Emil and the Detectives

While reading
Introduction—Chapter 1

1 Pair work. Answer these questions.
   a Was life easy or difficult for Kästner? Why?
   b What did he do that the Nazi didn’t like?
   c Where did he live during his life?
   d How did he help people after the war?
   e Are there any film versions of his stories?

2 Write a letter.
   You’re Emil’s aunt. Write a letter inviting him to
   the city. Tell him what he can do in the city.

3 Pair work.
   Make a picture for the classroom wall about your
   city. Write some ideas about what you can do in
   your city. Get photographs or pictures.

4 Role play and pair work.
   Student A: You’re Emil. You’re going to the city.
   Tell your friend about it.
   Student B: You’re Emil’s friend. He’s going to the
   city. Ask him questions about it.

5 Rules.
   Write what Emil’s mother says and write the
   rules on a big piece of paper to put on the wall.
   Example: You mustn’t sit on the flowers.

6 Put the verbs in the Present Perfect Tense,
   affirmative or negative.
   Example: Emil’s mother (buy) has bought some
   flowers.
   a She (buy) …………… chocolates.
   b She (put) …………… Emil’s clothes on his
      bed.
   c Emil (put) …………… his clothes in the
      suitcase.
   d Emil’s mother (make) …………… dinner.
   e Emil (have) …………… a shower.
   f Emil (phone) …………… his friends.
   g Emil’s mother (give) …………… Emil some
      money.

7 Use a word from the box to complete Emil’s
   mother’s words. Use the verbs in the
   affirmative or negative.
   be forget leave lose throw get give
   use wait write
   a ……… dressed.
   b ……… a minute.
   c ……… good.

8 Write their names. Then write their words.

Chapters 2–3

9 Complete with who, where or which.
   There were four people in the carriage
   (a) ……… Emil was sitting. The lady
   (b) ……… was wearing one shoe was fat.
   Mr Green was the man (c) ……… sat next
   to Emil. He was wearing a hat (d) ……… he
   didn’t take off. The lady (e) ……… was sewing
   a cap was next to the window. The other man
   (f) ……… was sitting between the two ladies
   was young.

10 Who in Chapter 2 said or thought this?
   a Good afternoon. ………
   b Boys are not usually so polite. ………
   c Would you like one? ………
   d Does Mr Smith still own the clothes shop in
      Newton? ………
   e Do you know him? ………
   f My grandmother’s meeting me at the East
      Station ticket office. ………
   g Have I been asleep? ………
   h I’ve been careless. ………
Emil and the Detectives

11 Complete the sentences about Chapter 3. Use a word from the box.

about after behind for in front of next to off on

a. Emil wanted to run ........ the man.
b. A very fat lady was walking ........ Emil.
c. He hid ........ her.
d. An electric tram turned into the road ........ the right.
e. The man got in and sat down ........ the window.
f. ‘The man with the money will get ........ the tram and escape into the crowd.’
g. Emil thought ........ his grandmother.
h. She was waiting ........ him in East Station.

Chapters 4–5

12 Match a–i with words 1–9 to get words used in Chapter 4. Then use these words to tell a friend what happens in this chapter.

a. loud 1 detectives
b. little 2 dog
c. telephone 3 number
d. twenty 4 pieces
e. important 5 ticket
f. police 6 Tuesday
g. brave 7 voice
h. tram 8 word
i. secret 9 work

13 Write.
You're the thief and you're at the hotel. Write what you are thinking.

Chapters 6–7

14 Draw.
Read the first paragraph of Chapter 6 and make a drawing of the room, the thief’s clothes and what he can see from his window.

15 A ‘wanted’ sign.
Make signs showing thieves or criminals and write why they’re wanted.

16 Complete these ideas as in the example.

a. If Emil gets his money back, he’ll be happy.
b. If the thief sees the boys behind him

................. .
c. If the Police come ................. .
d. If Mr Green runs away ................. .
e. If the bank manager doesn’t believe Emil’s story ................. .

17 What are they thinking? Complete their ideas.

f. If Mr Green’s fingerprints are on the list

................. .

Chapters 8–9

18 Role play.
Emil and his family are having dinner. Work with another student and have the conversation between them.

19 Read the first part on page 44.
What is Emil thinking? Make a list of ideas.

After reading

20 Make a list.
List all the people in the story and write a short description of each. Read the descriptions to your friends. Can they guess who it is?

