

Malcolm in the Middle

Krelboyne Picnic

-extra

Starter Level

This level is suitable for beginner-level students who have been learning English for less than a year. It precedes the Common European Framework level A1. Suitable for users of CLICK magazine.

SYNOPSIS

This weekend there's a picnic at school for the families of Malcolm's 'Krelboyne' class of gifted children. For Malcolm, this is a fate worse than death. He's expected to be the star attraction in the talent show at the picnic, but he doesn't want to seem like a freak in front of his family, particularly his eldest brother Francis.

At the picnic, his mum and dad quickly manage to alienate the other parents, Francis picks up a girl and Reese indulges in his favourite sport – bullying Krelboynes. Desperate to stop the talent show, Malcolm decides to make a stink bomb. Good plan, except that he gets the measurements wrong and makes a real bomb instead. The picnic is such a fiasco that his teacher Caroline's job is on the line. To save her reputation, Malcolm reluctantly takes to the stage and dazzles the crowd with his jaw-dropping feats of mental arithmetic.

THE BACK STORY

Malcolm in the Middle was first screened in the US in 2000 and is now on its seventh series. It has won six Emmies and countless other awards – in particular for actress Jane Kaczmarek, who plays Malcolm's mum. The show's worldwide fan-base just can't get enough of Malcolm and his eccentric family.

Krelboyne Picnic comes about halfway through the first series. Malcolm is still fairly new to the Krelboyne class, and his family are only just beginning to realise how gifted he is. Malcolm has to fight hard not to be dismissed as a freak by the 'non Krelboynes' in the rest of the school. As he explains when he joins the class in the first episode, 'Around here being intelligent is exactly the same as being radioactive.'

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: The first series of *Malcolm in the Middle* is available (Twentieth Century Fox).

Internet: Good sites include www.malcolminthemiddle.co.uk, www.bbc.co.uk/cult/malcolm and www.fox.com/Malcolm.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Has anyone seen *Malcolm in the Middle*? Ask them some questions. For example: *Do you always get on with your family? Do you like going on family days out? Why/why not?* Motivate them with some background information on the series and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere and emotion.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading.

Using the DVD

Try to get the English language version DVD of *Malcolm in the Middle: The Complete First Series*. Watch *Krelboyne Picnic* yourself first to check that it is suitable for your class. Show it in chunks of, say, 5 minutes in parallel with the class reading schedule, pausing at the end of a scene. Alternatively, show the whole programme after students have finished the book, as a reward. Sometimes the book version is slightly different from the TV programme – ask students to identify and discuss the differences. Explain that the show is American and all the characters have American accents and use American expressions. The reader is written in British English. The dialogue is fast and slangy, so students shouldn't be disheartened if they find it difficult to follow at first. There are other ideas for using the DVD on page 4 of this resource sheet.

Glossary and casual language

Go to New Words! on the inside back cover of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. Introduce the informal expressions used in *Krelboyne Picnic* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises

Show students the Self-Study Activities on pages 30-32. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after. (Answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Feedback

Have class feedback sessions each week. Talk and ask about the story so far. Get students to ask each other questions. Check resource sheet exercise answers with the whole class. (Answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

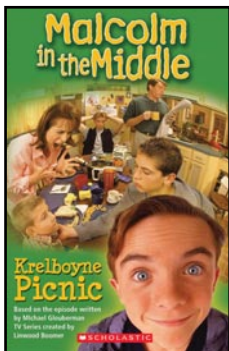
Fact Files

After the story, there are three Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files explore the background to the programme, the themes of the story and relevant cultural contexts with interactive elements. Project ideas are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of *Krelboyne Picnic*. Compare opinions. Will they read more *Malcolm in the Middle* stories? Will they look out for it on TV? Did you like it? Let us know at readers@link2English.com.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Malcolm
in the Middle
**Krelboyne
Picnic**
- extra

People and places

1 Change the names and make these sentences true.

- a) ~~Dewey~~ is Malcolm's friend in the Krelboyne class. *stevie*
- b) Francis is Malcolm's little brother.
- c) Malcolm's teacher Lois is very friendly.
- d) Caroline hates being a Krelboyne.
- e) Malcolm's brother Reese goes to school in Alabama.
- f) Hal likes hitting people.

Pages 6-8

1 Match the questions with the answers.

- a) Why does Malcolm say, 'Ow, ow!?'
- b) Why does he put soup in the toilet?
- c) Why does he have to pay his mum \$0.49?
- d) Why does he say, 'I love my brother!'
- i) because he puts soup in the toilet
- ii) so he can seem ill
- iii) because Francis can help him
- iv) because Reese hits him

2 Are these people happy about the picnic? Write ✓ or x.

- a) Malcolm
- b) Francis
- c) Mum
- d) Reese

Pages 9-10

1 Choose the right words.

- a) The children in Malcolm's class say 'Go Malcolm! Go Malcolm!' because they *like* / *hate* him.
- b) They can't do the show without *Caroline* / *Malcolm*.
- c) Malcolm's mum and dad are being *friendly* / *unfriendly*.
- d) Nuts *make some children* / *don't make any children* in Malcolm's class ill.
- e) Dad tells some of the fathers about his *meat* / *job*.

