

TEACHERS' NOTES

Aimed at primary school children, the photocopiable worksheets in this study guide have been written to accompany the release of the film *ThunderPANTS*. The activities complement the delivery of many subjects within the National Curriculum, the National Literacy Strategy and the Scottish Guidelines - especially English/Literacy, PSHE and Citizenship. Each worksheet is differentiated by outcome, although teachers may wish to alter the tasks to suit their particular group.

The curriculum grid on the inside back cover can be used for planning and record keeping. Subject focus areas are also outlined on each page. There is a glossary of difficult words on page 12 which can be enlarged and photocopied and given out to the children for reference.

It is not necessary to have seen the film to complete the worksheets contained within this study guide. We do, however, recommend taking a group of children to see the film at the local cinema if possible. Cinema managers are often amenable to screening the film at a reduced rate and at a suitable time for large groups of children, so it is worth giving your local cinema a call.

FILM SYNOPSIS

An uplifting comedy adventure from Peter Hewitt, director of *The Borrowers*, *ThunderPANTS* tells the story of a eleven-year-old boy who dreams of being a spaceman.

From the day he is born, Patrick Smash baffles his family and teachers alike with his special gift – an amazing ability to blow off. Patrick's best friend is a child genius, Alan A. Allen (played by Rupert Grint from the film *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*).

With Alan's help, Patrick learns to harness his special powers, taking them on a journey of adventure from fame to danger, and finally to the US Space Centre. There, the world waits to see if they can fulfil their ambition...

ThunderPANTS also features Simon Callow, Celia Imrie, Ned Beatty and Stephen Fry.

Director: Peter Hewitt
Release date: 22nd March 2002
Certificate: PG
Running time: 86 minutes (approximately)
Website: www.freeserve.com/thunderpants

THUNDERPANTS - THE CAST

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

These are the characters from the film *ThunderPANTS*.



Read through the descriptions and then create a character map with Patrick at the centre. Draw arrows to the other characters and write notes about their relationship with Patrick.

The meanings of the words in **bold** are explained in the glossary on page 12.

PATRICK SMASH

Patrick is a small, chubby and **unassuming** eleven-year-old boy. Patrick knows he is a loser because everyone tells him so. He has one talent, though. He has an amazing ability to break wind. At first he is **ridiculed**, but he soon learns to **harness** his powers in a **positive** way.



MR and MRS SMASH

Patrick's **ungrateful** parents. Mrs Smash does not **appreciate** her son's talent at all whilst Mr Smash **despairs** of him.

DENISE SMASH (PATRICK'S SISTER)

Denise blames Patrick for everything that goes wrong in the Smash family.



ALAN A. ALLEN

Alan has no sense of smell, so he is the perfect best friend for Patrick. Alan is an **eccentric** child **genius** with a **quiff** of bright red hair and a glowing personality to match.

DAMON (SCHOOL BULLY)

Damon **excels** in bullying Patrick and Alan. His 'pals' are Jake and Dan.



Subject focus areas: Literacy (characterisation)





Sir John Osgood

SIR JOHN OSGOOD (WORLD FAMOUS OPERA SINGER)

Sir John **befriends** Patrick when he realises that his ability to blow off can help his career.

PLACEEDO

A fellow opera singer and Sir John's **arch rival**.

MISS RAPIER (SCHOOL TEACHER)

Miss Rapier is **constantly** telling Patrick off, even when it is not his fault.



Miss Rapier



Todd Banner

TODD BANNER

Though Patrick does not know Todd personally, he is greatly **influenced** by the American newsreader who reports on the rocket Icarus **launching** into space.

GENERAL ED SHEPPARD

(COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE SPACE CENTRE)

General Sheppard sees Patrick for what he is: a child with **potential**.



General Ed Sheppard

JOHNSON J JOHNSON

(USA SPECIAL FORCES)

Johnson is a very serious agent who is sent to find Patrick to **alert** him to his '**cause**'.



Johnson J Johnson



Doctor

DOCTOR

The Doctor is the one who **discovers** why Patrick has so much wind: because he has two stomachs!



Boffin

BOFFIN

Justin, Patrick, Taj, Emmanuelle are all nerdy child **geniuses** who become Patrick's friends.

