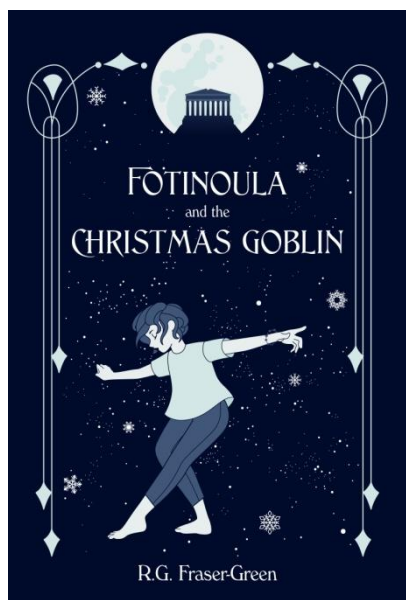


Fotinoula and the Christmas Goblin

Teaching Resource Pack

Upper KS2



Title: **Fotinoula and the Christmas Goblin**

Author: **R.G. Fraser-Green**

Reading Age: **9 - 12 years**

Publisher: **Fota Press**

Website: **www.fotapress.com**

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Why study Fotinoula and the Christmas Goblin?

Fotinoula and the Christmas Goblin (published 2020 by Fota Press) is a fantasy novella by British author R.G Fraser-Green. Set in modern-day Athens, it tells the struggle of 11-year old Fotinoula to save her little sister from a Kallikantzaros - a goblin who in Greek folklore appears during the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Below are just a few of the reasons why this is an excellent choice of book for upper Key Stage 2 study.

Important life lessons

The story covers important life lessons such as the development of courage, the importance of family, how first impressions may not be accurate, and learning self-reliance. Told from the point of view of the 11-year old narrator, these lessons are delivered without talking down to the reader.

Being scared from a story is a valuable experience

Although set at Christmas, there is a darkness to the story - the idea of a goblin stealing a young child is a little threatening. However, reading stories about 'overcoming the monster' helps children build resilience. Children learn how they might behave in a similar situation and can explore their fears in a safe context. In addition, being scared from a story can be fun, and reading such a story together in class can be a bonding experience.

The Greek setting

The reader is taken to Athens and learns about many aspects of Greece from the perspective of a contemporary 11-year old girl, including:

- Myth and folktale
- Customs, traditions and superstitions
- History
- Music
- Food
- Religion

This story can be studied in relation to many Key Stage 2 subjects. Why not read it in the late autumn term as an alternative to a more traditional Christmas story such as *A Christmas Carol*?

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This resource starts with comprehension questions for each chapter (answers are provided at the end) followed by some teaching ideas, separated into subject area, with web links to further resources.

