

Under the Radar

It's another year at da MEHS for Sione and his mates, and so far Manawahe East High is living up to its other name of 'heart attack high school'. For a start there are the girls like Lani and Wiki and the way they make things so complicated, and the mysterious new girl who's somehow Sione's responsibility. As if that wasn't enough, some of his old softball team have become wannabe gangstas and are putting pressure on him to join their crew. Outside the schoolyard, real gangs are circling, and a giant guy called Turtle has Sione in his sights. It seems that Sione's plan to stay under the radar this year is harder than he thought.

About the author

Des O'Leary started life in Greymouth and has taught at high schools in Fiji, Whakatāne and Kerikeri, and at Aorere College in South Auckland, which inspired *A Slice of Heaven* and the sequel, *Under the Radar*. Des lives in Tauranga with his wife, Hazel.

Note

*It is easier to write a full sentence if you use some of the words in the questions
e.g. Why does Teresa not want to go to school?
Teresa does not want to go to school because...
(some page references have been given, work out the others yourself)*

Chapters 1-3

- Write the meaning of each of the following words.
 - Fragile
 - Extended
 - Arthritis
 - Livelihoods
 - Squinted
 - Beckoned
 - Gestured
 - Sarcasm
- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences.
 1. Why do you think Teresa blames her brother, Thomas, for her problems at her old school. (p 10)
 2. What does Manawahe mean in English? (p 13)
 3. What does Sione's father mean when he says he is working 'eleven to three and night shift'?
 4. What crime do they hear about on the radio news?
 5. What does Sione's father think about this crime?
 6. What does Sione mean when he tells his father he is flying under the radar this year? (p 15)
 7. Why does Sione feel embarrassed for the new girl?
 8. Which two people volunteer to help Teresa, and how does each one of them do this?

Chapters 4-8

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. Why do you think Wiki elbowed Sione in the ribs? (p 21)
 2. Why does Sione try to break up the fight between Nigel and Junior?
 3. Write three sentences about Oko.
 4. Thomas says 'Don't get caught up in that.' What does he mean? (p 36)



5. Write three sentences about Hieu.
6. Explain how Oko has changed.

Chapters 9-11

- Sketch Leilani, TJ and Sione on the way to the shops.
- In your own words explain:
 - Vaulted
 - Mesh
 - Evict
 - Tagging
 - Trickle
 - Strolled
- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. What is the Manawahe East Culvert Underpass?
 2. Why do Charity and her friends laugh at Sione?
 3. Write three sentences about Turtle.
 4. The boys talk about food. What is some food you like? Why?
 5. What is some food you dislike? Why?
 6. Why did they go to the softball diamond? What happened there?

Chapters 12-15

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. What does Jordan want Sione to do?
 2. Write a paragraph about a time someone asked you to do something you didn't want to do – say what it was and how you felt about being pressured. What happened?
 3. Hieu and Jordan have different opinions about Athletics Day.
 - a. What does Jordan think about it?
 - b. What does Hieu think about it?
 - c. What happens in chapter 13?
 4. How do Charity, Teresa, Sione and Jordan each feel about the situation?
 5. Write three sentences about Thomas.

Chapters 15-24

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences

1. What are two things Dad wants to do this year?
2. 'That's a good reason not to take sides.' Raj says. Explain what he is talking about. (p 83)
3. They talk about DIY projects. What is something you decided to do by yourself? How did it turn out?
4. Why is Sione worried about his younger brother, Ronnie?
5. Sione visits his neighbours, the Narayans. Write a page about someone you know who has a different ethnic/cultural background from you.
6. P101 Why is Sione relieved?

Chapters 25-31

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences

1. The family watch *Police Ten 7* on TV. What is a TV programme/film/game that you like? What is it about it that you enjoy?
2. Why does Sione want Teresa to take part on athletics day?
3. Vocabulary – write five sentences. Use one of these words in each sentence
Benefit revision results topics extension compulsory remind introduce
4. Why do Sione and Hieu decide to join the extra Maths class?
5. Clearly explain the last sentence in chapter 30.
6. In your own words, explain what happens in the park? Why?

