

## Secrets Of A Sun King by Emma Carroll

Age 9-11

### Reasons for selection and synopsis

*This book is a perfect accompaniment to an Ancient Egypt topic, as Emma Carroll takes us back to the excitement of discovering a tomb and explores the young Pharaoh Tutankhamun in excellent detail.*

*Secrets of a Sun King is set in London 1922 and tells the story of a girl called Lillian who travels to Egypt with her friends in a desperate attempt to save her Grandad.*

*Not only does this book provide lessons into the life of Ancient Egyptians, but also evokes feelings of compassion and humanity through its excellent plot as Emma Carroll delivers on historical fiction yet again.*

### Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it and why?

Where do you think the book is set? What clues are you given?

### Reading Vipers

**V**ocabulary  
**I**nfer  
**P**redict  
**E**xplain  
**R**etrieve  
**S**equence or Summarise



Now read the blurb. Has this changed your prediction for the story? Make a more accurate prediction.

*The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way!*

1

Vocabulary	<p>What does it mean if you 'polish off' something?</p> <p>What is an 'archaeologist'?</p> <p>What do you think it means to get 'grubby' with the world?</p>
Infer	<p>Find and copy a sentence which indicates the kitchen table wasn't very big.</p> <p>Find a phrase which suggests Mom wasn't reading the newspaper thoroughly.</p> <p>Find evidence which suggests Mom is hard-working.</p> <p>Why do you think the author compared war to a 'gritty layer of dust'?</p> <p>Find a phrase which suggests school was boring.</p>
Predict	<p>Predict who the 'friend' of Grandad might've been.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain why ex-soldiers might've found themselves begging on street corners.</p>
Retrieve	<p>What does Dad do for his job?</p> <p>Why was Dad lucky to have a job?</p> <p>How did the war affect Dad?</p> <p>What was strange about what the police found?</p> <p>Why had Howard Carter gone to Egypt?</p> <p>Why weren't Mom and Dad at home?</p> <p>Why did Lil go to Grandad's house?</p> <p>Find and copy two things that Grandad tried to sell.</p> <p>What is Chai?</p> <p>What was the old Egyptian proverb?</p> <p>Why was Lil shocked when she saw who had sent the parcel?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise Lil in one word. Then, explain why you chose this word.</p>

## 2

Vocabulary	Find and copy a word which means 'to hold on to something'. What does it mean if you're 'stunned'?
Infer	What do you think Lil believes has happened to her Grandad at the start of this chapter and why? Why do you think Dad wasn't at the hospital? Do you think Lil should have opened the parcel? Find evidence which suggests the wooden box was old. Find evidence which indicates it was raining outside. Why do you think Howard Carter was looking for Tutankhamun?
Predict	Predict what Lil will do in the next chapter.
Explain	Explain why the story of Tutankhamun captured people's hearts.
Retrieve	What was Professor Hanawati? Why was Dad 'arguing' with the stove? Who is Anubis? What are hieroglyphics? What was the jar made out of? What disease did the doctors think Grandad had? How did Grandad get the disease? Why should Lil not visit Grandad? What is the Rosetta Stone? What was Howard Carter looking for?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in no more than two sentences.

**3**

Vocabulary	Find and copy a word which means the same as 'pleaded'. Define 'scholarship'. Define 'courageous'. What is a 'pinafore'? What does it mean if you're 'snobby'?
Infer	Why do you think Lil ran out of the hospital so quickly? Why do you think Lil's friends stopped hanging around with her? Who do you think the 'boy king' could be? What did Lil and Tulip have in common? Why do you think Lil was jealous of Tulip and Oz? How do you know if a tomb belongs to a Pharaoh? Why do you think Lil's bag got mixed up?
Predict	Predict what Lil will do to get her bag back.
Explain	Explain how the satchel makes Lil feel.
Retrieve	What did Dad wish Lil luck for? Why didn't Lil want to come back to the hospital? Why was skipping school risky? Who was the new prime minister? Where did Lil go after the hospital? What is 'shabtis'? Find and copy two adjectives used to describe Tulip. Find and copy three things Oz was drawing. Who is Isis?
Summarise	Summarise the character of Oz in one word. Then, explain why you chose this word.

