

# Ross MacKenzie

# CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER TEACHING RESOURCES



The captivating story of a brave girl struggling to find her place in a world where her very appearance puts her in danger.

Years ago, the Emperor used dark magic to steal all the colour from the world. Now he keeps it for himself, enjoying its life-giving power while everyone else must exist in cold shades of grey. That is, until a miracle baby is born - everything she touches turns to colour. But the child's life is in danger from her very first breath. Soon the Emperor's murderous Ripper Dogs and Black Coats come hunting.

Can the girl and her adopted father survive in the forest - and what will it take to return colour and hope to the world?

From Blue Peter Book Award and Scottish Book Award winning author Ross MacKenzie, *The Colour of Hope* explores themes of tolerance, belonging, loss and friendship.

























Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Activities				
Part One: The Wish							
Chapter One: In Which a Wish is Made (pages 3-7)	<ul> <li>What are your first impressions of the boy and his Grandma?</li> <li>Why can he tell that her displeasure is an act?</li> <li>Who is the old woman afraid of hearing her stories about colour? Why? What could happen to her?</li> <li>What does Darroch make his wish upon seeing?</li> <li>What is your favourite colour and why?</li> </ul>	Write a paragraph describing what your favourite colour looks and feels like. Try to be as descriptive as you can.	ART • Draw a picture of what you see around you. Use only pencil to draw in black and white, and shades of grey, as has been described in the first chapter of the book.				
Chapter Two: In Which a Remarkable Child is Born (pages 8-11)	<ul> <li>From the first page of this chapter, predict who you think the child will grow up to be and what will be their impact on the world.</li> <li>Act out Miss MacLean staring 'wild-eyed'. What does this mean?</li> <li>What has Tom always dreamed of?</li> <li>According to Tom, who has taken away the colour?</li> <li>What is the one important difference that Tom notices? Why does this cause Tom and his wife to want to leave the city?</li> </ul>	The Black Coats and the Ripper Dogs are mentioned again in this chapter. Write a short paragraph predicting who you think these characters are and the roles they will play later on in the story.	SCIENCE • Research what a midwife does and explain their job by writing a short report.  RE • Tom's wife Sarah describes their baby as a miracle. Learn more about what miracles are and their significance in different religions.				
Chapter Three: In Which Tragedy Strikes and Fate Intervenes (pages 12-18)	<ul> <li>What form of transport do Tom and Sarah take out of the city?</li> <li>Why does Sarah begin to cry after seeing the cottage move out of sight?</li> <li>How does the author create pace and tension effectively during this chapter?</li> <li>What is the name of the man who rescues the baby?</li> <li>Why does he shake his head when taking one last look at the scene around him?</li> </ul>	List at least five verbs which show the violent actions of the Black Coats and Ripper Dogs. Use these in sentences of your own to show your understanding.	DRAMA • In small groups, re-enact the chaotic scenes of this chapter. Freeze-frame at different points to reflect on what each character is feeling. Don't use any dialogue. Make sure to show the reactions of Tom and Sarah towards the Black Coats and the Ripper Dogs.				



















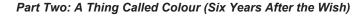












# Chapter Four: In Which a Journey Begins (pages 21-37)

- What is a dominion?
- What is the name of the girl? Why do you think this name has been given to her?
- What new information do we learn about Hope in this chapter?
- Why has the Emperor taken all the colour?
- Summarise the character of Sandy Burns in three words.

Write a diary entry from Hope's perspective detailing the events of this chapter and finding out about herself and her parents. Think about the different emotions she experiences.

Create a medical leaflet about Hope's medicine. What are her symptoms? When should she take her medicine, and how can her colourful condition be treated?

unique and the many ways in which we can celebrate these.

**PSHE** • Hope takes medicine to

hide her differences. Discuss more about how our differences make us

## Chapter Five: In Which **Darroch Begins** a New Project (pages 38-43)

- What does the saying 'Spick and span' mean?
- Do you feel any sympathy for Darroch having to work for his Grandma on his birthday?
- What does Grandma give as a present to Darroch?
- Who has been the inspiration behind Darroch wanting to learn how to paint?
- What do we find out about the Rainbow League at the end of this chapter?

