



# THE GOLDEN COMPASS -EXTRA

## Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN/TEAM magazines.

### SYNOPSIS

Lyra Belacqua, an orphan, lives in a parallel world to our own where everyone has a dæmon – a talking animal which is part of them, but lives outside their body. Her world is controlled by the Magisterium, a powerful organisation. She lives in Jordan College at Oxford University. She and her best friend, Roger, are frightened of people they call the 'Gobblers'. Nobody knows who they are, but they kidnap children.

Lyra's life changes when she leaves Oxford to go to London with the mysterious Mrs Coulter. Before she leaves, she is given an alethiometer – a kind of compass which can answer questions – but told not to let Mrs Coulter know. Later, she discovers that Mrs Coulter is the head of the General Oblation Board – the Gobblers. They are taking children to the North to a place called the Experimental Station. Meanwhile, Lyra's uncle, Lord Asriel, is sent to prison in the North because he is trying to find out about Dust, a kind of energy.

Lyra escapes from Mrs Coulter and meets the Gyptians, a river people. She learns that Roger has been kidnapped and she goes North with them to rescue the missing children. On the way, they are joined by a witch, an armoured bear called Iorek and an aviator with an airship.

At the Experimental Station, Lyra discovers the kidnapped children are being cut from their dæmons by a terrible machine. Lyra helps the children escape. She also discovers that Lord Asriel and Mrs Coulter are her parents. Then she and Roger go to the home of the Ice Bears, to free Lord Asriel. Lyra tricks their king, Ragnar Sturlsson, into fighting Iorek. When Iorek wins, he becomes king of the Ice Bears.

They release Lord Asriel. However, he cuts Roger away from his dæmon. This creates a burst of energy, making a door into

another world, and Roger disappears in the process. Lord Asriel goes into the other world and then Lyra follows to rescue Roger.

### THE BACK STORY

*The Golden Compass* (published as *Northern Lights* in the UK) is the first book of Philip Pullman's trilogy, *His Dark Materials*. Although people describe the book as fantasy, Pullman says it is a story about real people. Lyra is a real girl who is growing up and trying to make sense of the adult world. He uses the fantasy parts of the story, especially the dæmons, to show us other aspects of ourselves.

The film of *The Golden Compass* is directed by Chris Weitz. It stars Nicole Kidman as Mrs Coulter and Daniel Craig as Lord Asriel. Real actors combine with CGI (computer generated images) to create Lyra's fantasy world. Dakota Blue Richards was chosen to play Lyra from thousands of girls who queued for auditions around the UK. She says she's like Lyra because she's quite brave and determined. 'I like to do what I'm told not to do,' she says.

### MEDIA LINKS

**DVD:** Available in spring 2008.

**Internet:** Official film website at: [www.goldencompassmovie.com](http://www.goldencompassmovie.com).

Author's website at: [www.philip-pullman.com](http://www.philip-pullman.com).

**Books:** *Northern Lights*, *The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass* are all published by Scholastic. Also available is a short story called *Lyra's Oxford* which is set two years after the end of the trilogy.

## HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

### Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have the students read Philip Pullman's books in their own language? Do the students like fantasy fiction? Motivate them by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere.

### Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study Activities at the back of the reader and from this resource sheet to go with each section. (All answers on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

### Using the DVD

Show the film in parallel with the class reading schedule or choose key scenes to watch. Alternatively, show it when the class have finished the book, as a reward.

### Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words

with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

### Casual language

Introduce the informal words and expressions used in *The Golden Compass* (see page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for them as they read.

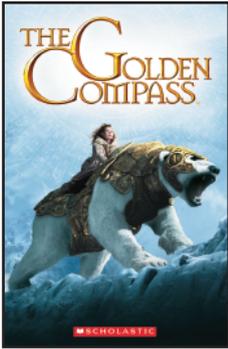
### Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. They include an interview with the author, facts about the differences between Lyra's world and our own, and a personality quiz that tells students about their dæmon. All fact files include activities.

### What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *The Golden Compass*. Compare opinions. Will they go and see the film? Did you like it? Let us know at [readers@scholasticeltreaders.com](mailto:readers@scholasticeltreaders.com).

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



THE GOLDEN COMPASS  
-EXTRA

People and dæmons/People and places

1 Answer the questions.

Who ...