**4**

Vocabulary	What does it mean if you 'skive'? Find a phrase which means the same as 'tipping water'. Define 'beckoning'. What does it mean if you're 'rambling'? What is a 'procession'?
Infer	Find evidence which indicates the doctor is friendly. Find and copy a sentence which shows Grandad is ill. Why do you think Lil didn't cry in front of Grandad? What do you think Lil was thinking as she left the hospital?
Predict	Will Lil go to Egypt alone to take the jar back?
Explain	Explain why the Unknown Soldier reminded Lily of the box.
Retrieve	Why did Lil's heart sink in the hospital? How did Grandad know it was Lily without looking? How will the curse be broken? What was the name of the hotel? Who did the 'Unknown Warrior' represent? What did Lil wear to the funeral? What was the only part of the Unknown Soldier Lil saw?
Summarise	Sequence these events in the order they appear in the text (1-4) Grandad told Lily about the curse ____ Lily started crying ____ The nurse asked Lily to leave ____ Lily remembered something from a few years ago ____

**5**

Vocabulary	Think of a word that is synonymous with 'exhausting'. Define 'coax'. What does it mean if something is 'hard to decipher'?
Infer	What did Lil lie to Dad about? Do you think Lil should have told Mum about the jar? Why do you think Lil wishes she had a brother or sister? Why do you think Lil was even more scared for Grandad after reading the letter? How does Kyky feel about Lysandra? Do you think Kyky wanted to be king?
Predict	Predict what Lil might do with the translated scroll.
Explain	Explain what the saying 'let your face shine' might mean.
Retrieve	What did Lil think Dad was thinking about by the stove? Why did Lil go to Grandad's house? Find and copy three things that were in Grandad's hallway. What were some of the newspaper trimmings about? What was described as 'no accident'? What did Hanawati find inside the jar? Why did Hanawati suggest sending the jar to Ezra? Who is 'Kyky'? What was Lysandra's special skill? What is one of KyKy's favourite sports?
Summarise	Use one word to describe Dad at the start of this chapter. Then, explain why you chose this word.

Vocabulary	<p>Define 'parlour'.</p> <p>What do you think Tulip means by Oz is a 'walking encyclopaedia'?</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think Lil brushed off the dirt from her coat?</p> <p>Do you think Lil is nervous talking to Tulip's mum?</p> <p>Find and copy a sentence which shows Mr Carter is close to finding the tomb.</p> <p>Why do you think Tulip 'chewed her lip' when she spoke about Alex?</p> <p>Why do you think Oz 'held his breath' when he heard about who wrote the scroll?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict whether they will take the jar to the British History Museum.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain what was similar about Grandad and Kyky.</p> <p>Explain what their clever plan was to get Mrs Mendoza to go to Egypt.</p>
Retrieve	<p>Why was the curse active again?</p> <p>Why did Lil go to Highgate?</p> <p>How did Lil know the house was going to be posh before she saw it?</p> <p>Find and copy two things Lil saw in Tulip's hallway.</p> <p>What was Tulip's mum's job?</p> <p>What was Tulip's mum writing about?</p> <p>Why was Mrs Mendoza unhappy?</p> <p>What is a 'canopic' jar?</p> <p>Where should the jar be kept?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise this chapter in no more than three sentences.</p>

7

Vocabulary	<p>Define 'cunningly'.</p> <p>Define 'suspicious'.</p> <p>Think of a word that is synonymous with 'flustered'.</p> <p>Define 'regal'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think a policeman was standing outside the Professor's house?</p> <p>Find and copy a sentence which indicates getting into the Professor's house was going to be unlikely.</p> <p>Find evidence that suggest Kyky is young and innocent.</p> <p>Find and copy a sentence which shows Lysandra was holding her mother's hand tightly.</p> <p>How do we know Kyky's grandfather doesn't care about him?</p> <p>Why do you think Kyky crashed?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what Lil, Tulip and Oz will do in the next chapter.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain what Lil's plan was to get into the house.</p>
Retrieve	<p>What did they hope Professor Hanawati's translation would tell them?</p> <p>How could they afford bus fare?</p> <p>What did the servant do after she saw Lil?</p> <p>How did Lil avoid the police officer?</p> <p>Find and copy two things that were on the desk.</p> <p>Who were Kyky's favourite horses?</p> <p>Why did Lysandra feel sorry for Kyky?</p> <p>Why did Roti get beaten with his own horsewhip?</p> <p>Why did mother insist on Lysandra wearing sandals?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise this chapter in no more than four sentences.</p>

8

Vocabulary	Define 'gratitude'. Define 'envious'.
Infer	Why was it a risk that Lil kept on digging for more information about Tutankhamun? Why do you think Dad doesn't like going to church? Why do you think Lil was 'envious' of Oz and Tulip?
Predict	Why do you think Mum and Dad went to St. Mary's convent?
Explain	Explain what a 'sun king' is.
Retrieve	What did the translation not tell Lil? Why was Howard Carter like a 'sun king'? Where did Dad go on a Friday evening? Why was the sweet sherry a 'god-send'? What was today's date? What did Mum do when they got home from the pub?
Summarise	Order these events in chronological order (1-4) They finished eating their roast dinner ____ Lil's parents went for a stroll ____ Lil heard her parents whispering ____ Lil followed her parents to the convent ____