Comprehension - Questions

Chapter 1

1. What does Fotinoula ask Mirtoula to do to bring good luck to their house?

2. When Fotinoula smashes the pomegranate on the front doorstep what do they look for to see how lucky they will be?

3. What is vasilopita and how does it get its name?

4. In what order are the pieces of vasilopita cut? Do you think there's any significance to the order?

5. Why do people traditionally cut a slice of cake for the Kallikantzaroi?

6. If the Kallikantzaroi spend all their time sawing away at the World Tree why hasn't it fallen down yet?

Chapter 2

1. What does Grandfather give Fotinoula for New Year?

2. What was the area called where Fotinoula's great grand-parents lived before they came to Greece?

3. What word would you use to describe someone who is forced to leave their own country and live in another?

4. What is Rebetiko?

5. What does Grandfather use to calm himself before talking to Fotinoula?

6. What is the name of the short-bread biscuit that Mama gives Fotinoula and Grandfather?

7. Why would a Kallikantzaros especially want to take Mirtoula?

8. What two things does Grandfather tell Fotinoula to remember if she crosses paths with a Kallikantzaros?

Chapter 3

1. Why is the goddess Athena special to Athenians?

2. What is the difference between the Acropolis and the Parthenon?

3. According to Fotinoula, how does the Parthenon look different today compared to when it was built?

4. What do the children use as buttons to decorate their snowman?

5. Why wasn't Fotinoula able to climb the Acropolis with her friends?

6. Before Fotinoula meets the Kallikantzaros, what clues are there to suggest a goblin might be around?

Chapter 4

1. What did Mama think Fotinoula was trying to do by saying she had just seen a Kallikantzaros?

2. Who did Fotinoula ask for courage when she had to take the piece of vasilopita outside?

3. What does the Kallikantzaros wear on its feet?

4. Why do Greeks bake a coin inside their vasilopita?

5. What does Fotinoula think the Kallikantzaros smells of?

6. What causes Fotinoula to throw Grandfather's book across the room?

Chapter 5

1. Why wouldn't the women in the shop window help Fotinoula?

2. What does Archbishop Basil do when the emperor returns the chest of jewellery?

3. What does Fotinoula find inside her piece of pie?

4. What is the name of the neighbourhood built on the side of the Acropolis in the style of a Greek island village?

5. What is the date of Fotinoula's name day?

6. To which saint is Fotinoula's name day dedicated?

Chapter 6

1. How many miles is it to the centre of the earth?

2. According to Greek custom how can you test if you've been cursed with the evil-eye?

3. How many brothers did Mrs Papadopoulou have?

4. Why could Mrs Papadopoulou's father only teach her how to break the curse of the evil-eye and not her brothers?

5. What did Mrs Papadopoulou draw on Fotinoula's forehead?

6. What did Mrs Papadopoulou give to Fotinoula to protect her from the evil eye?

Chapter 7

1. Fotinoula eats something called piroski. What is her piroski made of?

2. How many soft toys does Fotinoula use to make her audience?

3. What is the name of Fotinoula's teddy bear?

4. What is the name of the piece of music that Fotinoula dances to?

5. Name the traditional Greek musical instrument used to play this piece of music?

Chapter 8

1. What does Fotinoula imagine she can see on the summit of the Acropolis as she is climbing the hill?

2. What did Athena give the people of Athens when she offered to be their protector?

3. What explanation does Fotinoula give for why her friends' descriptions of Kallikantzaroi differ?

4. Name four things you can do to keep out a Kallikantzaros from your home.

5. What are the names of Saint Sophia's three children?

Chapter 9

1. What present did the Kallikantzaros give little Kostakis?

2. What two ways does the doctor say a child can be protected from a Kallikantzaros?

3. Why do Kallikanztaroi have such large tongues?

4. How does Fotinoula remove the skin from her bulb of garlic?

5. What does Fotinoula see on her sister that terrifies her so much?

Chapter 10

1. What is the name of Mirtoula's teddy bear?

2. What was Mirtoula playing before the Kallikantzaros came to her window?

3. What does Fotinoula give Mirtoula to wear?

4. How many bunches of thread does Fotinoula make?

5. Why does Fotinoula dunk the bunches of thread in her bottle of water?

Chapter 11

1. Why does Fotinoula remove an icicle from beneath Mirtoula's window?

2. What musical instrument does Fotinoula play when carol singing?

3. The children go carol singing on the eve of Epiphany. What other two days is it traditional for Greeks to go carol singing?

4. What does Mrs Papadopoulou give the children as a reward for their carol singing?

5. What does Fotinoula tell Yorgos is the best way to tell if a home owner will welcome their carol singing?

6. Why is Fotinoula especially worried about the snow cloud?

Chapter 12

1. When Fotinoula returns from carol singing why is the colander no longer on the doorstep where she had left it?

2. How many sets of footprints are there in the hall and to whom do they belong?

3. When the Kallikantzaros locks eyes with Fotinoula in Mirtoula's bedroom why is the creature unable to place her under its spell as it had done before?

