

***Read the extract by Anthony Horowitz then answer the questions that follow.***

**Extract from: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz.**

"I'm afraid we haven't had a great deal of time, Mrs J," Smithers replied. "The challenge was to think what a fourteen-year-old might carry with him - and adapt it." He picked the first object off the tray. A yo-yo. It was slightly larger than normal, made of black plastic.

"Let's start with this," Smithers said.

Alex shook his head. He couldn't believe any of this. "Don't tell me!" he exclaimed. "It's some sort of secret weapon..."

"Not exactly. I was told you weren't to have weapons. You're too young."

"So it's not really a hand grenade? Pull the string and run like mad?"

"Certainly not. It's a yo-yo." Smithers pulled out the string, holding it between a podgy finger and thumb. "However, the string *is* a special sort of nylon. Very advanced. There are thirty metres of it and it can lift weights of up to one hundred kilograms. The actual yo-yo is motorized and clips on to your belt. Very useful for climbing."

"Amazing." Alex was unimpressed.

"And then there's this." Smithers produced a small tube. Alex read the side: ZIT-CLEAN, FOR HEALTHIER SKIN. "Nothing personal," Smithers went on apologetically, "but we thought it was something a boy of your age might use. And it is rather remarkable." He opened the tube and squeezed some of the cream on to his finger. "Completely harmless when you touch it. But bring it into contact with metal and it's quite another story." He wiped his finger, smearing the cream on to the surface of the table. For a moment nothing happened. Then a wisp of acrid smoke twisted upwards in the air, the metal sizzled and a jagged hole appeared. "It'll do that to just about any metal," Smithers explained. "Very useful if you need to break through a lock." He took out a handkerchief and wiped his finger clean.

"Anything else?" Mrs Jones asked.

"Oh yes, Mrs J. You could say this is our piece de resistance." He picked up a brightly coloured box that Alex recognized at once as a Nintendo Game Boy Color. "What teenager would be complete without one of these?" he asked. "This one comes with four games. And the beauty of it is, each game turns the computer into something quite different."

He showed Alex the first game. "If you insert Nemesis, the computer becomes a fax/photocopier which gives you direct contact with us and vice versa." A second game.

"Exocet turns the computer into an X-ray device. It has an audio function too. The headphones are useful for eavesdropping. It's not as powerful as I'd like, but we're working on it. Speed Wars is a bug finder. I suggest you use it at the moment you're shown to your room. And finally...Bomber Boy."

"Do I get to play that one?" Alex asked.

"You can play all four of them. But as the name might suggest, this is actually a smoke bomb. You leave the game cartridge somewhere in a room and press START three times on the console and it will go off. Useful camouflage if you need to escape in a hurry."

## Reading skills.

For these questions, unless it states give a word, you must write in proper sentences!!

Task 1: To explain the meaning of words in context.

1. What does "Run like mad." Mean?
2. Give the meaning of the word acrid in this sentence: "Then a wisp of acrid smoke twisted upwards in the air, the metal sizzled and a jagged hole appeared."
3. Which of these words is a synonym (means the same as) "harmless" : friendly, kind, exciting or safe
4. Find and copy one word meaning "spreading."

Task 2: to answer questions about a text

- 1.Name the three characters from the passage.
2. Alex is given 3 spy gadgets. What are they? Give details about what each does.
3. How does the author describe the Nintendo Game Boy Colour?
4. Why do you think Alex is being given gadgets to use?

### Task 3

Create your own spy gadget for Alex. Design and draw this gadget, include annotations (notes about what each part does).

### Task 4

Using the letters in the word **STORMBREAKER** how many other words can you make? (you can only use the letters once for each word).