Vocabulary	<p>Define 'optimism'.</p> <p>What does it mean if you're 'blustering'?</p> <p>What does it mean if you feel 'wretched'?</p> <p>What is a 'misdemeanour'?</p>
Infer	<p>Why was it bad news that Carter had found the official tomb?</p> <p>Find and copy a sentence which shows Lil was desperate to go with them to Egypt.</p> <p>Why do you think the headmistress asked if Lil was a 'scholarship student'?</p> <p>Do you think Mrs Emerson-Jones is a good headmistress?</p> <p>Why do you think Lil was scared of her dad's reaction?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what Lil's Dad will do when he finds out about Lil's misbehaviour.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain why the author described Millicent Thorpe's friends as 'shadows'.</p>
Retrieve	<p>Why did Lil go to a post office closer to Tulip's house rather than her own?</p> <p>How long would it take for the telegram to be delivered?</p> <p>Why did Mum get upset when she received the telegram?</p> <p>What hotel had Tulip booked?</p> <p>How long did they plan on staying in Luxor?</p> <p>What did Miss Parker announce?</p> <p>What did Mrs Emerson-Jones smell like?</p> <p>What was the punishment given to Lil?</p>
Summarise	<p>Think of a word to describe Millicent. Then, explain why you chose this word.</p>

**10**

Vocabulary	Find and copy a word which means the same as 'confused'. Define 'bewildered'. What does it mean if something is 'heart-wrenching'?
Infer	Do you think Dad is right to tell Lil off? Find and copy a phrase which shows Lil is scared of Dad. Why do you think Mum is so willing for Lil to go to Egypt? How do you think Mum felt giving her boy away? Why do you think Mum accidentally says Grandad 'would' be proud of Lil?
Predict	Predict what will happen in the next chapter.
Explain	Explain why Mum and Dad had to give their boy away.
Retrieve	Why did Lil wish Mum was at home? What did Lil get an invitation for? What time is the train? Find and copy three things Lil put in her suitcase. What did Grandmother say about the baby boy? Why did Lil's parents go to the convent?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in no more than two sentences.

Vocabulary	<p>What does it mean if you 'get in a tizz'?</p> <p>Define 'thrust'.</p> <p>Find a word which means the same as 'smiled'.</p> <p>What does it mean if you're 'gawping'?</p> <p>Define 'resplendent'.</p>
Infer	<p>How do you think Lil felt when she first arrived on the platform?</p> <p>Find evidence which suggests Mrs Mendoza makes people happy.</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what Lil's Dad will say about her going to Egypt.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain why Lil was asking so many questions about Tulip's brother.</p>
Retrieve	<p>What was the last thing Lil saw her Mom doing?</p> <p>Why was Lil worried about getting on the train?</p> <p>What colour was the train?</p> <p>Why didn't the guard let Lil through?</p> <p>Where was the jar?</p> <p>Find and copy three things people were doing on the train.</p> <p>What was a 'crushingly awful' thought?</p> <p>What rule did they make for their adventure?</p> <p>What does Tulip's Dad do for a job?</p> <p>True or false – They played chess on the train.</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise this chapter in no more than two sentences.</p>

## 12 and 13

Vocabulary	<p>What is a telegram?</p> <p>What does it mean if you're 'speculating'?</p> <p>What does 'people are plotting against our king' mean?</p>
Infer	<p>Find and copy one reason why the new train was even fancier than the last one.</p> <p>Find evidence which suggests Lil didn't like the Ouija game.</p> <p>Do you think Mr Carter is being selfish?</p> <p>Find and copy a phrase which shows Mrs Mendoza doesn't like Mr Pemberton.</p> <p>Find evidence that Ay had no respect for Kyky.</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what Ay will do when he finds out what Maya has taken.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain what Kyky means by 'Riches haven't brought me happiness.'</p> <p>Explain what 'the nut doesn't reveal the tree it contains' means.</p>
Retrieve	<p>What two meanings did 'Not here in the afterlife' have?</p> <p>What happened to the canary?</p> <p>What did Lil help the man on the platform do?</p> <p>What was Mr Pemberton ordering Mrs Mendoza to do?</p> <p>What was the dream telling Lysandra?</p> <p>Who did Maya take to the tomb site?</p> <p>What was Lysandra's duty?</p> <p>Who performed the Opening Of The Mouth ritual?</p> <p>What did Maya take from Kyky?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise the evening of Kyky's death in no more than three sentences.</p>

## 14 and 15

Vocabulary	Find and copy a word which means the same as 'weak'. What's an 'exclusive'?
Infer	How do you think Lil felt about the possibility of the heart being in the jar? Why do you think Lil asked Oz and Tulip not to tell her mum about their findings? Find evidence which suggests Lil liked stepping on Egyptian land. Who could the men in suits at the hotel be? What do you think Mum meant by 'doctors say fading'? Why do you think Mr Carter is letting them stop at his house?
Predict	Predict what they will do in the next chapter.
Explain	Explain why Lil was thankful for Tulip.
Retrieve	What did Kyky's heart look like? Why didn't Lil pass the heart to Oz? Where did the heart 'belong'? Find and copy two adjectives used to describe the smell of Cairo. Find and copy two similarities between Cairo and London. What made Lil recognise she was a long way from home? What simile was used to describe the hotel? Why was Lil surprised at the first hotel? What is 'galabiya'?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in no more than three sentences.

