

Money Run

Jack Heath

Teachers' Notes

Introduction

Jack Heath is twenty-two. As a child he decided that he wanted to be a novelist but didn't begin writing seriously until he started *The Lab* when he was thirteen. Jack also writes soundtracks for short films, plays bass in four local bands and has a part-time job as a music tutor. His debut novel *The Lab* was published in 2006 and the sequel, *Remote Control*, in 2007.

Money Run is the story of Ashley Arthur and Benjamin Whiteley – two teenage geniuses who are professional thieves in their spare time. They believe that \$200 million is hidden somewhere in billionaire Hammond Buckland's office building and their intention is to find it and steal it. But they don't know that there's a hit man in the building. They don't know that they're about to get caught in the crossfire. And they don't know that Hammond Buckland has a sinister agenda that's about to be revealed...





Curriculum Links

English: Reading, Writing, Research, Presenting
Creative and Performing Arts: Drawing, Painting
Mathematics: Mapping

Learning Outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to:

- respond to texts for understanding, interpretation, critical analysis and pleasure
- draw on a range of skills and strategies to read and comprehend a text
- use language to communicate appropriately and effectively
- think in ways that are imaginative, interpretive and critical
- analyse techniques used by authors to create certain effects and use language creatively.

Before you read

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

Share other book titles by Jack Heath you have heard of or read before. Read the back cover of the book. Discuss other stories of a similar genre you may have read.

Read the book

Read *Money Run*, stopping every now and then to re-evaluate where you think the story may be heading. Discuss your ideas with a classmate as well as parts of the story you like and why.

After You Read

Use the following questions to promote discussion of the book.

1. What made Ash begin to steal in the first place?
[She needed the money because her mother took most of the family's money when she left Ash's father.]
2. How did Ash and Benjamin communicate throughout their ordeal?

3. What was Hammond Buckland's first invention? Why did he invent it and how did it work?
4. What happened to Ash's bed? What did it have to do with Ash and Benjamin's friendship and career? How did they track down the thief?
5. What advice did Hammond Buckland give Ash about finance and corporations when they first met?
6. What and who did Detective Wright find in the alley? Who did it turn out to be?
7. Why did Ash steal a mirror from the men's room instead of the women's bathroom? What did she use it for?
8. What was significant about the cube on the top of the HBS tower?
9. How did Mr Buckland share his wealth with the people?
10. How did Mr Buckland set Ash and Benjamin up right from the beginning? What was Hammond Buckland's job offer to Ash?
11. Do you think Benjamin and Ash ever went out on a date together?
12. Do you think Jack has successfully created female characters? Why or why not.

Greed

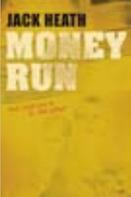
Greed is one of the main themes of the book. Reflect on what greed is. Write down your definition of greed, what causes it, whether or not you believe it can be a good quality, as well as what harm greed can cause. On a separate page list the things that can give real meaning or purpose to your life.

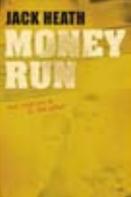
Teenage Girls

On p237 there is the line 'How much of a threat could a teenage girl be?' Write a short recount about this topic. Use the character Ash as the teenager, and define and describe just how much trouble a teenage girl can be.

Money, Money, Money

Money is a major theme in the book. Ash and Benjamin want it, Peachey wants it, Hammond Buckland has a lot of it. Use the quote 'For the love of money is the root of all evil' as a basis for debate. List as many positives and negatives that you can in relation to the topic as well as any interesting facts that arise. Have a class debate making sure you correctly define the topic.





Interview the author

Write down ten questions you would like to ask Jack Heath, the author of *Money Run*. Include questions about the author and his background as well as questions about the novel. Explore Jack's website (jackheath.com.au) Find out where to send your questions and see if you get a response.

Design a robot

The vacuum cleaner in the story is a very useful tool for Ash and Benjamin. Think of an everyday appliance and make it into a spy-type robot. Draw your robot, labelling the parts and explaining what they do. If possible make a 3-D model of your robot.

Mapping a blueprint

On p58 Ash uses her memory of a blueprint to determine where things are in the HBS tower. Create your own blueprint or a floor plan of your classroom. Use an accurate scale to represent the room and its contents. Include cupboards, doors, windows and other interesting features. As an extension activity use your school or home as the basis for creating a maze or labyrinth.

Movie Makers

Imagine *Money Run* being made into a movie. Choose a section of the story. Write it out in the form of a script or screenplay. Include directions and special effects as well as characters and lines of speech. What do you think would be the most exciting or interesting part of the film?

Too Hot, Too Cold

On p61 Benjamin suggests Ash will die of 'hyperthermia'. She corrects him and tells him it is 'hypothermia'. Use books, dictionaries or the internet to define hypothermia and hyperthermia. List the causes and symptoms of each. Compare any similarities or differences.

Bird's Eye View

Imagine you are on top of one of the high-rise buildings. Draw or paint a picture with the view from the roof looking down onto the street.

Biological Warfare

When Ash found a box containing a powdery substance, she thought it was anthrax. Use books and the internet to discover what anthrax is, how and why it is used, and its effect on humans. Track down some newspaper articles involving anthrax and terrorism or biological warfare and include them in your report.

Advertising

Imagine you work for an advertising agency. Your brief is to come up with an ad or commercial for a \$2 million car – the Bugatti Veyron. Write down three different ideas for the car company, explaining how you would advertise this incredible car and its features. It can be a TV commercial or a print ad.

Boiling Oil

Read the description on p185 describing Peachey in the vat of oil. Analyse and jot down the words and phrases that make this such a frightening passage.

Research

Use books or the internet to research the lives and crimes of real thieves or outlaws in history, for example Bonny and Clyde. Present your findings to the class.