4. Why doesn't Fotinoula use her bottle of holy water to protect Mirtoula?

5. What is the final thing Fotinoula says to the Kallikantzaros to stop it from taking Mirtoula?

Chapter 13

1. What does Fotinoula plan to do after she has been taken by the Kallikantzaros to its underworld.

2. Why does the Kallikantzaros consider taking Fotinoula instead of Mirtoula?

3. What thought is so chilling to Fotinoula that she feels as if someone has slipped an icicle down the back of her T-shirt?

4. Why wouldn't Fotinoula recognize Mirtoula if the Kallikantzaros were to bring her sister back to visit next Christmas?

5. Why does the Kallikantzaros ask Mirtoula to close her eyes?

Chapter 14

1. What happened to the Kallikantzaros when it touched Mirtoula, and why?

2. What was left behind by the Kallikantzaros?

3. Why do people dive into the water at water-blessing ceremonies on the day of Epiphany?

4. Who finds the coin in their slice of vasilopita and what does this mean for them?

5. Who enters through the front door after Fotinoula and Mirtoula have finished their evening meal?

6. Although Mirtoula will be too old to be turned into a Kallikanztaros next year, what does Fotinoula say she will still do?

English

1. Customs

Write a list of Greek Christmas **customs** that appear in the book, then write a list of customs from your own culture. Are there any similarities?

2. Break a curse

Mrs Papadopoulou breaks the curse of the evil-eye in **chapter 6** by reciting a prayer. Fotinoula only hears a few words of the curse (as it must be kept secret or Mrs Papadopoulou would lose the power to cast of the evil-eye). Write your own prayer or spell to break the curse of the evil-eye or to break another curse that you know about.

3. Re-write your favourite miracle or Greek myth

In **chapter 5**, Fotinoula dreams about the miracle of Saint Basil saving his town from the money-grabbing emperor. Take your favourite miracle or Greek myth and re-write the story in your own words, imagining you are one of the characters in the story, or a witness to the event.

4. Re-write a scene in the first-person

In **chapter 10**, when Mirtoula is explaining how she met the Kallikantzaros, Fotinoula pictures this meeting in her mind. Re-write this scene in the first-person from the point of view of Mirtoula. Try to include some of her thoughts and emotions.

5. Evaluate a character's feelings

How do Fotinoula's feelings towards her sister change throughout the story? Give examples of her behaviour which show this change.

6. Evaluate your own feelings to a character

Did your feelings change towards the Kallikantzaros as you read the story and learnt more about the creature. Does this tell you anything about forming first impressions?

7. Write a different ending to the story

In **chapter 14**, there are a number of events which lead to the Kallikantzaros being banished - Fotinoula doesn't have her bottle of holy water, she is wearing her blue-eyed bracelet, the Kallikantzaros rejects Fotinoula's offer to take her instead of Mirtoula, and Mirtoula is wearing the garlic necklace. What if one of these events was different or something else happened? Re-write this scene so the story has a different ending.

Science

1. Structure of fruit

In **chapter 1**, as is customary in Greece at New Year, Fotinoula smashes a **pomegranate** against her front door step in order to spread its seeds to give the household good luck for the year.

Teacher - cut open a pomegranate and display the fruit to your students. Point out various parts of the fruit and ask them to draw and label a diagram of the fruit.

Further information: <https://kids.kiddle.co/Pomegranate>

2. Species Discovery

In **chapter 6**, Fotinoula recalls a story Baba had told her of how he had seen a strange new species of fish on one of his voyages. Baba also explained that scientists are discovering new species all the time (earlier in the book, Fotinoula had wondered why scientists don't know about the Kallikantzaroi).

The following KS2 resource teaches children about classification and how new species are being discovered:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/32764/newly-discovered-species-age-7-11>

Geography

1. Structure of the earth

In **chapter 6**, Fotinoula wonders why scientists or miners have never discovered the Kallikantzaroi living underground. She finds out that it's around 4,000 miles to the centre of the earth but the furthest that scientists have ever dug is just 7 ½ miles.