21 A film.
Think of who you would choose to play the people in the story.

22 A new cover.
Discuss what words and pictures you would put in a new cover for the book.

23 A new title.
What other titles are good for this novel? Make a list of them and vote for the best.

24 A poster about friends.
Why are friends important? Write answers to this question and put them on a big piece of paper for the classroom wall.

25 The best and worst parts.
What’s the best part of the story? Why is it good? Which part didn’t you like? Why? Rewrite it and make it a good part.
Emil and the Detectives

1 Are the following right (√) or wrong (×)?
   a  Emil lived in a very big city. √
   b  Mrs Martin was Emil’s neighbour. ×
   c  Emil was on holiday. ×
   d  Emil’s mother didn’t work. √
   e  Emil’s aunt lived with him and his mother. ×
   f  Polly was Emil’s cousin. √
   g  Emil’s mother kept some money in a tin box in the sitting room. √
   h  Emil kept the money in the inside pocket of his jacket. ×
   i  Emil could spend about seven pounds. √
   j  Emil was a good student at school. √
   k  Emil was going to travel to the city by bus. ×
   l  The bus in Emil’s place was modern. √
   m  Newton’s Chief of Police didn’t know Emil. ×
   n  Emil travelled with his mother. √
   o  Emil’s mother was very happy. √

2 Match the person with the right words, 1–8.
   a  Emil …..
   b  The fat lady …..
   c  Mr Green …..
   d  Mr Smith …..
   e  The man with the big nose …..
   f  The ticket man …..
   g  Polly …..
   h  Emil’s grandmother …..
   1) had only one shoe on.
   2) had a cloth shop.
   3) didn’t believe Emil.
   4) was worried.
   5) had a new bike.
   6) was wearing a cap.
   7) didn’t like Mr Green’s story.
   8) was wearing a black hat.

3 Put these events in order, 1–14.
   a  Emil met Paul and told him his problem.
   b  Emil wrote a letter to his grandmother.
   c  Little Tuesday went home to get telephone calls from his friends.
   d  Paul and Emil slept in the hotel.
   e  Paul called a lot of friends.
   f  Paul spoke to the lift boy at the hotel.
   g  Peter was angry and went away.
   h  Polly arrived to talk to Emil and then went home.
   i  Robert took Emil’s letter to his grandmother.
   j  The boys followed the thief in a taxi.
   k  The boys gave Emil some money.
   l  The man got off the tram and went to a café.
   m  The thief left the café and took a taxi to a hotel.
   n  Twenty boys joined Emil.

4 Choose the right words.
   a  The Captain was angry because there were too many boys / he was alone / he couldn’t see the thief.
   b  Polly / The Captain / Paul gave the boys some coffee.
   c  The boys / Emil and the Captain / People made a circle around the thief.
   d  Paul and Emil / the Captain / Polly followed the thief into the bank.
   e  Emil showed the money was his because it had his name / holes / a pin.
   f  Mr Green told lies to the policemen / to the reporters / to Emil.
   g  Emil saw one of the reporters on the tram / at the hotel / in the bank.
   h  Before he went to the newspaper, Emil had tea with his friends / took some photos / phoned his grandmother.

5 Complete with the words from the box. There are 16 but you can use only 14.

apple aunt boys breakfast chocolate dinner friends neighbour proud reward statue story tea thief train worried

Emil went to his grandmother’s house and gave her the money. After (a) ……. Polly and Emil went out and saw a policeman looking for him. Emil was (b) ……. and he thought about the (c) ……. in Newton. The policeman told Emil’s (d) ……. that Emil helped the police catch a (e) ……. and so, he received a (f) …….: fifty pounds. Emil was happy and invited his friends to (g) ……. Mrs Fisher’s (h) ……. told Emil’s mother about Emil. Mrs Fisher went to the city. On the (i) ……. , she saw a newspaper with Emil’s (j) ……. . She was very (k) ……. Emil was at the station waiting for her. They went to the house where Emil’s friends were having tea and some delicious (l) ……. cake. Everybody was happy. They thanked Little Tuesday because he stayed at home when he wanted to be with all the (m) ……. Grandma told Emil that it’s important to have (n) ……. in life.