, now you should write the question.

1. money
2. factory
3. bear
4. Li Mei
5. Sunday



Watch the following YouTube clip about a **Chinese toy factory**.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTo-CKSP7WE>



Make **three cue cards or draw a picture** to show your understanding of the key points discussed in the YouTube clip.



What is your opinion of the **Chinese toy factory**? Make a **video** explaining your thoughts and send it to a family member or friend.

## ACTIVITY 16



Unscramble the following **key words**.

glceaenhI

sgenofresiv

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



You have now read four more chapters of the novel *Spilled Water* (chapters 18 – 21). Now complete these **two activities** to show your understanding.

Match the word to the correct definition.

Word	Definition
1. Appalled	A – a deep, long noise
2. Derelict	B – to have control in a commanding way
3. Dismay	C – a low noise made in the throat
4. Roared	D – to be horrified and shocked at something
5. Delved	E – to find something funny
6. Dominated	F – to reach inside and search for something
7. Nauseating	G – in a very poor condition
8. Amusing	H – to feel sick
9. Growled	I – to feel concern at something unexpected
10. Protectiveness	J – to keep safe from harm

1. Who was **appalled** at her son and daughter in law? Page 48
2. Who grew nearer to the **derelict** buildings? Page 50
3. Who stared in utter **dismay** at the departing ferry? Page 51
4. What **roared** into action? Page 53
5. Who **delved** to the bottom of her bag? Page 53
6. What **dominated** the room in the factory? Page 55
7. What was **nauseating** for Lu Si Yan? Page 56
8. What did Lu Si Yan find **amusing** to watch? Page 56
9. Who **growled** at Lu Si Yan? Page 59
10. Who provided **protectiveness** to Lu Si Yan? Page 61



Use the words in **red** to write 10 sentences.

For example:

*The teacher was **appalled** at the behaviour of some students.*