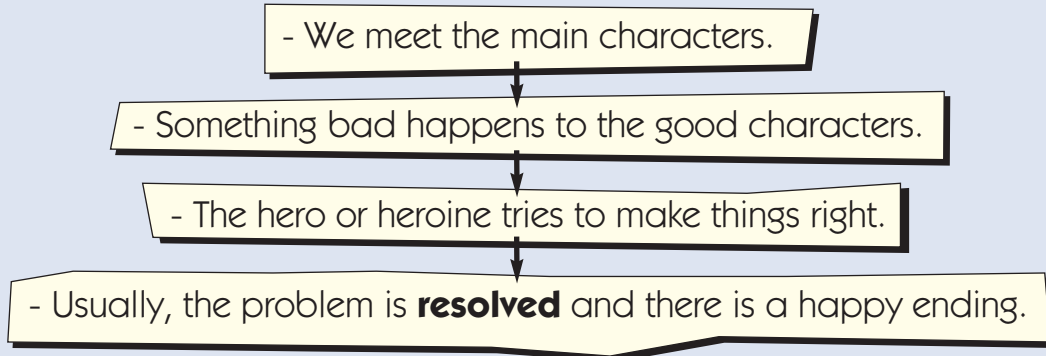


Subject focus areas: Literacy (characterisation)

THE STORY OF THUNDERPANTS

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

When they are told on film, stories usually follow a **format**.



Here is the **synopsis** for the film *ThunderPANTS*. Try to split it up so that it fits into the flow chart boxes over the page. Use the notes above to help you. You may have a problem with the ending: if you want, you could make up your own ending. Make it as fun as possible!

FILM SYNOPSIS

An **uplifting** comedy adventure from Peter Hewitt, director of *The Borrowers*, *ThunderPANTS* tells the story of a eleven-year-old boy who dreams of being a spaceman.

From the day he is born, Patrick Smash **baffles** his family and teachers alike with his special gift – an amazing ability to **blow off**. Patrick's best friend is a child genius, Alan A. Allen (played by Rupert Grint from the film *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*).

With Alan's help, Patrick learns to **harness** his special powers, taking them on a journey of adventure from fame to danger, and finally to the US Space Centre. There, the world waits to see if they can **fulfil** their **ambition**...

Subject focus areas: Literacy (narrative development)

www.filmeducation.org



THUNDERPANTS STORY FLOW CHART

THE MAIN CHARACTERS



THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO THE HERO/HEROINE



HOW THE HERO/HEROINE MAKES THINGS RIGHT



THE ENDING (OR YOUR OWN MADE UP ENDING!)



Subject focus areas: Literacy (narrative development)

www.filmeducation.org

THE 'PANTS' POSTER!

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

Before a film like *ThunderPANTS* is released, a poster is designed that will make people interested in seeing the film.



TASK

Choose an image from the ones below and on page 6. This will become the poster for your own campaign. Cut it out and use it in your own poster.

Design a *ThunderPANTS* title logo and decide where to place it. Last but not least, think up a tag line for the movie. A tag line is a sentence or phrase that sums the film up. An example of a tag line is 'Christmas is coming early' for the film *A Christmas Carol - The Movie*. Think up a tag line for *ThunderPANTS*: but remember, you cannot be rude!!



Subject focus areas:

Literacy (vocabulary extension/puns) Art, Design and Technology (designing for an audience)

www.filmeducation.org



THE 'PANTS' POSTER!



Subject focus areas: Art, Design and Technology (visual literacy)

www.filmeducation.org

THUNDERPANTS - THE ONE AND ONLY

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

Patrick Smash has a very **unique characteristic** that makes him different from other people. To start with, people do not understand his talent and make him feel bad about himself. They treat him like a **misfit** just because he is different. **Eventually**, with the help of some friends, he is able to hold his head up high and be proud of his **unique talent**. He even becomes an **inspiration** to other **misfits**.

We are all **unique**. Each one of us has a **quality** that is special to us alone. What is yours?



TASK



Design a film poster for yourself inspired by the film *ThunderPANTS*.

Give yourself a nickname like *ThunderPANTS*. You could be the Magic Mathematician if you are good at maths. Or, you could be the Hop-Scotch Wonderkid. Or, the Nintendo Whiz.

Subject focus areas: PSHE (accepting differences, being unique)

www.filmeducation.org



THUNDERPANTS ARE GO!

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

In the film *ThunderPANTS*, Patrick Smash is sent on a **mission** to rescue the **crew members** of a **malfunctioning Space Station** called Icarus. The **Space Station** believe that Patrick's **unique talent** (and his two stomachs) can help the **astronauts** who are **stranded** in outer space.

Space is a dangerous place, yet Patrick is **fearless** and brave in his quest. It has always been his dream to become a heroic spaceman - and this is his chance!



On page 9 there is an actual filmscript extract from the film *ThunderPANTS*. It is the scene where Patrick is getting ready to be launched into space. Read the script together in groups.

Now create a storyboard version of the script (page 10).

A storyboard is a series of drawings that show the action - like a comic strip, but without the speech bubbles.

Re-tell the section of the story using pictures - but remember, the purpose of your storyboard is to help the film makers shoot the film, so when you are working on your storyboard think of it in terms of how it would look on a cinema screen.