2 Is Dorene nice to Malcolm's mum?

.....

3 In the Krelboyne class, they don't eat meat or nuts. What don't you eat at home or at school? Write a list.

Pages 11-13

1 Are these sentences right or wrong? Write ✓ or x.

- a) Stevie is doing chemical explosions in the show.
- b) Stevie is before Malcolm in the show.
- c) Francis feels sorry for Malcolm.
- d) Reese runs after a Krelboyne's big brother.
- e) Reese doesn't hit any Krelboynes.
- f) The mums and dads understand everything in the show.

2 You're Reese. Alphonse is next to you. What do you say? What do you do?

3 Work in pairs.

You are watching the Clever Show. What do you think of it? Tell your partner.

Pages 14-17

1 Answer the questions.

- a) Who is Jody?
.....
- b) Who does she meet?
.....
- c) What lessons is Dorene angry about?
.....
- d) Does everyone think the same as Dorene?
.....

2 In your own language, talk about these questions.

- a) Francis and Jody meet for the first time at this picnic. What's funny about page 14?
- b) Why is Dewey sorry when he's with Caroline?
- c) What's the problem with the electro-magnet?

3 Dad and Malcolm say 'It isn't my fault!' at the same time. What is Dad talking about? What is Malcolm talking about?

.....
.....

4 For Malcolm there are good things and bad things about the explosion. Write one good thing and one bad thing.

.....
.....

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Pages 18-21

1 Choose the right words.

- a) Jody gives Francis *his / her* shirt.
- b) Malcolm gives Caroline some *food / bad news*.
- c) The dads say that Caroline *wants / has to find* a new job.
- d) Francis knows that Malcolm's very clever. He thinks *Malcolm's a freak / it isn't a problem*.
- e) Caroline *asks / doesn't ask* Malcolm to start the show again.

2 In your own language, talk about these questions.

- a) Why is Francis angry with Jody?
- b) What is Reese's problem?
- c) Why is Dorene angry with Malcolm's mum?
- d) Why are the dads angry with Caroline?

Pages 22-25

1 Complete the sentences with the correct names.

Dabney Malcolm Reese Dorene
Malcolm's family Malcolm's friends

- a) does difficult maths in his head.
- b) thinks that maybe Malcolm's maths is wrong.
- c) know that his maths is right.
- d) Dorene is angry that can't do the same maths as Malcolm.
- e) only likes hitting Krelboynes without big brothers.
- f) wants meat at a café.

2 Does your school have competitions or family days? What happens?

FINAL TASKS

1 You are one of these characters: Lois, Hal, Francis, Reese, Caroline. Describe your day at the picnic.

Example: *Lois: I make some nice food and take it to the picnic. ...*

2 Describe your favourite picnic. Think about the food and drink, the place, and the people. Is there a show, or music, or games?

3 This is an invitation to Malcolm's Krelboyne picnic.



Write an invitation to your picnic from question 2.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 There's a wrong word in these sentences about school. Find the right word in New Words! at the back of Krelboyne Picnic.

- a) You learn about numbers in ~~music~~ lessons. *maths*
- b) There is usually one teacher in every bed at school.
- c) When you are cool, you don't have to go to school.
- d) Never call someone a teenager. It's not nice.
- e) Your homework isn't here. That's your fun, not your mother's.
- f) Don't put your hand in this drink. It's very dangerous.

2 Write the food words in the right place.

soup picnic nuts meat

I don't want a (a) in the park. I hate the park, and it's very cold today. I want some of that green (b) for lunch – nice and hot. And please don't give me any (c) I don't eat anything from animals. And I can't eat (d) They make me ill.

3 What is this? Find it in New Words!

- a) You can buy things with this.
- b) You can hear this many kilometres from it.
- c) Sometimes people do funny things in this. Lots of people come and watch them.
- d) This isn't nice for your nose.
- e) You wash your hands after you sit on this.

Casual Language

- 'Yeah' means 'yes'.
- 'How are you doing?' means 'How are you?'
- People say 'right?' at the end of a sentence when they want the other person to agree with them. Stevie says, 'They're exciting, right?' on page 11. Caroline says, 'People like the show, right?' on page 13.
- People say 'ow!' when something hurts them.

Write the expressions in the right place.

Grace: Hi Lisa! (a) ?
 Lisa: Hi Grace. I'm OK, but – (b) !
 Grace: What's wrong?
 Lisa: My foot. There's something wrong with it. Your mum's a doctor, (c) ?
 Grace: (d)
 Lisa: Maybe she can have a look at it. It's really bad.

4 Work in pairs. Act out a part of the story. You can choose from:

- Lois and Dorene, page 10
- Malcolm and Stevie, page 15
- Francis and Jody, page 18
- Caroline and Malcolm, page 19
- Malcolm and Francis, page 21

THE SHOW (page 26)**TV show profile**

Students work in pairs. They choose a TV show that they both enjoy and write a profile of it, using the text in the Fact File about *Malcolm in the Middle* as a model. You could display the profiles around the class. The students read them all and vote on the profile that makes its TV show sound most interesting.