Using colour thesauri, make lists of different shades of colours like Darroch mentions in this chapter such as Yellow Ochre, Raw Umber and Burnt Sienna. Use them within your writing to describe the colours of places, objects and things.

**ART** • Darroch says that he has created a self-portrait in this chapter. Investigate the artistic world of self-portraiture by looking at famous self-portraits such as those by Frida Kahlo, Vincent van Gogh and Rembrandt. Paint your own self-portrait in a similar style or a style of your own.

#### Chapter Six: In Which Moonlight is Collected (pages 44-53)

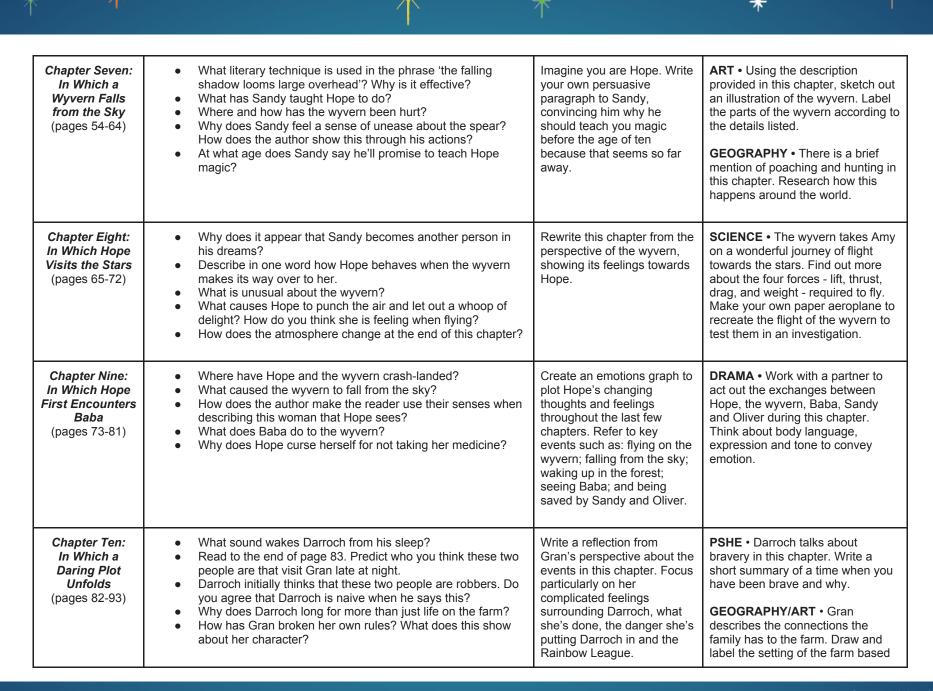
- How has Sandy helped the little girl and her family?
- Who is Oliver, and what is Hope's response when Oliver tells her to forget about colour?
- Why does Sandy bring Hope to the pond?
- How is this pond special? What are the signs of spotting that a pond is a moonpond?
- How do you think Hope might feel about Sandy in this chapter? How is their relationship growing?