To find out more about space travel, visit these useful websites:

www.stardust.jpl.nasa.gov

<http://questdb.arc.nasa.gov>

www.nationalgeographic.com



Subject focus areas: Literacy (adapting a script)

www.filmeducation.org

THUNDERPANTS' FILMSCRIPT

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

EXTERNAL. LAUNCH PAD - DAY.

Under the rocket is an enormous machine. Its **chromium** tubes and pipes **glint** in the light. Six **thrusters**, each the size of a truck lead up to a massive **booster atop** which pipes snake around **billowing** steam into the **atmosphere**.

The buggy pulls up under the rocket. Patrick gets out. Steps into a lift which will take him to the top of the **boosters**. The lift doors clang shut. Patrick starts his **ascent**.

EXTERNAL. GANTRY - DAY.

Patrick walks along the metal **gantry** towards the waiting rocket.

EXTERNAL. FLIGHT PODULE - DAY.

At the end of the **gantry** is a **hatch** Patrick is helped inside and **positioned** above the **thermo-daiper** - a flat **hi-tech** metal ring bristling with runners and catches. Patrick sits down on the **thermo-daiper** and clamps himself into position.

This small **podule** is packed with buttons, switches and levers.

Dressed in a child-sized **astronaut's** suit, Patrick is **swamped**. His little face looks out from the **visor**. The rocket looms over him, pointing to the skies.

CUT TO:

INTERNAL. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Buzzing with activity. The familiar banks of computers, worried looking faces, **bustling** activity and a calm **countdown over**.

COUNTDOWN

T minus sixty seconds... **T** minus fifty-nine seconds... **T** minus fifty-eight seconds.

SCIENTIST 1 steps up to SHEPPARD

SCIENTIST 1

Electrical systems on green sir.

SCIENTIST 2 takes over.

SCIENTIST 2

Oxygen and power supply check, sir.

Subject focus areas: Literacy (adapting a script)

www.filmeducation.org



MY STORYBOARD



WHAT YOU WILL SEE

CAMERA POSITION: _____

WHAT IS HAPPENING: _____

WHAT IS BEING SAID: _____

SOUND/SPECIAL EFFECTS: _____

CAMERA POSITION: _____

WHAT IS HAPPENING: _____

WHAT IS BEING SAID: _____

SOUND/SPECIAL EFFECTS: _____

CAMERA POSITION: _____

WHAT IS HAPPENING: _____

WHAT IS BEING SAID: _____

SOUND/SPECIAL EFFECTS: _____

CAMERA POSITION: _____

WHAT IS HAPPENING: _____

WHAT IS BEING SAID: _____

SOUND/SPECIAL EFFECTS: _____

CAMERA POSITION: _____

WHAT IS HAPPENING: _____

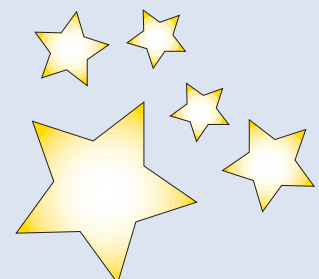
WHAT IS BEING SAID: _____

SOUND/SPECIAL EFFECTS: _____



Subject focus areas: Literacy (adapting a script)

www.filmeducation.org



ALAN A. ALLEN'S INVENTION SHED

The meanings of the words in **bold** or underlined can be found on page 12.

Alan A. Allen is Patrick Smash's best friend and a child **genius**. He is always inventing things in his shed. In fact, it is he who invents the *ThunderPANTS* themselves.



Here is a picture of the inside of Alan's shed. Use the space below to design a flying machine that will propel you and a friend across the floor. Label your design and describe what materials it is made of.



Subject focus areas: Design and technology (create annotated designs)

www.filmeducation.org



GLOSSARY

alert - to make someone aware of something
ambition - a feeling of wanting to do something
appreciate - take note of something or be thankful for something
arch rival - enemy
ascent - climb
astronauts - spaceperson
atmosphere - the gases around us
atop - on top
baffles - confuses
befriends - makes friends with
billowing - blowing
blow off - flatulence
booster - a big rocket 'thrustor'
bristling - when the hairs on the back of your neck stand up/ being frightened or angry
bustling - busy
campaign - a series of planned activities
cause - belief or job
characteristic - something that makes up personality
chromium - shiny metal
constantly - all the time
control room - the room from where the take-off is managed
countdown over - the voice-over of the countdown to take-off
crew members - people who work on a ship (in this case a spaceship)
designed - drawn or put together
despairs - loss of hope
discovers - finds out
eccentric - someone who is slightly strange
eventually - finally or in the end
excels - does very well at something
external - outside
format - pattern
fearless - somebody who has no fear
filmscript - written text, like a playscript, but for films
fulfil - make something happen
gantry - a pathway like a light bridge above the ground
genius - someone who is very, very intelligent
glint - shine and sparkle
harness - take hold of
hatch - a small door