Chapters 32-34

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences

1. Why is Sione worried about going home? Should he be?
2. Write three sentences about Mr Roberts.
3. Sione's Dad seems angry. Why do you think he is?
4. Sione gets annoyed with Ronnie. Why? (p 132)
5. Sione gets annoyed with Pese. Why? (p 133)
6. 'Typical guys' Wiki says. Explain what she means. (p 134) Do you agree with her? Say why or why not.

Chapters 35-39

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. 'Should get a kid to help' Ali says. Explain what he means. (p 139) Do you agree or not? Give a reason for your answer.
 2. Describe a time when you received a gift or had a positive experience that was unexpected. (p 141)
 3. Explain why Wiki gets annoyed with her mother and Sione.
 4. Sione starts to walk towards Oko's brother. Why does he change his mind? (p 147)
 5. 'Some things are too hard to explain.' Why does Sione think this? (p 152)
 6. Look up: Earnest Rutherford, Kate Sheppard, Richard Pearse, Bill Massey.
Design a suitable cover for a biography about one of them (the cover should include a picture, and reflect their achievements).

Chapters 40-46

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. Describe a wedding or celebration you have been to.
 2. 'Don't you dare.' Wiki says. Why does she say this?
 3. 'Sione felt cold.' Why? (p 163)
 4. What is Sione's Dad thinking at the end of Chapter 43?
 5. Name any six of the characters and explain how they feel about Athletics Day.
 6. What do you think about your school's Athletics Day?
 7. How has Sam changed?

Chapters 47-55

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. Why does TJ get annoyed with Mr Orchard? (p 193)
 2. Who does Hieu get annoyed with? Why? (p 195)
 3. How is Sione feeling at the end of chapter 49? Why?
 4. What happens in chapter 50?
 5. Why does Sione give 'a huge sigh'? (p 209)
 6. How does Sione feel at the end of Chapter 53? Why?
 7. Why is Teresa's mother pleased.
 8. Write about a time you had to go somewhere you didn't want to.



Chapters 56-63

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences

1. How does Teresa help Sione? (p 223)
2. Why does Sione decide to go looking for Ronnie?
3. Redemption does not want to be in a gang. Why not? (also p244)
4. Explain what happened in Chapters 60 and 61.
5. Mum says she expects the kids to do chores. Do you have to do chores at home?
6. Why does Sione say nothing at the end of page 250?

Chapters 64-68

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences

1. Why is Mr Mohammed interested in Oko's drawings?
2. Why is Hieu so happy at the end of chapter 64?
3. How do the neighbours support Sione?
4. Mark goes through a range of emotions. Draw a chart showing at least four moments his emotions change.
5. Sione wished he would disappear in a puff of smoke. Why? (p 260)
6. 'I keep running into you, boy.' Turtle says When have Turtle and Sione met before? (p 264)
7. Sione's dad explains why he doesn't want his kids involved with gangs.
8. On p 266, Dad and Turtle exchange a few words. Write the conversation you think they had.
9. What does Dad say about his friend John and the boy who stabbed him? (p 270)

Chapters 72-74

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences

1. Why does Ronnie duck into the walkway away from the others?
2. 'We got ringside seats.' Nigel says. What does he expect to see? (p 179)
3. After reading chapter 72, can you think of two things that occurred earlier that you now understand better.
4. Write about a time that you, or someone you know, did something intending to help someone else and it had an unexpected result.
5. What does Teresa say about family and choices? Do you agree with her? Give reasons for your answer.