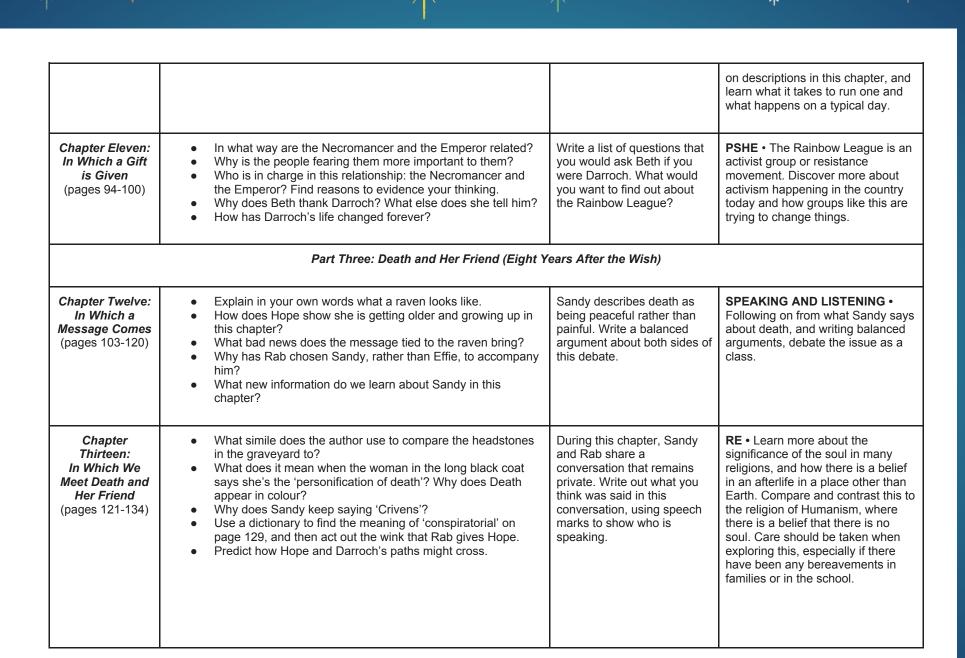
Write a character description for Sandy including all that you know and can infer about him so far. What are his personality traits. strengths and weaknesses? Include key quotes and descriptions from the text.

Write a set of instructions about how to collect moonlight from a moonpond.

PSHE • In this chapter, Sandy refuses payment for his good deed in saving the little girl from the tree. He says that the only repayment he wants is the showing of kindness. Discuss all the ways that you can repay someone by showing kindness towards them.





















