



**Operation**

**Foxtrot**

**Five**

By D J Stutley



## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE



### Chapters 1 & 2

1. Why does the author say that ‘it wouldn’t pay to let his guard slip now’? (page 1)
2. Why did Doug feel uneasy when another ‘car flicked its lights’? (page 1)
3. What word is used to describe the Mercedes Doug is driving? (page 7)
4. How did Doug try to avoid the police checking his licence? (pages 3, 4 )
5. What do the abbreviations ATM, ID, and NSW stand for?
6. What do you know about Tori’s health from page 3?
7. Why did Doug wait until the ‘driver’s door of the patrol car opened’ before he sped off? (page 3)
8. What did Doug forget to take out of his wallet? (page 5)
9. Why do you think the police thought that Doug had stolen the Mercedes?
10. What really made Doug uncomfortable about the cell? (page 6,7)
11. How long had the five been on the run? (page 7)
12. How does Scott feel about the orphaned Smith Children? (page 9)
13. How does the author use the first chapter to encourage the reader to want to read on?
14. What questions are left unanswered at the end of chapter 1?
15. What has he done to update the two-year old photos of the children? (page 9)
16. What does it mean when Doug is described as ‘highly protective of his siblings’? Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the term sibling? (page 10)
17. Why effect does the word ‘lunged’ (page 12) have on the reader?
18. What was the ‘BIG trouble’ on page 13?

19. What did the SOSE assignment have to do with the trouble they were now experiencing? (page 14)

20. Why did Tori send Doug to pick up Kelly from the school camp? (page 14)

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### Chapters 3 & 4



1. Why was it a problem that someone else had accessed the Foxtrot file? (pages 15–17)
2. How did Scott know what school the twins attended? (page 17)
3. What clue is given on page 17, which might indicate why it was so important for the police to catch the children quickly?
4. Why did Doug have a ‘healthy respect for trains’? (page 17)
5. ‘Looking back, it was the longest night of his life’. Explain what Doug meant by this statement. (page 18)
6. Tori had obviously had a lot to do with the four children when their parents were still alive. Why did the authorities refuse to allow her to be their guardian? (pages 18,19) Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word guardian.
7. What did the children do about their names when Tori took them away? (page 19)

8. Why did Doug use the term ‘defenceless animals’ when referring to the five of them. (page 19)
9. A clue is given on page 19, which might help to unravel the plot. What is the clue?
10. How did Tori intend to change the appearance of the children? (page 20)
11. How were the roses a tip off? Who was Anna? (page 21)
12. On page 23, we read that ‘his computer-enhanced pictures of the four children were spot on!’ What did he mean by this?
13. What indicated that the five were a very happy family? (page 23)
14. Why did Scott like neat people? (page 24)
15. What did Scott find in Kelly’s room that would prove useful in his investigations? (page 24)
16. Why did Scott think that Doug had ‘spirit’? (page 25)
17. How did Doug’s room differ from the others? (page 25)
18. What did the camp clothing tell Scott? (page 26)
19. Scott emptied the kitchen bin. What articles did he keep from the bin? (page 26)
20. On page 27, we find that Scott ‘groped for a chair’. Why?
21. Use the description of Doug on page 27, to help fill in the information on your chart.
22. Doug sounded very brave on paper, what did Scott challenge Doug to do, to prove that he really did have courage? (page 28)



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### Chapters 5 & 6



1. Why did Tori get a little annoyed with the teenagers? (page 29- 30)
2. What is a Homelink number? (page 30)
3. Why did Doug's heart leap on page 30?
4. Doug is really having a struggle with himself about what is 'right'. In your own words, explain what Doug is really feeling at this time. (page 31)
5. What pressures are on the seventeen-year-old Doug? See page 32.
6. What is a ward of the state? Why did Tori become a ward of the state? (page 32)
7. Who is Uncle Jock? Describe Uncle Jock. What is his contribution? What is his relationship to the fugitives? (page 33)
8. How did Scott and Andrew find the motel room where the five had been staying? (page 36)
9. How close did Scott come to Tori on page 36?
10. What effect do the notes left by Doug have on the police officer? (page 37)
11. How did Scott know about the beach house at Dongara?
12. On a map of WA, mark in Armadale and Dongara.
13. Why does the detective conclude that the group will be harder to trace because they have access to money? How did Tori come to have a lot of money? (page 38 - 39)
14. On your chart of characters, record more details about Tori from page 38 – 39)
15. Who is Dr Clara Barcella? (page 39)

