‘The very next morning, I was plastered all over the national papers. From the Sterilis Standard to the Daily Splash, those pictures of me and Mum squinting into the camera were on every front page in the country, as well as some rather nasty headlines, like: ‘I’m not sorry!’ Mastermind of Terrifying Epidemic Remains Unrepentant and Does This Freakish Plague Mean the End of the World? When Will It Stop? How Will It End? and The Seedy Secret Home Life of Britain’s Naughtiest Eleven-year-old and How to Protect Yourself from an Outbreak: Harness the Power of My Tailor-made Crystals by Dr Phoney Maloney. The pictures of my scowling face, dried-up forehead and floppy flowers didn’t paint me in the best possible light, I had to admit.’ (Page 294)

Task: In Bloom, the media were dramatic and negative about the events caused by Sorrel and the surprising seeds. Your task is to put the opposite spin on the news. Write a newspaper article to describe the events from a positive point of view.

You can use ideas from the story and your own imagination to write your newspaper article.

Ideas to include:
• A catchy article heading
• Who was involved in the event?
• What happened that was interesting?
• Why did that happen?
• Where did it all started?
• When did it happen?
• Quotes from witnesses
• Picture with a caption
'Aisha Atticus grew a patch of tall flowers, at least half a metre tall, that ended in vivid purple flowers… Robbie’s head was covered in pale pink daisy-like flowers that tumbled over each other in a bright carpet of colour… Polly Minkle had tumbling sea-green stalks with tiny round green leaves that cascaded all the way down to her neck…’ (Pages 234 – 235)

Task: Imagine self-seeding surprising seeds have made their way to your scalp! Design your ideal floral head and hope for the best!

Use information from the story and your own imagination.

Ideas to include:
• the type of flowers, fruits or vegetables are growing from your head
• the colours, smells and shapes they are
• the size your plants are and how they might affect your face, ears and neck

Draw your design on the next page.
BLOOM
THE SURPRISING SEEDS
OF SORREL FALLOWFIELD

NICOLA SKINNER

Draw your design here.

Meet young poltergeist
Frances Ripley in Nicola
Skinner's brand new novel
BLOOM
THE SURPRISING SEEDS
OF SORREL FALLOWFIELD

NICOLA SKINNER

Test your knowledge of the story. See how many quiz questions you can answer correctly. Use the book to help you find the answers.

Hint: the questions are in the same order as the story, so the answer to Q1 will be found near the beginning of the story, and the answer to Q24 will be found near the end.

1. Where did Sorrel’s mum work?

2. Why did Sorrel want to win the Grittysnit Star competition?

3. Where did Sorrel find the packet of surprising seeds?

4. What did the surprising seeds look like?

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NICOLA SKINNER
5. Why were the Year Six class called the Laminators?

6. Where did Elka live before she came to Little Sterilis?

7. What did Mr Grittysnit plan to build on the playing field?

8. What business does Sid Strangeways run?

9. Who is Sorrel’s science-loving best friend?
10. Where did Sorrel sprinkle the seeds?

11. What happened to Sorrel and Neena when they became very thirsty?

12. What is a ‘Bad Blot’ and what does it mean if you get one?

13. What is the name of Sorrel’s house?

14. Who is Miss Mossheart?
15. What grew on Sorrel’s head?


16. What grew on Neena’s head?


17. Who is Agatha Strangeways?


18. How did the seeds spread to everyone else’s heads?


19. Why is Neena’s notebook an important part of the story?


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20. Who grew a smelly corpse flower on their head?

21. Who is Nathan Bites?

22. Why did Neena’s parents change her science lab shed?

23. Who are the Valentini family?

24. How was Scalp Sprout eventually cured?
'Right, then. Well, if it’s seeds you’ve got, you’ll need this type of compost… and a seed tray. Have you got gardening gloves? No? Try these two on for size. And you’ll need a watering can with a good-sized flower – that’s what we call the thing with little holes on the top, which stops the water from gushing out all at once and soaking the earth. Seedlings prefer a gentle drink rather than a gulp – easy mistake to make but you’ll be glad to avoid it and don’t worry if they don’t grow dreckly, cos seeds take a while to germinate. Just be patient…’

(Pages 94 – 95)

Task: Sorrel and Neena were fairly clueless about what to do with the surprising seeds to make them grow. Luckily Sid Strangeways was able to guide them.

Your task is to create a leaflet to teach others how to sow seeds. Think about what might make the leaflet interesting and engaging. Use information from the story as well as your imagination. You may also like to research similar topics to get ideas.

Ideas to include:
- A catchy title and headings
- Clear, easy to read information
- Images with captions
- Information about what equipment is needed for sowing seeds
- Information about what how to care for seedlings and plants
- Information about the how seeds are spread

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Task: Solve the clues to complete the crossword

1. The seeds are self-_______
2. The frozen pizza factory
3. The garden centre
4. Sorrel’s surname
5. The school secretary, Mrs ______
6. The headteacher’s name, Mr ______
7. Obedience ______are awarded to obedient pupils
8. Where Sorrel wanted to go on holiday
9. Sid’s dog
10. Mrs ______, Neena’s mum
11. Sorrel’s mum

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