Chapters 75-78

- Answer three to five of the following questions in full sentences
 1. Mr Mohammed quotes a Sufi proverb 'Trust in God, but tie your camel first.' What do you think it means? (p 287)
 2. Write another proverb you know of. Explain what it means.
 3. We see a side of Charity we haven't seen before. Explain this.
 4. Why does Mrs Narayan like her new letterbox?
 5. Explain how Ronnie has changed over the course of the story.
 6. Write a paragraph about Sione's relationship with his father.

Longer written responses

- Choose any *two* of these values.

For each, write about 300 words about a character, situation or incident in *Under the Radar* which shows that value. Make it clear how that value is shown and give your own opinion.

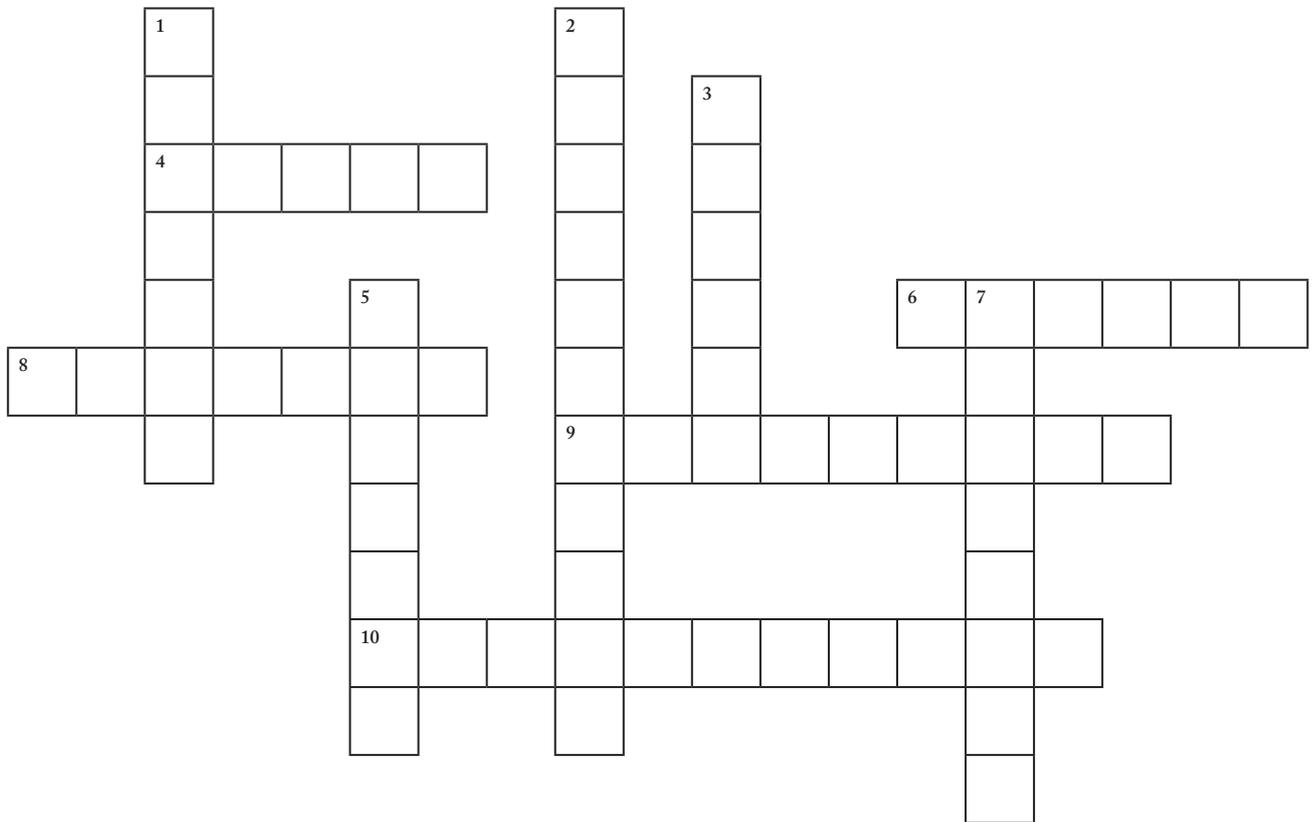
You may use some of the suggestions or write about details you have identified yourself.