Ask pupils to draw a diagram of the earth showing the various layers of the earth (crust, mantle, core) drawn to scale. Indicate on the diagram the deepest that scientists have ever dug. Discuss why it would be so difficult for life to exist below the crust due to extreme heat.

- Further details on the structure of the earth:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/physical-geography/structure-of-the-earth/>

- Further details on the deepest hole ever dug, the Kola Superdeep Borehole:

<https://www.funkidslive.com/podcasts/the-kola-superdeep-borehole/>

History

1. In **chapter 2**, Grandfather briefly mentions to Fotinoula about the war between Greece and Turkey for control of **Asia Minor** and the subsequent population exchange. The period of Greek and Turkish struggle gives the opportunity to discuss **religious persecution, genocide and refugees**.

Further information: <https://hellenicresearchcenter.org/teaching-guides>

In particular, see: [Teaching Guide Unit 2 - Hellenism of Asia Minor and Pontos](#).

The above teaching guide is aimed at 10-12 year olds and covers the history of Greeks in Asia Minor culminating in the population exchange.

2. Acropolis

The Acropolis is referred to throughout the story and in **chapter 8**, Fotinoula climbs the Acropolis where she feels safe to read Grandfather's notebook. As she climbs she imagines a huge bronze statue of Athena. This was called the Athena Promachos.

This gives the opportunity to discuss the Acropolis and its history, as well as the importance of gods and goddesses in Greek culture.

Information on the Acropolis:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Acropolis_of_Athens

Information on Athena:

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Athena>

Music

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils "**perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions...**"

Fotinoula and the Christmas Goblin gives teachers the opportunity to introduce students to Rebetiko (also spelled Rembetiko, Rembetika) - the Greek urban folk music.

Further information on Rebetiko can be found at the following link, including a video by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports:

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/rebetiko-01291>

In **chapter 2**, Grandfather discusses Rebetiko with Fotinoula. In **chapter 7**, Fotinoula flips through the Rebetiko records that he gave her, spots **Cloudy Sunday**, and dances to **Zeibekiko of Evdokia**. These are two well-known examples of Rebetiko music in Greece.

- **Cloudy Sunday** by Vasilis Tsitsanis

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuTWdVnokn8&list=RDyuTWdVnokn8&index=1>

- **Zeibekiko of Evdokia** by Manos Loizos

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHcFf--WrCM>

P.E.

1. Zeibekiko (dance)

According to the national curriculum for Physical Education, at Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught to "**develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance**" and to "**perform dances using a range of movement patterns.**"

Fotinoula and the Christmas Goblin gives teachers the opportunity to introduce students to Zeibekiko - a type of Rebetiko rhythm or dance.

There are no fixed steps in Zeibekiko and the dancer is free to perform their own movements, based on the rhythm of the music. This gives students the opportunity to express themselves both physically and creatively.

Further information and instructional video on Zeibekiko can be found here:
<https://www.greekboston.com/music/dance-zeibekiko>

In **chapter 7**, Fotinoula dances to **Zeibekiko of Evdokia**.

- **Zeibekiko of Evdokia** by Manos Loizos

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHcFf--WrCM>

- Watch a young Greek girl dance to Zeibekiko of Evdokia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxSENgaffTo>

Art & Design

1. Make some worry-beads

In **chapter 2**, Grandfather takes out his **worry-beads** just before he continues to explain to Fotinoula about the Kallikantzaroi. These are a classic Greek 'fidget toy'.

Learn how to make worry beads here:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Worry-Beads>

2. Paint a picture of the Parthenon

In **chapter 3**, Fotinoula explains to Mirtoula that although it has now worn away to leave the bare white marble, the Parthenon was originally painted in fantastic colours.

Paint a picture of the Parthenon. Imagine how it might have once looked including its original colours.