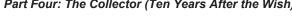




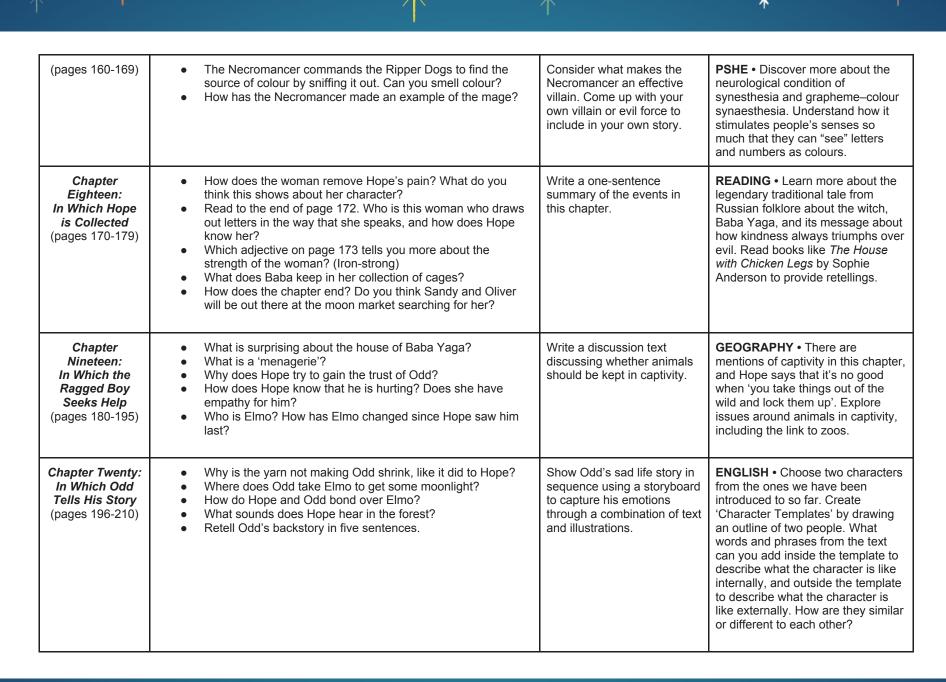


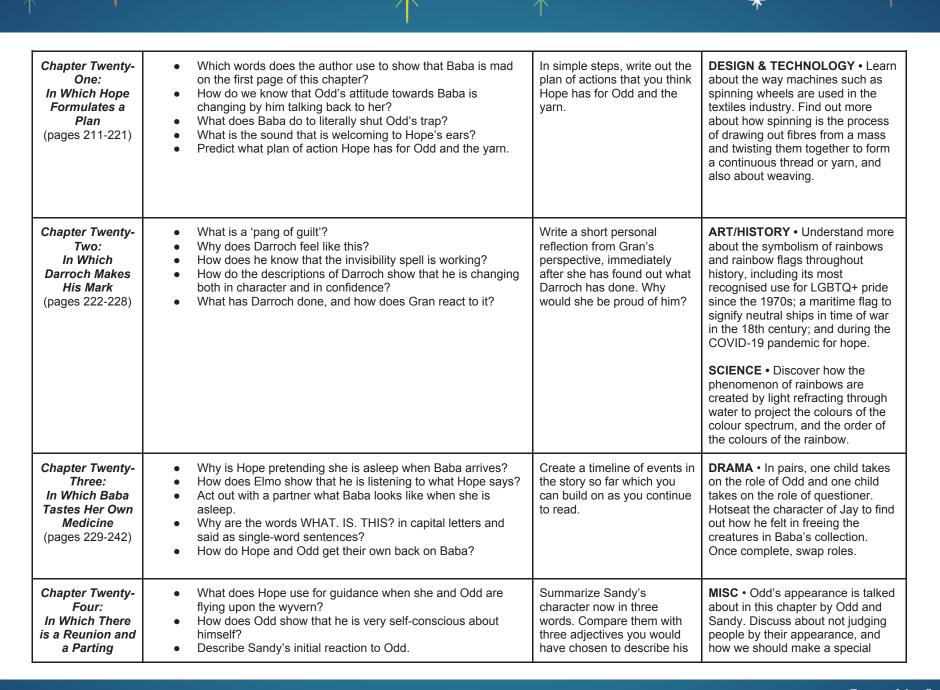


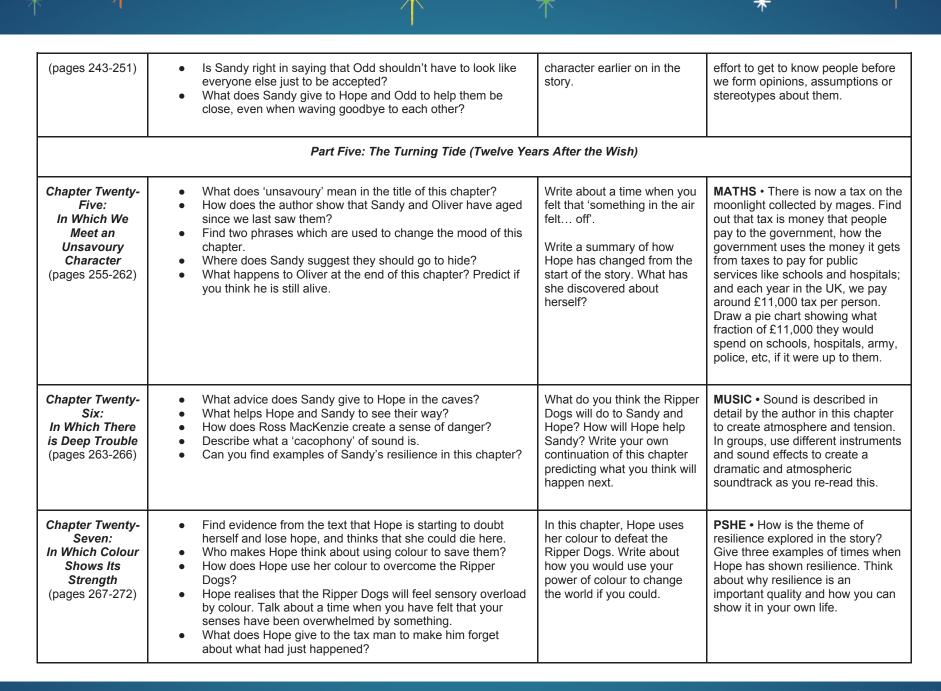




Part Four: The Collector (Ten Years After the Wish)						
Chapter Fourteen: In Which There is a Secret Delivery (pages 137-141)	<ul> <li>What does it mean to do something 'intently'?</li> <li>Find at least two things that Darroch can smell on the farm.</li> <li>What is a 'fankle'? Come up with your own synonyms for this Scottish word.</li> <li>Describe what the colour of indigo looks like.</li> <li>What do you think Darroch is going to do next?</li> </ul>	Write the next part of the story, predicting what happens to Darroch armed with a wand and his bag of paints.	SPEAKING AND LISTENING • The word 'fankle' is used to describe being entangled. Carry out some research into the etymology of Scottish words, and discuss the dialect spoken in the book by Sandy. Find other examples of this, and create a glossary of words and phrases.			
Chapter Fifteen: In Which Hope Learns a Spell (pages 142-150)	<ul> <li>Why is some of the text written in italics on page 143? What does it show about Hope?</li> <li>What kind of potion is Hope learning to make?</li> <li>Why is it a surprise to see Sandy laughing so much?</li> <li>Are there really butterflies flitting around Hope's belly?</li> <li>Will things be different one day for Hope and her colour?</li> </ul>	Write your own set of ingredients to put into a laughter potion. What fictional or factual items would you include?  Using Ross MacKenzie's italics technique as inspiration, write a paragraph in which a character can hear their own voice inside their head.	SCIENCE • Using different household materials and mixtures such as liquids and food colourings, have a go at potion making. Make 'magic potions' from natural materials from outdoors too.			
Chapter Sixteen: In Which the Ripper Dogs Come (pages 151-159)	<ul> <li>Find one word on page 151 that means the same as 'free from disturbance or calm'. (Tranquil)</li> <li>What has drawn Sandy and Hope to the village of Crab Apple?</li> <li>What is Sandy's chanter?</li> <li>How does Hope describe Sandy's playing of his chanter?