Diversity	Sione and his group of friends. Different attitudes to Athletics Day.
Relationships	Jordan and Hieu. Sione and Wiki. Sam and the RBDs.
Responsibility	Sione decides to look for Ronnie when his brother sneaks out at night. Sione's parents don't want their kids involved with gangs. Redemption worries about his mother and his sister.
Community	Mr Roberts helps Sione home after he is jumped in the park. The neighbours support Sione when his house is tagged. Sione's dad makes a new letterbox for the Narayans.
Integrity	Sione wants to stop Nigel and Junior fighting. Sione doesn't want Charity and Teresa to fight.
Friendship	Redemption goes with Sione to look for Ronnie. Sione persuades Teresa to take part in the shot put on Athletics Day.

- Choose any two of the following topics and write about 200 words, using details from *Under the Radar* and your own values.
 - Discuss a character in *Under the Radar* who does something you think they should not have done.
 - Identify a situation in *Under the Radar* where a character has to make an important decision. Explain why you agree with their decision or not.
 - Explore an incident in *Under the Radar* which could have had a different result. Say whether you think the result shown was the best, or not.
 - Explain to your teacher why your school should buy a copy of *Under the Radar* for the library because of the impact that an incident, character, situation and/or idea in the story had on you.
 - Compare *Under the Radar* to another text you have read/seen/heard. Discuss why you think they are relevant to young people today.
 - Describe an incident in *Under the Radar* that made you smile, or feel good. Explain why.
 - Sometimes people change their minds about something. Identify an example of this in *Under the Radar* and discuss why they changed their mind.
 - Identify something that two characters in *Under the Radar* have different points of view about. Why do you think each has that point of view? What is your point of view? Why?

Crossword Puzzle 1

CHAPTERS 1-3



ACROSS

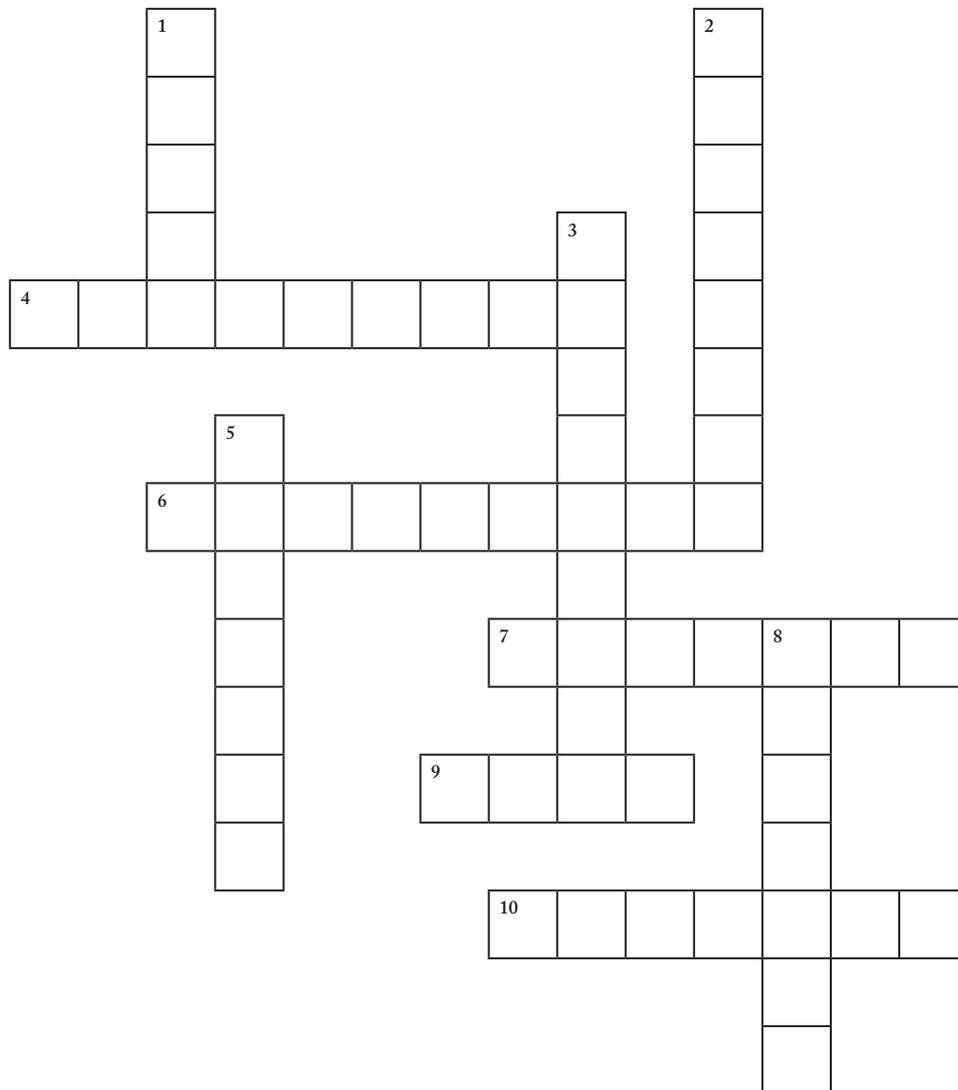
4. System for detecting an object
6. Summon with hand movement
8. Significant movement of hand or head
9. Inflammation of a joint of joints
10. Means of living