See how the Parthenon might have looked:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parthenon_restoration.gif

Further information on the Parthenon:

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/an-introduction-to-the-parthenon-and-its-sculptures/>

3. Blue-eyed bracelet

In **chapter 6**, Mrs Papadopoulou gives Fotinoula a blue-eyed bracelet to protect her from the evil eye, or in Fotinoula's case, the glare of the Kallikantzaros. Blue-eyed bracelets and pendants are easy to make, with both plastic and glass blue-eye (or evil-eye) beads widely available on the internet.

Design & Technology

1. Create a game based on the story

Design and make a game (such as a board or card game) based on the story. In designing the game, think about what the various characters want, as well as what obstacles they meet, and what weaknesses or fears they have that hinder them.

PSHE

1. Music and emotions

In **chapter 7**, Fotinoula listens and dances to Zeibekiko in order to summon up the courage to read Grandfather's notebook and to face the goblin.

Discuss music and emotions (see also Music section on Zeibekiko).

2. Self-reliance

In **chapter 7**, Fotinoula realises that adults don't always know everything, can't always be around to help, and as you grow up you have to work things out for yourself.

- Opportunity to discuss self-reliance.

3. Lying

In **chapter 14**, at the end of the story, Fotinoula says she doesn't think she'll tell Baba what happened because it would worry him. Do you think she's right not to tell him? Is Fotinoula lying by not telling him, and are there ever times when lying is the right thing to do?

4. First impressions

Compare your feelings towards the Kallikantzaros early in the story to those at the end. Did your feelings change, and if so, in what way? Does this tell you anything about forming first impressions?

R.E.

The story contains some references to Christianity and in particular to the Greek Orthodox denomination. These include modern customs and practices which have their roots in Christianity, including:

1. Name-day celebrations.

In **chapter 6**, Fotinoula explains that the 6th January is her name day and is dedicated to Saint Fotios. In **chapter 9**, Fotinoula, Mirtoula and Mama make diples so that Fotinoula can offer them to her friends and family who will be visiting the following day to wish her a happy name day (a Greek custom).

Ask students to find out the date of their name day and which saint it is dedicated to. Note: Aghion Panton (All Saints Day) covers everyone whose name is not related to a Christian Saint. This movable feast day is celebrated 56 days after Greek Orthodox Easter Sunday.

Name day search:

https://www.greeknamedays.gr/eortologio_by_name.php?langid=en

Further information on name days:

<https://www.definitelygreece.com/name-days-in-greece>

2. The miracle of Saint Basil and how this led to the modern-day custom of placing a coin in the festive cake.

3. The custom of cutting a slice of vasilopita for various religious people.

4. The water-blessing ceremonies that take place across Greece on Epiphany to celebrate the baptism of Jesus.

These religious references give the opportunity to investigate:

- Different denominations of Christianity.
- Religious beliefs and customs of different world religions.

Cooking

1. Vasilopita (New Year's Day cake)

Vasilopita is a cake made especially for New Year's Day. Fotinoula and her family first eat slices in **chapter 1**, and the cake appears throughout the book, including in **chapter 4** when the Kallikantzaros demands its own slice. They finish the cake in **chapter 14** when Mirtoula finds the coin which is traditionally baked inside.

Recipe:

<https://akispetretzikis.com/en/categories/keik/vasilopita-keik>

Recipe on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svmkozYCAPY>

2. Kourabiethes (Christmas shortbread biscuits)

Kourabiethes are buttery shortbread biscuits made with almonds for the Christmas period. In **chapter 2**, Mama offers her home-made kourabiethes to Fotinoula and Grandfather.

Recipe:

<https://akispetretzikis.com/en/categories/glyka/paradosiakoi-koyrampiedes>

Recipe on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= QyRpxa- Ao>

3. Lemonade

Greeks love to make lemonade, and in **chapter 6**, Mrs Papadopoulou offers Fotinoula a glass of her own homemade drink.