## 16 and 17

Vocabulary	<p>What does it mean if something looks 'formidable'?</p> <p>Find and copy a word which suggests the valley was 'empty'.</p> <p>Define 'exasperating'.</p> <p>Define 'stubborn'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why do you think Lil didn't want to rest?</p> <p>Find evidence which suggests the valley was dangerous.</p> <p>What do you think the 'yellow storm' was?</p> <p>Why do you think Pepe says 'your Mr Carter'?</p> <p>How do you think they felt as they rode on their camels through the valley?</p>
Predict	<p>Who do you think the torch belongs to?</p>
Explain	<p>Explain why the author described the chill down Lil's back as 'slithering'.</p>
Retrieve	<p>Why did Lil want Mrs Mendoza to disappear?</p> <p>What were Lil and Tulip not looking forward to on the trip?</p> <p>How did they know someone was in at Castle Carter?</p> <p>Why was the sandstorm not a co-incidence?</p> <p>Why was Egypt like England?</p> <p>Why couldn't Tulip manage a two-mile trek in the dark?</p> <p>What bit Tulip?</p> <p>Why can't they visit the valley?</p> <p>Why did Oz want to ride on Charlie?</p> <p>What did Lil do when she felt scared?</p> <p>How do camels see?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise these chapters in no more than three sentences.</p>

## 18 and 19

Vocabulary	What does it mean if something is 'tethered'? Define 'plundered'.
Infer	Find evidence which suggests the tomb wasn't as Lil had imagined. Find evidence which shows Mr Carter shouldn't have been at the cave. Why do you think Lil called them 'tomb raiders'? Find and copy a sentence which shows the path was getting smaller the longer they travelled. How did Mr Carter feel coming out of the tomb? How do you think Lil knew to move the boulder? Why do you think there were other people buried there?
Predict	Predict who the notebook belonged to.
Explain	Explain why Mr Carter, Lord Carnarvon, Lady Evelyn and Pecky were at the cave. Explain why it was ironic that Osiris's picture was in the tomb.
Retrieve	Why did Pecky light a kerosene lamp? Why did Lil know what was in the room without looking? How was Mr Carter allowed to enter the tomb despite the guards being there? Why did Oz yell 'ouch'? Why was the shingle horrible to walk on? Why did Lil give the jar to Pepe? What were the walls in the cave decorated with?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in no more than three sentences.

## 20 and 21

Vocabulary	Define 'vivid'. What does it mean if you 'wince'?
Infer	Find and copy a sentence which shows Lil's heart was beating fast. Why was Alex in for a 'proper telling off'? How did Mum react when she saw Alex? Why do you think Alex didn't want to come home from the hospital after war? Why isn't Pepe impressed with the Englishman? Find evidence that Mr Carter felt Lil was wasting his time.
Predict	Predict what Mr Carter will do in the next chapter.
Explain	Explain why the grand tomb opening felt a little fake. Do you agree with Lil that Mr Carter shouldn't remove anything from the cave?
Retrieve	Why did Lil recognise the reporter? What was special about Alex? How did Alex get the scar on his face? Where had Alex been all this time? What time was the tomb ceremony scheduled for? How did Mrs Mendoza know Mr Carter? Why did they call the discovery KV62? Why did Lil bite her lip in surprise?
Summarise	Use one word to describe Mr Carter. Then, explain why you chose this word.

**22 and 23**

Vocabulary	What does it mean if you 'put the record straight'? What do you think Mr Carter meant by a 'preliminary viewing'?
Infer	Why was Lil apprehensive about going home? Why was Lil so happy when she arrived back at the train station? Why do you think Lil felt her family was 'stronger'? Why do you think Alex carried on living with the Mendozas? Why had the story lost 'a bit of its shine' for Lil?
Predict	What could happen in a sequel to this book?
Explain	Explain why Alex was Lil's brother.
Retrieve	Why did they send the news story to the Cairo Gazette? Why did Lil hope the dog was a sign? Why did Grandad have photographs of Alex? What was Alex's real name? What newspaper headline marked Lord Carnarvon's death?
Summarise	Summarise the story on a side of A4.