DOWN

1. Ironically scornful language
2. Feel discomfort
3. Stealthy or sideways glance
5. Easily broken
7. Stretched out

Crossword Puzzle 2

CHAPTERS 4-15



ACROSS

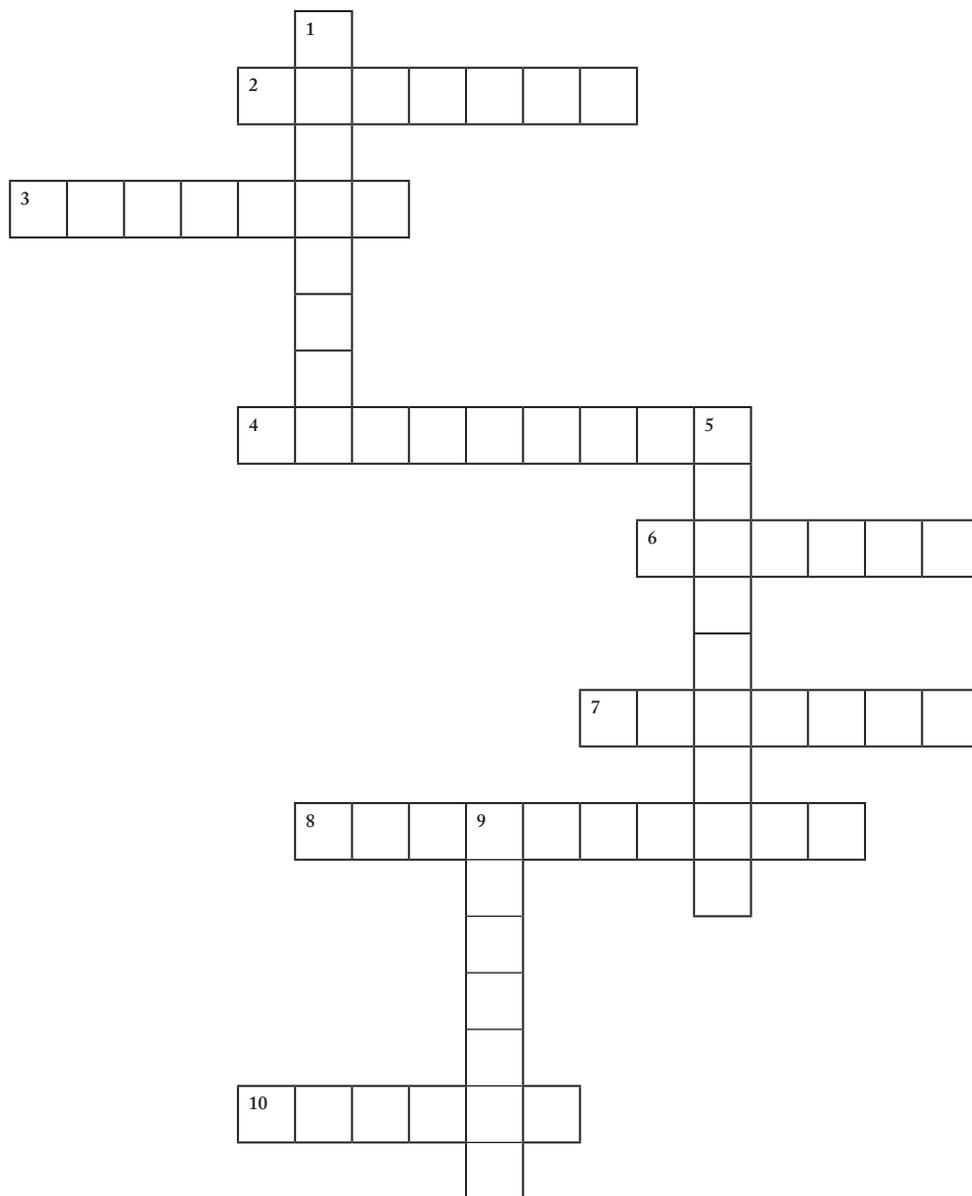
4. Circumstance
6. Forced to do something
7. Jumped over
9. Network fabric or structure
10. What one thinks about something

DOWN

1. Expel a tenant by legal process
2. Walked in a leisurely way
3. Footpath beneath the road
5. Come or go slowly
8. Graffiti

Crossword Puzzle 3

CHAPTERS 15-31



ACROSS

2. Cause someone to remember
3. Insurance or social welfare payment
4. To make people known to each other
6. Relating to cultural backgrounds
7. Outcomes
8. Required by rule
10. Subjects of a study

DOWN

1. Studying for an exam
5. Extra study
9. Planned undertaking

Crossword Puzzle Answers

PUZZLE 1

ACROSS

4. System for detecting an object RADAR
6. Summon with hand movement BECKON
8. Significant movement of hand or head
GESTURE
9. Inflammation of a joint of joints ARTHRITIS
10. Means of living LIVELIHOODS

DOWN

1. Ironically scornful language SARCASM
2. Feel discomfort EMBARRASSED
3. Stealthy or sideways glance SQUINT
5. Easily broken FRAGILE
7. Stretched out EXTENDED

PUZZLE 2

ACROSS

4. Circumstance SITUATION
6. Forced to do something PRESSURED
7. Jumped over VAULTED
9. Network fabric or structure MESH
10. What one thinks about something
OPINION

DOWN

1. Expel a tenant by legal process EVICT
2. Walked in a leisurely way STROLLED
3. Footpath beneath the road UNDERPASS
5. Come or go slowly TRICKLE
8. Graffiti TAGGING

PUZZLE 3

ACROSS

2. Cause someone to remember REMIND
3. Insurance or social welfare payment
BENEFIT
4. To make people known to each other
INTRODUCE
6. Relating to cultural backgrounds ETHNIC
7. Outcomes RESULTS
8. Required by rule COMPULSORY
10. Subjects of a study TOPICS

DOWN

1. Studying for an exam REVISION
5. Extra study EXTENSION
9. Planned undertaking PROJECT