Recipe:

<https://delishably.com/world-cuisine/How-to-make-Greek-Homemade-Lemonade-the-old-fashioned-way-using-real-lemons>

4. Melomakarona (Honey cookies)

In **chapter 11**, Mrs Papadopoulou offers Fotinoula and her friends some melomakarona as a reward for their carol singing. These honey cookies are a favourite at Christmas in Greece.

Recipe:

<https://akispetretzikis.com/en/categories/glyka/ta-melomakarona-toy-akh>

Recipe on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9USSwLV5WDg>

5. Piroski

Piroski are baked buns that come with a variety of fillings. You can often get them from fast food outlets or bakeries in Greece, and of course you can make them yourself with any filling you like.

In **chapter 7**, Fotinoula explains Mama gives her piroksi when she's ill as it gives her comfort, although it doesn't help when she's worrying about the Kallikanztaros.

Recipe for beef piroski:

<https://www.greekboston.com/food/appetizers/piroski-recipe/>

Recipe for potato piroski:

<https://akispetretzikis.com/en/categories/snak-santoyits/piroski-me-patata>

6. Diples (crispy fried pastry rolls)

In **chapter 9**, Fotinoula, Mirtoula and Mama make diples so that Fotinoula can offer them to her friends and family who will be visiting the following day to wish her a happy name day.

Recipe for diples:

<https://akispetretzikis.com/en/recipe/3585/diples>

Recipe on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbH33TAp9YA>

Comprehension - Answers

Chapter 1

1. What does Fotinoula ask Mirtoula to do to bring good luck to their house?

Step inside across the threshold with her right foot.

2. When Fotinoula smashes the pomegranate on the front doorstep what do they look for to see how lucky they will be?

They look to see how many pomegranate seeds there are. The more seeds then the luckier they will be.

3. What is vasilopita and how does it get its name?

Vasilopita is a type of cake made especially for New Year. Its name comes from two Greek words - 'Basil' after Saint Basil, and 'pita' meaning 'pie'.

4. In what order are the pieces of vasilopita cut? Do you think there's any significance to the order?

The vasilopita is cut in the following order: Jesus, Holy Mary, Saint Basil, the home, Grandfather, Baba, Mama, Fotinoula, Mirtoula, and the Kallikantzaroi.

The first slices are cut for the most important and oldest and the last slices are cut for the least important or youngest.

5. Why do people traditionally cut a slice of cake for the Kallikantzaroi?

As a peace offering so the goblins will take the piece of cake and go away.

6. If the Kallikantzaroi spend all their time sawing away at the World Tree why hasn't it fallen down yet?

During the Twelve Days of Christmas, when the Kallikantzaroi stop cutting and climb to the surface, the World Tree is able to heal itself.

Chapter 2

1. What does Grandfather give Fotinoula for New Year?

A record player and some records.

2. What was the area called where Fotinoula's great grand-parents lived before they came to Greece?

Asia minor.

3. What word would you use to describe someone who is forced to leave their own country and live in another?

Refugee.

4. What is Rebetiko?

A type of Greek folk music.

5. What does Grandfather use to calm himself before talking to Fotinoula?

His worry-beads.

6. What is the name of the short-bread biscuit that Mama gives Fotinoula and Grandfather?

Kourabiethes

7. Why would a Kallikantzaros especially want to take Mirtoula?

She was born during the Twelve Days of Christmas and so can be turned into a Kallikantzaros.

8. What two things does Grandfather tell Fotinoula to remember if she crosses paths with a Kallikantzaros?

Never locks eyes with the creature and never forget how devious it can be.

Chapter 3

1. Why is the goddess Athena special to Athenians?

Athena was the protector of the city of Athens.

2. What is the difference between the Acropolis and the Parthenon?

The Acropolis is the name of a hill in Athens. On top of this hill is an ancient site containing a number of buildings, one of which is a temple called the Parthenon.

3. According to Fotinoula, how does the Parthenon look different today compared to when it was built?

The Parthenon was originally painted in many colours, but the paint has now worn away to leave just the white marble.

4. What do the children use as buttons to decorate their snowman?

Olives.