- a) is Lyra's best friend? ..... *Roger* .....
- b) is very interested in Lyra? .....
- c) travels a lot? .....
- d) doesn't have a dæmon and is living in Trollesund? .....
- e) is always changing his form? .....
- f) live for a long time and can fly? .....
- g) are river people? .....
- h) can read the alethiometer? .....

2 Look at the dæmons. Mrs Coulter has a dangerous monkey. Lee Scoresby has a hare. What animal would you like for a dæmon? Talk to other people in your class.

Prologue and Chapter 1

1 An old prophecy says that Lyra will decide the future of all the worlds everywhere. How will Lyra do this, do you think? Why is she so important? Write your ideas.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| a) Fra Pavel      | i) saves Lord Asriel's life.                       |
| b) Lyra           | ii) shows the Scholars a picture of another world. |
| c) Lord Asriel    | iii) helps Roger when the Gobblers take him.       |
| d) Lyra's uncle   | iv) tries to kill Lord Asriel.                     |
| e) Lyra and Roger | v) doesn't show any love for her.                  |
| f) Nobody         | vi) are worried about the Gobblers.                |

3 Work with a friend. Everyone at Jordan College knows about the Gobblers. Have this conversation.

Student A: You work in the college kitchens. You want to know where Roger is.

Student B: You work in the college gardens. You heard a strange noise earlier in the evening. You think something has happened to Roger.

Chapters 2-3

1 Choose the correct answers.

- a) Mrs Coulter ~~doesn't want~~ / invites Lyra to travel to the North with her.
- b) Lyra / The Master / Pan loves the idea of going with Mrs Coulter.
- c) The Master says that nobody / many people can read the alethiometer.
- d) Fra Pavel knows / doesn't know where the alethiometer is.
- e) London is just like / very different from Oxford.
- f) Nobody talks / Lots of people talk to Lyra at the London parties.
- g) The Golden Monkey pulls Pan away from Lyra. She learns then that Mrs Coulter is exciting / dangerous.
- h) Lyra and Pan escape with / without the alethiometer.

2 One of the Scholars says to the Master, 'You don't believe that old prophecy, do you?' Do you believe people can see into the future? Talk to other people in your class.

Chapters 4-5

1 Find words to complete the sentences.

- a) Mrs Coulter lets one of the Gyptian .... *Spy-flies* ... escape.
- b) John Faa tells Lyra that the Gobblers have got ..... and .....
- c) Jacob Huismans gets back to the ship from Mrs Coulter's prison. He is .....
- d) The Gyptians catch one Mrs Coulter's Spy-flies in a .....
- e) A beautiful witch give Lyra a ..... for Farder Coram.
- f) Lee Scoresby has come to Trollesund to ..... a friend in trouble.
- g) lorek feels sorry for himself because he hasn't got his .....
- h) Lyra helps lorek. He says he will ..... for her until he dies.

2 Write two questions you would like to ask the alethiometer. Compare your questions with a partner.

Chapters 6-7

1 Correct the sentences.

- a) They all go North in Lee's airship.  
*They all go North on foot.* .....
- b) lorek feels comfortable outside the little building.  
.....
- c) Billy can live happily without his dæmon.  
.....
- d) The Gyptians take Lyra to the Experimental Station  
.....
- e) Lyra shouts excitedly when she sees Roger.  
.....

## RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**2 Look at the words in *italics>. What or who are the sentences about?***

- a) Fra Pavel has sent *him* to the Ice Bears in Svalbard.  
*him = Lord Asriel*
- b) The men in white coats put Lyra and Pan into *it*.
- c) Children don't have *it* – they get *it* when they're adults.
- d) *They* are Lyra's parents.
- e) *It* attacks the Golden Monkey.
- f) Lyra breaks *it* to wake the children.
- g) *They* stand in a line to stop the children.
- h) Lyra gets into *it* to fly to the North.