16. How do the police trace people? There is an example on page 40. Find others in the story.
17. What facilities do the police have at their disposal? (see pages 40 – 41 for some examples)
18. What is a passport? How could the five use their passports to escape? What would happen if they tried to leave the country? (page 40)
19. Where were the five going when they escaped the detective? (page 42)

## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE

### Chapter 7 & 8



1. How did Aaron and Doug happen to be up in the middle of the night? (page 44)
2. Why did they head back to Armadale, to the house they knew was under surveillance? (page 45 - 46)
3. Draw up wanted posters for two of the teenagers. These should be full page posters, with the full name and some other details on them eg when last sighted and their age. Use your descriptions of the children to draw the picture.
4. Imagine you are a detective whose job it is to compile profiles of people for whom the police are searching. Taking all the evidence you can glean from the novel, make up a file on Doug and Tori stating as much information as you can about each person. These are to be presented as if a real file, with a picture on the front and all of the information inside.
5. Two of the characters have health problems. What are these? How does their condition play a part in the story?

6. Despite the fact that the children are fugitives from the law, the reader sees them manage to enjoy themselves on occasions. Give examples from the novel.
7. There is a great deal of evidence in the novel that the five have a strong attachment to each other. They know each other very well. Give an example, you may like to check out pages 46 - 47.
8. The police have very sophisticated means of surveillance and detection. Look at these in detail and make a list of them, describing how they work. There are some examples on pages 48 and 49
9. Scott was prevented from travelling to Dongara earlier. What stopped him? (page 49)
10. What is meant by 'He didn't believe in coincidences'? (page 49) You may need to look up the word coincidences.
11. How did Scott know that it was Doug on the phone? (page 50)
12. How would you describe Doug's manner on the phone with Scott on pages 50 and 51?
13. What deal does Scott make with Doug? (page 52)
14. 'Doing something wrong for a right reason can never make it right.' Explain what Scott meant. (page 53)
15. What makes you think that Scott really does care about Doug and the other four runaways? (pages 52 – 54)
16. Use the description on page 55 to add more information about Scott to your chart of characters.

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### **Chapter 9 & 10**

1. The teenagers could no longer stay in WA. What was their plan? (page 57)  
What preparations did they need to make for the trip?
2. How had Tori outsmarted the police on page 58?
3. What do you think the black arrows mean? (There is another mention of them on page 58)
4. How did modern technology help the detectives in their work? (See page 59 and any other examples you can remember.)
5. Write a sentence describing Doug's feelings during the phone conversation on page 60.
6. How does Scott try to make Doug turn himself in? (page 60)
7. What is asthma? How is it controlled? (page 62)
8. What was the close encounter Tori had with Scott on page 63?
9. What had Scott done to make sure the five did not leave the state? (page 66)
10. How do you feel when you read that the detective was using so much high-tech equipment, on a group of kids who had none? Write a paragraph explaining your feelings here.
11. Assume you are being traced. The police or someone else is closing in on you. Write at least half a page, describing your feelings and what happened. Did you get caught? Try to include some background about why you were on the run.



## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE

### Chapter 11 – 12



1. What happened in the pharmacy that really scared Doug? (page 68)
2. On page 69, we find Doug really angry. Why?
3. Doug feels betrayed and confused, as well as angry. Write a paragraph explaining why he felt this way. (page 71)
4. What does the phrase ‘the ball’s in your court’ mean? (page 72)
5. What deals does Scott make with Doug on pages 72 and 73?
6. How does Scott know where Doug had eaten his hot chips? (page 73)
7. On page 73, Scott told Doug he could walk away. Would you have trusted Scott? Why or why not? What would have happened if he had walked away?
8. ‘He felt like a fly in a spider’s web’ (page 74). Explain.
9. What evidence is there, that Scott is really concerned about Tori’s health? (page 72 – 73)
10. Why was Doug’s wallet ‘bulging’? (page 75)
11. Why were the teenagers told not to use their ATM cards? (page 75)
12. Draw a picture of Andrew Hallen from the description on pages 75 and 76.