5. Why wasn't Fotinoula able to climb the Acropolis with her friends?

Mirtoula was tired and wanted to go home.

6. Before Fotinoula meets the Kallikantzaros, what clues are there to suggest a goblin might be around?

Mr Lukidis' car tyres keep getting let down, something that a mischievous Kallikantzaros might have done. A Toad, which should be hibernating during winter, hops a long the street, and Fotinoula wonders what might have disturbed it. Maybe it was a Kallikantzaros climbing to the surface.

Chapter 4

1. What did Mama think Fotinoula was trying to do by saying she had just seen a Kallikantzaros?

Scare Mirtoula.

2. Who did Fotinoula ask for courage when she had to take the piece of vasilopita outside?

Athena.

3. What does the Kallikantzaros wear on its feet?

Metal clogs.

4. Why do Greeks bake a coin inside their vasilopita?

To remember the miracle of how Saint Basil saved his town from the greedy emperor.

5. What does Fotinoula think the Kallikantzaros smells of?

Decaying cabbage leaves with a hint of scorched rubber.

6. What causes Fotinoula to throw Grandfather's book across the room?

She sees a picture of a Kallikantzaros on the first page.

Chapter 5

1. Why wouldn't the women in the shop window help Fotinoula?

They were mannequins.

2. What does Archbishop Basil do when the emperor returns the chest of jewellery?

He prays to God asking how he can return each piece of jewellery to its rightful owner.

3. What does Fotinoula find inside her piece of pie?

Her Athena necklace.

4. What is the name of the neighbourhood built on the side of the Acropolis in the style of a Greek island village?

Anafiotika.

5. What is the date of Fotinoula's name day?

6th January.

6. To which saint is Fotinoula's name day dedicated?

Saint Fotios.

Chapter 6

1. How many miles is it to the centre of the earth?

4,000 miles.

2. According to Greek custom how can you test if you've been cursed with the evil-eye?

If you drop some olive oil in water it will sink rather than float.

3. How many brothers did Mrs Papadopoulou have?

Three.

4. Why could Mrs Papadopoulou's father only teach her how to break the curse of the evil-eye and not her brothers?

The prayer can only be passed from a man to a woman or from a woman to a man.

5. What did Mrs Papadopoulou draw on Fotinoula's forehead?

She drew the shape of the cross with the olive oil three times.

6. What did Mrs Papadopoulou give to Fotinoula to protect her from the evil eye?

A blue-eyed bracelet.

Chapter 7

1. Fotinoula eats something called piroski. What is her piroski made of?

Pastry filled with potato and minced-beef.

2. How many soft toys does Fotinoula use to make her audience?

Five (a rabbit, teddy bear, giraffe, panda and monkey).

3. What is the name of Fotinoula's teddy bear?

Agalitsas.

4. What is the name of the piece of music that Fotinoula dances to?

Zeibekiko of Evdokia.

5. Name the traditional Greek musical instrument used to play this piece of music?

Bouzouki.

Chapter 8

1. What does Fotinoula imagine she can see on the summit of the Acropolis as she is climbing the hill?

A statue of Athena.

2. What did Athena give the people of Athens when she offered to be their protector?

An olive tree.

3. What explanation does Fotinoula give for why her friends' descriptions of Kallikantzaroi differ?

Kallikantzaroi have the power of shape-shifting.

4. Name four things you can do to keep out a Kallikantzaros from your home.

- i) Burn an old shoe in the fireplace.*
- ii) Hang up the jaw of a pig on the front door.*
- iii) Nail a black-handled knife to the front door.*
- iv) Place a colander on the front-door step.*

5. What are the names of Saint Sophia's three children?

Faith, Hope and Love.

Chapter 9

1. What present did the Kallikantzaros give little Kostakis?

A toy soldier.