</li> <li>Why do you think Sandy is reluctant to talk about the past?</li> </ul>	Write an internal monologue as Oliver when he gets called 'as dense as potato stew' to get inside his thoughts.  Dreams are mentioned in this chapter. Write about a dream you can remember having and what happened.	MUSIC • Understand more about the chanter as a musical instrument, and how it consists of a number of finger-holes, and looks similar to a recorder. Learn how to play some pieces of music on the recorder to mimic the sounds and sight of the chanter.			
Chapter Seventeen: In Which An Example is Made	<ul> <li>Who are the Black Coats, and what is their past?</li> <li>Why does the appearance of the white bear juxtapose that of the appearance of the Black Coats and the Ripper Dogs? Draw what you imagine the Necromancer to look like.</li> <li>Why has the Necromancer come to the moon market?</li> </ul>	Write a local newspaper article describing what happened to the people at the moon market.	SCIENCE • Find out how human smell works, investigate if you can smell colour, and how other animals have an increased sense of smell.			











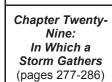
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PSHE • In this chapter, Hope		
realises that she feels scared about		
Sandy leaving. Write about a time		
when you have felt scared and		
experienced conflicted feelings.		



Chapter Twenty-

Eight:

In Which Sandy

Makes a

Decision

(pages 273-276)

- What time of the day is twilight?
- Where has Sandy gone?

is planning to do?

- What does 'mulling it over' mean?
- Do you think there can be power in imagination?

How does Oliver show his support to Hope?

What news does Sandy give to Hope?

Does Hope not want to stay with Effie?

What is the mood of this chapter?

What does Sandy say is a sign that they should make a move tonight?

Which two feelings does Hope feel after hearing what Sandy

Write what you think will be the first lines that Effie says when she tells Hope about Sandy's story.

**SPEAKING AND LISTENING •** Discuss the concept of imagination, and how having a vivid imagination can be a wonderful thing. Talk about ways in which children can embrace their imagination.