**Chapters 8–9**

**1 Tick (✓) the best answers.**

- a) Who does Serafina want to stop?  
 Lord Asriel.     Lyra.     The Magisterium.
- b) How does it smell in Ragnar's ice palace?  
 Nice.     Dusty.     Horrible.
- c) Who is Iorek's dæmon?  
 Lyra.     Pan.     He doesn't have one.
- d) Who is not very clever?  
 Ragnar.     Iorek.     Lyra.
- e) Who is Lord Asriel pleased to see?  
 Iorek.     Lyra.     Roger.
- f) Why does Iorek leave Lyra when they see Lord Asriel?  
 The ice is too thin.  
 The alethiometer tells him to go back.
- g) Why won't Mrs Coulter go with Lord Asriel?  
 She doesn't love him.     She's too frightened.

**2 Lyra chooses to follow Lord Asriel into a new and frightening world. You are Lyra – do you:**

- a) follow Lord Asriel
- b) go with Mrs Coulter
- c) go back with Iorek and the Gyptians

**Compare your choice with other people in the class.**

**FINAL TASKS**

**1 What will happen to Lord Asriel and Lyra in the new world? Write the next chapter of the story.**

**2 Imagine you are one of these characters:**

Mrs Coulter    Lee Scoresby    Roger

**Describe what happened at the Experimental Station from your point of view.**

**Example:** Mrs Coulter

*It was a long journey from London to Svalbard. I was very tired when I arrived ...*

**3 Lee Scoresby and Iorek meet in the Ice Bear king's palace in Svalbard after Lyra has followed her father into the new world. They talk about Lyra. Write their conversation.**

**VOCABULARY BUILDER**

**1 Look at the list of 'New Words' at the back of *The Golden Compass*. Find the right word for each description.**

- 1. You use it when you are walking in the country. It tells you the correct direction. .... *COMPASS* .....
- 2. When the police catch a killer, they lock them in this place. They don't give them the key. ....
- 3. If something is this colour, it shines in the sun. ....
- 4. When a big cat does this, climb a tree! ....
- 5. If you do this to your body, your blood will run out. ....
- 6. The Queen of England lives in one in the middle of London. ....
- 7. Some people won't fight in this – they believe it is wrong. ....
- 8. Scientists do a lot of these. ....
- 9. You can make this in your fridge. ....
- 10. This animal can be big and brown, big and black or big and white. ....

**2 Put these words in the right sentences.**

airships    dust    glow    prophecy    spy

- 1. The witch made a ..... She said, 'You will save your world.'
- 2. The horses ran fast and made a cloud of .....
- 3. The ..... sat in the café. He had his newspaper in front of his face, but he wasn't reading it. He was watching the building opposite.
- 4. The sun started to go down and a warm ..... lit up the trees.
- 5. People travelled in ..... before the days of planes.

**Casual language**

- **'dunno'** means 'I don't know' e.g. When Lyra doesn't know the answer to Pan's question she says 'Dunno.' (p.14).
- **'Hold it!'** means 'Don't move!' e.g. Lee Scoresby points his gun at the Magisterium police in Trollesund and says 'Hold it!' (p.30).
- **'kid'** is an informal word for 'child' e.g. Lyra says to Pan, 'They're cutting off the kids' dæmons!' (p.32).

**Complete the dialogues with the words in the box.**

Dunno    Hold it    kids

- 1. 'Did you hear that noise? I'll open the back door.'  
'..... ! It might be something dangerous.'
- 2. 'Who made this lovely cake?'  
'The ..... made it at school.'
- 3. 'I'm bored. What shall we do?'  
'..... What do you want to do?'

### FACT FILE 1: THE WRITER (pages 48–9)

#### Roleplay: Interview a famous writer

Students work in pairs and find out about the life of a writer they both like. They can use the Internet or the library to compile a list of facts.

Student A is the interviewer and prepares questions around the facts.

Student B is the writer, and prepares to talk about his or her life. Pairs roleplay their interview. They can repeat it for the class.

#### Quick-fire quiz

Divide the class in half, or, if you prefer, into smaller teams. Give the teams five minutes to prepare eight quick questions about Philip Pullman, using the information in the interview on pages 48–9, for example: *What did he keep in his shed? (A rat.)*

Teams take turns to ask questions. The team which is answering has to answer immediately. Give one point for each correct answer. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

### FACT FILE 2: LYRA'S WORLD (pages 50–1)

#### Create your own world

Students work in small groups. They imagine a world that is like their own but different. Things that are different can include clothes, travel, food, families and any other ideas the students have.