hi-tech - **high technology** - computers
influenced - affected by something
inspiration/inspired - a brilliant idea/using the brilliant idea
internal - inside
launch pad - the place where rockets take off from
launching - taking off
levers - a bar which can be pulled to lift something
logo - a sign or a symbol
malfunctioning - going wrong
misfit - someone who doesn't fit in with everyone else
mission - a purpose, a special task or journey
phrase - a saying or a collection of words that make sense
podule - inside the spaceship
positioned - placed
positive - good
potential - a sign of something good to come
propel - send
purpose - reason
quality - level of excellence
quiff - a piece of hair that stands up on the forehead
resolved - sorted out
ridiculed - made fun of
section - extract or bit
series - a selection of things, one after the other
Space Station - a big spaceship
storyboard - a selection of pictures that tell the story of a film
stranded - lost
swamped - wearing something that is far too big
synopsis - a shortened version of the story outlining the main characters and the plot
T - short for take-off
talent - a special skill
Thermo-diaper - *ThunderPANTS!*
thrusters - the rockets that power the engine of a spaceship
unassuming - someone who minds their own business
ungrateful - not thankful
unique - the only one of its kind
uplifting - something that makes you feel happy
version - type
visor - the bit of the space suit helmet that you see out of



GUIDELINES

NATIONAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

THUNDERPANTS - THE CAST

English	KS2	En3	1b,c,e
NLS	Y3	T2	text 3, 8
	Y3	T3	text 5
	Y4	T1	text 1, 2, 11
	Y5	T1	text 3

THE STORY OF THUNDERPANTS

English	KS2	En3	1b,c,e 9b
NLS	Y3	T2	text 6, 7
	Y3	T3	text 1, 10
	Y4	T1	text 4
	Y5	T1	text 2, 14
	Y6	T2	text 1

THE 'PANTS POSTER!'

English	KS2	En3	1b,c,e 9b
Design and Technology	KS2		1a
Art and Design	KS2		2a,c 3b

THUNDERPANTS - THE ONE AND ONLY

English	KS2	En3	1b,c,e 9b
Design and Technology	KS2		1a
Art and Design	KS2		2a, c, 3b
PSHE and Citizenship	KS2		1b

THUNDERPANTS ARE GO!

English	KS2	En2	4b,c 5a
Science	KS2	Sc4	4a
ICT	KS2		1c
NLS	Y3	T1	text 4, 14
	Y4	T1	text 5, 6, 13
	Y5	T1	text 5, 18
	Y5	T2	text 2
	Y5	T3	text 14
	Y6	T1	text 1, 9
	Y6	T2	text 7

ALAN A. ALLEN'S INVENTION SHED

Design and Technology	KS2		1a,b,c,d
			4a,b,c,d

SCOTTISH GUIDELINES

THUNDERPANTS - THE CAST

English Language	Functional writing	A+
------------------	--------------------	----

THE STORY OF THUNDERPANTS

English Language	Functional writing	A+
------------------	--------------------	----

THE 'PANTS POSTER!'

English Language	Imaginative writing	A+
Art and Design	Expressing feelings, ideas, thoughts and solutions; creating and designing	A+

THUNDERPANTS - THE ONE AND ONLY

English Language	Imaginative writing	A+
Art and Design	Expressing feelings, ideas, thoughts and solutions; creating and designing	A+
Health Education	Emotional health	A+

THUNDERPANTS ARE GO!

English Language	Reading for information; reading for enjoyment; reading to reflect on the writer's ideas and craft; functional writing	A+
	knowledge about language	A+
	Earth in space	A+
Science		
Information and Communications Technology	Searching and researching	A+

ALAN A. ALLEN'S INVENTION SHED

English Language	Functional writing	A+
Art and Design	Using materials, techniques, skills and media; creating and designing	A+



Film Education has endeavoured to seek permission and clear copyright on all the illustrations and text reproduced in this study guide and given accreditation where necessary. In the event of any omissions please contact Film Education with any information which may be deemed appropriate for future editions.

Film Education is a registered charity supported by the film industry and the *bfi* in the UK. Its aims are to develop the use of film in the school curriculum and to facilitate the use of cinemas by schools. To this end it publishes a variety of free teaching materials, produces educational television programmes, runs a range of workshops, events and INSETs and organises screenings including National Schools Film Week.



For further information please contact:

Film Education, Alhambra House, 27-31 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AU

Telephone 020 7976 2291 Fax 020 7839 5052

Email: postbox@filmeducation.org

Website: www.filmeducation.org

Written by Julie Roberts

Produced by Film Education for Pathé Distribution Ltd.