Invent a TV show

Students imagine that their own family or friends are the subject of a funny TV show. They write a description of the characters and a scene from the show. In groups, they could choose the best scene to act out for the class.

FRANKIE MUNIZ (page 27)**Interview**

Students work in pairs. One is the interviewer; the other is Frankie. They roleplay an interview, using some of the information from the text.

Alternatively they choose a different actor, find out information about him/her and prepare an interview. They can act out their interview in front of the class.

The millionaire lifestyle

Students imagine that they have just earned \$2 million for acting in a film. They write their own answers to the questions in purple text in the Fact File.

KIDS WITH TALENT (pages 28-29)**Spelling bee**

Organise an English spelling bee in class. In turns, the children have to spell out loud a word that you say for them. If they make a mistake, they're out. The words should get gradually harder until you have a winner.

DVD FOLLOW-UP**Observing**

Choose a scene before class and prepare questions on it. Tell students to look at everything very carefully and remember as much detail as they can. Play the scene a couple of times and then ask your questions, e.g. *Who does Caroline talk to when Malcolm's family first arrive? How many children are saying 'Go Malcolm!?' What colour is Caroline's hat?* etc. Play the scene again to check answers. Students mark each other's work.

Casual language

You can use very short sections of the DVD to practise casual language. The intonation and emphasis are often the key to the speaker's meaning. The same expression said in different ways can convey very different emotions. Play the relevant section several times and encourage students to try it out themselves. Some good scenes to use in this way:

- the conversation between Malcolm and Francis on page 9
- the first part of the conversation between Lois and Dorene on page 10
- when Francis introduces Jody to his dad on page 14
- the conversation between Francis and Jody on page 24
- some of the final scene in the car, page 25

ANSWER KEY**Self-Study Activities (pages 30-32)**

- 1 a) ill b) class c) show d) freak
- 2 toilet
- 3 a) right b) right c) wrong – He wants his mum to *think* that he's ill. d) wrong – They like the idea. e) right
- 4 a) Malcolm b) Francis c) Reese d) Malcolm's mum
e) Dorene f) Malcolm's dad
- 5 Open answers.
- 6 a) numbers b) chemicals c) explosion d) smell e) bad
- 7 a) Malcolm b) Francis c) Dorene
- 8 a) v b) i c) vi d) iii e) iv f) ii
- 9-10 Open answers.
- 11 a) Malcolm does the show; everything's OK with his family.
b) They aren't girlfriend and boyfriend but they are friendly.
c) He hits a little Krelboyne without a brother.
d) Malcolm's dad doesn't tell anyone about the meat. Dorene says terrible things to Malcolm's mum.
- 12 a) wrong – He doesn't like her. b) right c) wrong – She thinks Malcolm's sad because *he* can't be in the show.
d) wrong – He doesn't tell anyone about the meat.
e) wrong – Dorene hates Malcolm's mum.
- 13 a) yes b) no, because she doesn't want Malcolm to be better than her son Dabney c) no
- 14 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities**People and places**

- 1 b) ~~Francis~~ Dewey c) ~~Lois~~ Caroline d) ~~Caroline~~ Malcolm
e) ~~Reese~~ Francis f) ~~Har~~ Reese

Pages 6-8

- 1 a) iv b) ii c) i d) iii
- 2 a) x b) x c) ✓ d) x

Pages 9-10

- 1 a) like b) Malcolm c) friendly d) don't make any children
e) meat
- 2 no
- 3 Open answers.

Pages 11-13

- 1 a) ✓ b) x c) x d) x e) ✓ f) x
- 2-3 Open answers.

Pages 14-17

- 1 a) Francis's new girlfriend b) Francis and Malcolm's dad
c) music d) no
- 2 a) They are talking as if they've been together for years.
b) He's farted. c) It attracts the braces on the boy's teeth to it.
- 3 Dad is talking about his meat. It's making the Krelboyne children ill. Malcolm is talking about the explosion.
- 4 Good: He doesn't have to be in the show. There are no dead people. Bad: He's made problems for Caroline.

Pages 18-21

- 1 a) his b) food c) has to find d) it isn't a problem
e) doesn't ask
- 2 a) because she's being jealous b) he's trapped on the fence
c) because she's encouraged the other mums to stand up to her
d) because of the explosion and the meat at the picnic

Pages 22-25

- 1 a) Malcolm b) Dorene c) Malcolm's friends d) Dabney
e) Reese f) Malcolm's family
- 2 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 b) ~~bed~~ class c) ~~soil~~ ill d) ~~teenager~~ freak e) ~~fun~~ fault
f) ~~drink~~ chemical
- 2 a) picnic b) soup c) meat d) nuts
- 3 a) credit card b) explosion c) show d) stink e) toilet

Casual language

- a) How are you doing? b) ow c) right d) Yeah