

# Battle Boy OPEN FIRE

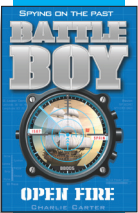
Charlie Carter

## Teachers' Notes

### Introduction

Napoleon Augustus Smythe (Battle Boy 005) is hurtling through time to the year 1587. This is his first mission and he is heading towards Sir Francis Drake's ship – the *Bonaventure*. Sir Francis Drake was an English sea captain. His exploits were legendary, making him a hero to the English but a pirate to the Spaniards.

Battle Boy makes a dramatic entrance into a fierce battle between English and Spanish warships. However, when he is ordered to exit the mission he has other plans ...



## Curriculum Links

HSIE: Significant People and Places

English: Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening, Researching, Presenting

Mathematics: Mapping

Science and Technology: Using Technology, Design and Make

Creative and Performing Arts: Drama, Drawing

PDHPE: Interpersonal Relationships

## Learning Outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to

- read texts independently and in groups
- respond to themes and issues in a text
- draw on a range of skills and strategies to read and comprehend a text
- analyse techniques used by authors to create certain effects and use language creatively
- explain the significance of particular people, actions and events in the past
- locate places on a map
- research a topic of historical significance
- devise, act and rehearse drama for performance to an audience
- present reasons for and against a given topic

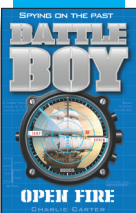
## Before you read

Look at the title and front cover picture of the novel. Work in pairs and write a short paragraph suggesting what the story may be about. Read out your group's ideas to the rest of the class and compare ideas.

## Read the book

Read *Open Fire* as directed by your teacher in one of the following ways

- as a whole class
- in small reading groups
- individually



Stop every now and then to re-evaluate where you think the story may be heading. Discuss your ideas with a friend as well as parts of the story you like and why.

## After you read

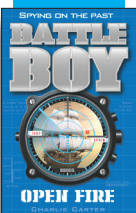
Use the following questions to promote discussion of the book. Discuss these questions as a class or write the answers down.

1. What is curiosity and why do you think curiosity was important to be a successful agent? p13
2. Who are the people in Napoleon's family?
3. How did Napoleon get into the Special Reading Room at the library? p11
4. What special features did the Helping Hand have?
5. What is a tome? p18
6. What happens to the Battle Books in the Delta Phase? p28
7. What was Napoleon's mission and what was his alias for the mission?
8. How did Napoleon enter the book? p52
9. What happened when Napoleon landed short of the ship? pp56-57
10. What made Napoleon lose his balance? p80
11. How did Napoleon exit the water? p83
12. Was the professor pleased or displeased with Napoleon at the end of the mission? Explain.

## Classroom Activities

### Titles and Authors

On page 3 there is an illustration of the *Book of Tactics* by Iva Plan. Make up some more titles, and clever author names.

**Alias**

Napoleon's alias for the mission was Will Smythe. Make up your own codename for this mission and write a short description of who you are and what you are doing on the ship.

**DNA**

Professor Perdu collects a sample of Napoleon's DNA. Find out what the letters DNA stand for and what DNA is. Research who discovered DNA and list why our DNA is so important.

**Greek Alphabet**

The letters alpha, beta, gamma and delta are used in the book along with other letters from the Greek alphabet. Find and write down all the letters of the Greek alphabet and their symbols. Write your name or your alias using these letters.

**Debate Topic**

Time travel is possible in the 21st Century. Write down three reasons agreeing with this topic, three arguments against this topic and three interesting facts that arise from this topic. Hold a class debate.

**The SimulSkin**

Describe Professor Perdu's SimulSkin in your own words. Describe it to someone who hasn't seen the illustration on p31. Start at the top and mention each feature as you go all the way down to the feet.

**Mapping Fun**

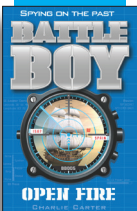
Use books or the internet to locate the Port of Cadiz in Spain. Use the outline of a map of Spain and its surrounding countries and waterways to mark where Cadiz is on the map. Use a dotted line to show the path Sir Francis Drake sailed on this expedition. Use Google Earth to look at Cadiz as it is today.

**The *Bonaventure***

Look at old-fashioned ships like the *Bonaventure*. Make your own sketch of the *Bonaventure*, or a similar ship, labelling the different parts (p46).

**Aboard the Ship**

Find out the different types of jobs sailors had aboard a ship like the *Bonaventure* (p59). List the roles and a description of the responsibilities that go with each role.



### Lights, Camera, Action

Work in small groups and create a battle scene aboard the *Bonaventure*. Act out your scene for the class and when the teacher calls 'Freeze', turn your scene into a still photo or painting by not moving.

### Caricature

Read the description of Crowley, the ugly sailor, on page 63 of the book. Sketch a cartoon drawing of the face of this sailor. Put each sketch onto a poster or make a book.

### FightRite

Use the words and information on p66 to write a radio or TV jingle for FightRite. Perform your song or jingle for the class.

### Bullying

Crowley is described as a bully. Discuss what a bully is and what sorts of bullying there are. Brainstorm why people become bullies and ways to stop bullying. Put the ideas onto a poster or print out your list.

### The Harbour of Cadiz

Describe what Napoleon saw when Sir Francis Drake's ship headed into the harbour of Cadiz. Write or draw your description. If you have recyclable materials in the classroom, make a small diorama of what Napoleon sees (p77).

### Sir Francis Drake

Napoleon meets Sir Francis Drake on his mission. Prepare a mini project that researches the life and history of Sir Francis Drake. Include the following:

- Dates and places of birth and death
- Family history
- Naval rank
- Victories and defeats
- The Cadiz raid
- A picture or illustration of Sir Francis Drake
- Interesting facts