2. What two ways does the doctor say a child can be protected from a Kallikantzaros?

- i) Singe the child's toenails*
- ii) Bind whole garlic bulbs to the child's limbs or place peeled cloves on the child's body.*

3. Why do Kallikantzaroi have such large tongues?

So they can lick a child and transform them into a Kallikantzaros.

4. How does Fotinoula remove the skin from her bulb of garlic?

She puts the bulb in a jar and shakes it until the skin flakes off.

5. What does Fotinoula see on her sister that terrifies her so much?

Blotches on her cheeks.

Chapter 10

1. What is the name of Mirtoula's teddy bear?

Arkoudaki.

2. What was Mirtoula playing before the Kallikantzaros came to her window?

She was having a tea-party with her teddy bear.

3. What does Fotinoula give Mirtoula to wear?

A garlic necklace.

4. How many bunches of thread does Fotinoula make?

Four.

5. Why does Fotinoula dunk the bunches of thread in her bottle of water?

To soak them in holy water.

Chapter 11

1. Why does Fotinoula remove an icicle from beneath Mirtoula's window?

To make room for one of her bunches of thread.

2. What musical instrument does Fotinoula play when carol singing?

A triangle.

3. The children go carol singing on the eve of Epiphany. What other two days is it traditional for Greeks to go carol singing?

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

4. What does Mrs Papadopoulou give the children as a reward for their carol singing?

Four coins and four pieces of melomakarona.

5. What does Fotinoula tell Yorgos is the best way to tell if a home owner will welcome their carol singing?

If the home has a decorated model ship.

6. Why is Fotinoula especially worried about the snow cloud?

The cloud brings darkness to the city and so puts Mirtoula in danger from the Kallikantzaros.

Chapter 12

1. When Fotinoula returns from carol singing why is the colander no longer on the doorstep where she had left it?

Mama had taken it inside for cooking.

2. How many sets of footprints are there in the hall and to whom do they belong?

There are two sets of footprints. One belongs to Fotinoula and the other to the Kallikantzaros.

3. When the Kallikantzaros locks eyes with Fotinoula in Mirtoula's bedroom why is the creature unable to place her under its spell as it had done before?

Fotinoula is wearing a blue-eyed bracelet.

4. Why doesn't Fotinoula use her bottle of holy water to protect Mirtoula?

She has left it in her bedroom.

5. What is the final thing Fotinoula says to the Kallikantzaros to stop it from taking Mirtoula?

She tells the creature to take her instead.

Chapter 13

1. What does Fotinoula plan to do after she has been taken by the Kallikantzaros to its underworld.

Escape by climbing up the World Tree.

2. Why does the Kallikantzaros consider taking Fotinoula instead of Mirtoula?

Fotinoula is bigger and so would be more use with a saw for cutting down the World Tree.

3. What thought is so chilling to Fotinoula that she feels as if someone has slipped an icicle down the back of her T-shirt?

She wonders if the Kallikantzaros was once a human child.

4. Why wouldn't Fotinoula recognize Mirtoula if the Kallikantzaros were to bring her sister back to visit next Christmas?

Mirtoula would have been transformed into a Kallikantzaros.

5. Why does the Kallikantzaros ask Mirtoula to close her eyes?

So it can lick her and cover her in its saliva, and so transform her into a Kallikantzaros.

Chapter 14

1. What happened to the Kallikantzaros when it touched Mirtoula, and why?

It was banished to its underworld because it touched Mirtoula when she was wearing her garlic necklace.

2. What was left behind by the Kallikantzaros?

Its cloak and clogs.

3. Why do people dive into the water at water-blessing ceremonies on the day of Epiphany?

To retrieve the cross that has been thrown in by the priest.

4. Who finds the coin in their slice of vasilopita and what does this mean for them?

Mirtoula finds the coin. This will bring them good luck for the year.

5. Who enters through the front door after Fotinoula and Mirtoula have finished their evening meal?

Baba.

6. Although Mirtoula will be too old to be turned into a Kallikantzaros next year, what does Fotinoula say she will still do?

Put the colander out on the doorstep.