They make notes while they are discussing their ideas. Each group presents their new world to the class. Whose world do they like best?

#### Tourist Poster

Students work in pairs. They imagine they work for the Magisterium tourist office in Lyra's world. They prepare a travel poster for visitors coming either to Brytain or to Norrway from other countries in Lyra's world. They may be able to find pictures to print out and use on their poster and more information at [www.goldencompassmovie.com](http://www.goldencompassmovie.com).

### FACT FILE 3: FIND YOUR DÆMON (pages 52–3)

#### My dæmon

When students have completed the questionnaire, they use the information in the analysis to choose an animal as their dæmon. They find a picture, give it a name and write a description of its character.

Remind them that your dæmon is like you but also different from you, e.g. Pan is brave and strong like Lyra, but he is also more careful of new things.

Display students' work in the classroom.

### FILM FOLLOW-UP

#### Reviewing

If students have seen the film, ask them to write a review. Their review can answer these questions:

- What did you think of the acting/the special effects/the costumes?
- Did you enjoy it?
- How is the film different from the book?
- Did you prefer the book or the film? Why?
- Will you see *The Subtle Knife* when it comes out (Part 2 of the trilogy)?

### ANSWER KEY

#### Self-Study Activities (pages 54–6)

- 1 a) compass b) dust c) machines d) ice e) prophecy  
f) prison g) energy h) bear
- 3 a) False. Fra Pavel and the Magisterium don't like Lord Asriel and his ideas. b) True c) True d) False. Lyra wants to go, but she is worried too. e) True
- 4 Possible answers:  
a) Because he helped Lord Asriel.  
b) Because Mrs Coulter buys her new clothes; because people want to talk to her at dinner parties.  
c) She carries it in a bag during the day and puts it in her bed at night.  
d) Terrible.  
e) That Mrs Coulter is head of the Gobblers.  
f) So that he can take back the alethiometer and escape.
- 6 a) iii b) i c) vii d) ii e) vi f) iv g) v
- 8 a) iii b) iv c) v d) ii e) i
- 9 a) John Faa b) Lee Scoresby c) Hester d) Iorek Byrnison  
e) Lyra, Experimental Station f) Roger
- 10 Possible answers:  
a) 'I must find her!'  
b) 'Oh no! Poor Billy! We must rescue him.'  
c) 'Now I can be a real Ice Bear again.'  
d) 'Oh, my poor Billy. Where is your dæmon?'  
e) 'We must follow them.'
- 11 a) war b) palace
- 13 The correct order is: c, d, f, h, g, a, i, b, e.
- 14 a) working hard b) is c) has d) Roger, Lyra e) door  
f) doesn't care g) doesn't follow

#### Resource Sheet Activities

##### People and dæmons/People and places

- 1 b) Mrs Coulter c) Lord Asriel d) Iorek e) Pan, Lyra's dæmon  
f) the Witches of Lake Enara g) the Gyptians  
h) not many people

##### Prologue-Chapter 1

- 2 b) i c) ii d) v e) vi f) iii

##### Chapters 2–3

- 1 b) Lyra c) nobody d) doesn't know e) very different from  
f) Lots of people talk g) dangerous h) with

##### Chapters 4–5

- 1 b) Billy, Roger c) dying d) box e) message f) help/rescue  
g) armour h) work

##### Chapters 6–7

- 1 b) Iorek feels uncomfortable outside the little building.  
c) Billy is very unhappy without his dæmon.  
d) The Samoyeds take Lyra to the Experimental Station  
e) Lyra doesn't say anything when she sees Roger.
- 2 b) the cutting machine  
c) Dust, Dust  
d) Mrs Coulter and Lord Asriel  
e) the Spy-fly  
f) the glass box on the wall  
g) the Tartars (and their wolf-dæmons)  
h) Lee's airship

##### Chapters 8–9

- 1 b) Horrible. c) He doesn't have one. d) Ragnar e) Roger  
f) The ice is too thin. g) She's too frightened.

#### Vocabulary Builder

- 1 2. prison 3. golden 4. roars 5. cut 6. palace 7. war  
8. experiments 9. ice 10. bear
- 2 1. prophecy 2. dust 3. spy 4. glow 5. airships

#### Casual language

1. Hold it 2. kids 3. Dunno