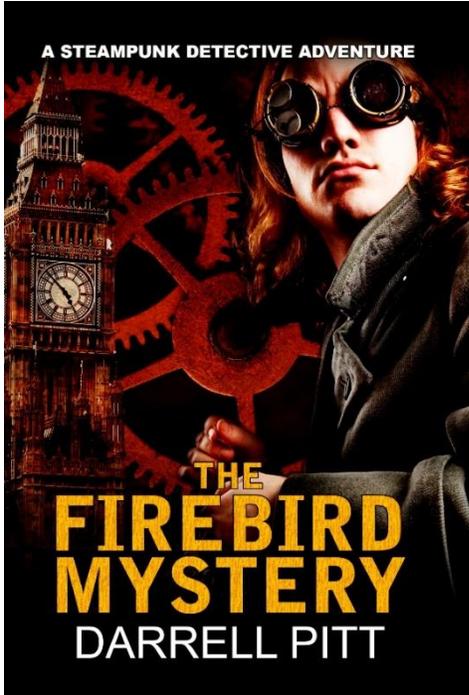


## *The Firebird Mystery – Teaching Notes*



Welcome to London.

A city of smoke and fog, filled with airships, steamcars and towers soaring into space...

Jack Mason was a circus acrobat before his parents died. Now an orphan, he's trapped inside Sunnyside Orphanage, the gloomiest place in London.

That's until the famous detective, Ignatius Doyle, employs him as his new assistant. And when Scarlet Bell seeks assistance to find her missing father, they're flung headlong into a baffling mystery spanning centuries.

What could the Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci and a secret society have to do with Scarlet's missing father? And how is Doyle's evil nemesis, Professor M, involved?

It seems the future of the world is at stake...

**Series:** Book One - The Steampunk Detective Adventures

**Genre:** Steampunk / Mystery

**Theme:** Observation & Deduction, Industrial Revolution, Orphans & Family, Technology.

### **1. Book Summary & Metadata**

- **Target Age:** 10–14 years
- **The Hook:** Jack Mason is an orphan with the skills of a circus acrobat, plucked from a gloomy orphanage to assist the eccentric detective Ignatius Doyle. In a world of steam-powered spacecraft

and 19th-century London fog, they must stop the mysterious Professor M.

- **Curriculum Links:** English (Genre Study: Mystery/Detective), History (The Industrial Revolution), Design & Technologies (Mechanical Systems).

## 2. Pre-Reading Questions

- **Defining Steampunk:** Look at the cover. How does the artist blend "old-fashioned" clothes with "futuristic" machines? What do you think "Steampunk" means?
- **Famous Detectives:** What do you know about Sherlock Holmes? Ignatius Doyle is a "Consulting Detective"—how do you think he differs from a regular police officer?
- **The Orphan Trope:** Many famous stories (Oliver Twist, Harry Potter) start with an orphan. Why do you think authors choose to start a hero's journey this way?

## 3. Discussion Questions (The "Deep Dive")

- **Observation vs. Seeing:** Ignatius Doyle tells Jack, "You see, but you do not observe." What is the difference? Can you think of a time when you saw something but missed a vital clue?
- **Alternate History:** The book features Nazis, Leonardo da Vinci, and 1920s airships all in one timeline. How does changing history help an author tell a more exciting story?
- **Character Archetypes:** Scarlet Bell is described as a "trailblazer." How does she challenge the traditional roles of women in a Victorian-style setting?

## 4. Activities (Pick & Choose)

- **[Design & Technology] – Blueprint for an Invention:** Steampunk is all about "gears and gadgets." Design a steam-powered version of a modern object (like a smartphone or a toaster). Draw a blueprint showing the gears, pipes, and steam vents.
- **[English] – The Detective's Case File:** Create a "Case File" for the Firebird Mystery. Include a list of suspects, their motives, and the physical evidence (clues) Jack and Mr. Doyle found.

- **[History] – Fact vs. Fiction:** Create a T-Chart. On one side, list things from the book that actually existed in the Victorian/1880s-1920s era (e.g., London fog, hansom cabs). On the other, list the "Steampunk" inventions (e.g., metrotowers, steam spacecraft).

### 5. Australian Curriculum Alignment (V9.0)

Year Level	Content Description	Code
Year 7/8	English: Explore the ways that language features, images and sound can be adapted in literary texts.	AC9E7LE01
Year 9	History: The nature and significance of the Industrial Revolution (1750–1914).	AC9HH9K01
Year 8	Design & Tech: Analyze how motion, force and energy, are used to manipulate and control systems.	AC9TDE8K01