

**UNCORKED!** ACTIVITY 2 **ONOMATOPOEIA- PHEW!**

'Onomatopoeia' is the formation of special words to imitate the sound some thing or some action might make. It presents a challenge to authors. When Colin pulls the cork from the bottle it makes a faint *shlap!* sound.

1. Invent some onomatopoeic words to suit the following actions.

an old door opening	
opening an can of soft drink	
the sound of helicopter rotors	
the call of a cockatoo	

2. Determine some actions to suit the following sounds.

Boomf!	
Scratch!	
	Shsssh!
	Croomp!

**UNCORKED!** ACTIVITY 1 **TRIPLE TREAT**

Like Tripod's legs, many things come in threes. Their names all begin with the Latin *tri*, meaning three.

1. Without a dictionary, determine the meaning of the following 'tri~' words.

triplane	
trimotor	
tricolour	
triple	
triceratops	
tri-weekly	

2. This time with a dictionary, find the meaning of these words.

trifecta	
trireme	
trptych	
trimaran	
tricentennial	
trilogy	

3. Find some other words that derive from 'tri', meaning three.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Extension Activities

- Lance initially thought that the letter in the bottle might be *a note from a shipwrecked sailor of long ago*. Write a message that might have once been set adrift in a bottle, for example from Captain Cook when the *Endeavour* ran aground on the reef, or from Robinson Crusoe hoping for rescue from his desert island.
- Lance has an unusual hobby – metal detecting. Locate the Internet site <http://home.howstuffworks.com/metal-detector> to learn how metal detectors work. Present your findings as an A4 report complete with a labelled diagram.
- Research the hobby of bottle collecting. There are many relevant Internet sites. Make a list of some of the different categories of bottles that people collect.
- Lance's bottle is described as *elegant*. Some bottles have become famous for their unique design, eg. the Italian-designed Coca-Cola bottle with the twist. Make a list of a variety of different bottles and comment on their design: why might they have that particular shape, size, and colour. Is the design effective, practical, etc?
- Mr Renaldo has asked his students to give a talk and presentation to the class. Imagine you are in that class – research and prepare an illustrated talk on glassblowing or Murano.
- Write the love letter that Graziella sent Lance, the letter that embarrassed him every time he was reminded of it. Clues about its content, including the words *dramatically cool* describing his red hair, appear on pages 5 and 6.
- Translate the bottle message into plain modern English that makes it clear what the writer really means.
- Describe how the author has created a 'socially inclusive' cast of characters. And what is significant about Lance's mum?
- There are Italian characters in the novel and Lance's bottle originates from Murano, the famous glass production centre in Venice. Locate biographical details about the author on the Internet to find clues about the connection with Italy.

# UNCORKED!

Archimede Fusillo

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***Uncorked!*** adds to a long catalogue of novels about bullying but rarely does the bully get his comeuppance with such delicious irony as seen in this amusing story. It is a gently affirming, nicely balanced story of goodness rewarded.

Lance has not had a lot of luck in life. But when he finds an old bottle with a message in it while beachcombing he is excited at the prospect of a lucky find. But Colin Chambers and sidekick Tran Nu soon dash his hopes. However, things are not always what they seem and life can turn up some interesting surprises, as Lance eventually finds out.

## Discussion

- Successful novels about bullying create reader sympathy for the victim. How has the author achieved sympathy for Lance?
- Bullies rarely operate alone, they usually have followers with them. How might the story have been different if Colin was without Tran when he came across Lance finding the bottle?
- 'Irony' is when the outcome of certain events contradicts what was actually expected to happen. What is ironical about ***Uncorked!?***
- How does Tripod's condition echo Lance's problems?
- Why is Graziella's interest in Lance crucial to the story?
- What does the final paragraph suggest about Lance's character?