## Chapter Thirty: In Which the Rainbow League Makes Its Stand (pages 287-303)

- What does it mean to make a stand?
- What does a 'ripple of anticipation in the audience' sound like?
- Who saves Darroch from the Black Coat?
- Why does Darroch realise that he cannot stay still, not even for one moment?
- What do we learn about Sandy in the final line of this chapter?

Write a prediction about how vou think the Necromancer will react to what Sandy savs.

**PSHE** • Sandy talks about how nobody should live in fear of the way they look, or sound, or the things they believe in. Write an argument about why equality is still an important issue today, and ways in which we can encourage equality among everyone.

#### Chapter Thirty-One: In Which Hope Hears the Truth At Last (pages 304-308)

- Describe the emotions Hope feels as her jaw hangs open.
- What is Sandy's actual name?
- What was special about Sandy when he was born? Why was he the favourite son of the King and Queen?
- What caused the King and Queen to die?
- How has Hope's world changed upon hearing Sandy's story?

In this chapter, we learn of Sandy's spell accident. Write a spell that Hope could use to help Sandy defeat the Necromancer if she met her again.

PSHE • What is grief? How is it explored in this chapter? Make a note of the different emotions Sandy would have felt, and how this links to Hope's memories of her parents dying.

#### Chapter Thirty-Two: In Which There Are Two

**Important** 

Messages

(pages 309-318)

- What are 'comrades'?
- Who returns Darroch back to the farm?
- How does Mrs Gwendle show she is relieved to see Darroch?
- How has the author changed the mood of this chapter according to Effie's actions?
- Why does Hope choose to defy Effie? Why does Effie decide to go with Hope on the wyvern?

Would the world have been a better place if Hope had never been born at all? Write a paragraph answering Hope to what she says in this chapter and explaining your thinkina.

**MUSIC** • Think about the effect music has on mood. Can you pick out some songs to create a playlist that would reflect some of the emotions felt in this chapter?































Chapter Thirty- Three: In Which a Great Truth is Revealed (pages 319-338)	<ul> <li>What has happened to Sandy? Where is he?</li> <li>Why does Sandy describe the Necromancer as having a black heart?</li> <li>What could be the deciding factor in getting Sandy out from the dungeon?</li> <li>What does the Emperor learn about the Necromancer in this chapter?</li> <li>Who dies during the events of this chapter?</li> </ul>	Using the Necromancer's curse on the Emperor as inspiration, create a curse of your own for a character in this story.	HISTORY • Many curses are rooted in supernatural beliefs and powers, and their association to negative events. Research more about curses throughout history including links to Ancient Egypt, why people believe in them, and share your findings with the class.
Chapter Thirty- Four: In Which Hope Meets the Necromancer (pages 339-350)	<ul> <li>What must Hope do before they can march upon the City?</li> <li>Give at least three examples of things that change colour in the presence of Hope.</li> <li>What happens to the Necromancer?</li> <li>How has Sandy been like a father to Hope?</li> <li>How does colour return to the Dominion, and what are its effects on the land and the people?</li> </ul>	This chapter ends by saying 'the world is as it should be'. Write a list of all the good things that have happened.	ART • Create your own unique scented candles that are similar to the ones that have been crafted by Sandy and Effie in this story. Make yours unique by using a range of colours to make them rainbow-coloured.
Chapter Thirty- Five: In Which We Come to the End, and also the Beginning (pages 351-355)	<ul> <li>Where do you think Elmo has gone?</li> <li>What colour is the front door now?</li> <li>What gift is Hope given by Darroch?</li> <li>Why is the closing image of Hope and Odd so powerful?</li> <li>What do you think might happen to the characters next?</li> </ul>	Write a book review, Include your own reflections and why you think others should read the book too.  Write a letter to Ross MaKenzie telling him all about your thoughts and feelings about the book.  Compare your predictions from the start of the story to now – were you right about anything?	LITERACY/PSHE • Share five ways you've been inspired by Hope, Sandy, the others and this story.  LITERACY • For each character in the story, write a short summary to show how they've developed or changed.