13. What was Doug's impression of Scott when he first met him? (page 76 – 77)
14. What made Doug react so violently, when he met with Scott? (page 77, 78)
15. Why does Doug hate the Family and Children's Services so much?
16. Write a paragraph on the use of force, by Scott, at this point in the story. Do you feel it was really necessary to use such force? (page 78 –79)
17. 'Doug eyed him suspiciously.' (page 79) Explain this statement and give a reason for Doug's suspicion.
18. Write a paragraph explaining why this 'meeting was a complete disaster'. (page 80)
19. Scott had a decision to make. Why was it a no-win situation? (page 81)
20. Doug expected Scott to give him honest answers and Scott expected the same from Doug. How important is honesty in the novel? (See pages 81 – 82, as well as other incidents you can remember from the book)
21. Doug felt real disappointment on page 82. What was the reason for this?
22. How did Scott make sure that Doug would actually ring him before 6.00 am the following morning? (page 82)
23. Write a short story about someone in a similar position to Doug; feeling trapped and unable to escape. In your writing, explain how you came to be in this position, your feelings and what you did to resolve the problem. The story will need to be at least one and a half pages long. Make sure you include an introduction and a conclusion. Try to make it exciting. You might try starting your story in the middle, like Stutley does in Operation Foxtrot Five and then going back to explain how the situation arose.

## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE



### Chapter 13 – 14

1. Why do you think Doug did not return to Tori and the others after his meeting with Scott? (page 83)
2. An inquest is mentioned on pages 85 – 86. Look up inquest in the dictionary and write the meaning.
3. Explain the cause of the accident that had killed Doug's parents. (page 86)
4. Why was Scott concerned with the time, while he had Doug on the phone? (page 86-87)
5. What is meant by a trust? What is meant by 'damages were awarded to the surviving children'? (page 86)
6. 'It's all right to hurt and it's all right to cry.' Scott gave Doug permission to express his feelings. Often boys feel they are not allowed to cry or express their emotions. How important do you think it was for Doug to be able to hurt and to cry? (page 87)
7. On page 87, what sentence tells you that Scott really cared about Doug?
8. Why did Doug visit the movie theatre? (page 88)
9. Write a paragraph describing how you think Doug felt at this point in the story.
10. Why is Scott really able to understand how Doug feels about losing his parents? Explain fully. (page 89)
11. Scott was always honest with Doug. On page 92, you find Scott tempted to lie. Why would it have been easier for Scott to keep the truth from Doug at this time?
12. How much money was being held in trust for the Smith children? (page 92)
13. Why did Doug plan to avoid being caught for another 10 months? (page 92 - 93)
14. What had prevented the two detectives from catching Doug at this time? (page 93)

15. Write a sentence describing how the detectives would have felt after coming so close to catching up with Doug?
16. What do you think Doug wants to talk to Tori about? (page 94)
17. I want you to assume the role of a reporter. Imagine that you had been given the story about the courts awarding damages of \$800,000 to the children, after the railways were found to have known about the faulty crossing lights. You are to write an article for a newspaper. Include in the article, a request for the children to come forward and claim the money. This article is to be set out in columns as a real newspaper story.

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### Chapter 15 – 16



1. What is meant by ‘squeaky clean and hard-working’? To whom did this phrase refer? (page 95)
2. What made Doug nearly choke on his sandwich? (page 99)
3. Doug seems to be really enjoying his stay at the motel. Write a paragraph explaining why he finds the situation amusing. (page 99 – 102)
4. What has Doug decided to do with some of the money in trust? (page 102)

**Here is where chapter 1 fits in. He leaves the motel in the Mercedes, feeling quite happy with himself, for having fooled the detective. Remember he was caught by the police, doing a licence check and is now in the monitored cell, sitting on the floor.**

5. Did the police officers at the Cannington Police Station know about the five runaways? How do you know? (page 104)

6. How did the officers treat Doug when he was there? (page 104 – 105)
7. Could Doug talk freely on the phone? Why or why not? (page 106)
8. On page 106, we find that Doug has to disclose the code. What was the code and why did he have to tell the police officers about it?
9. Fully explain the sentence ‘He’d won that round fair and square!’ (page 107)
10. Doug cheered up when Scott gave him some news. (page 108 - 109) Explain why.
11. Doug was given back his possessions. What was missing? (page 109)
12. Doug often has to think things through before he says something, eg with the key here. On page 116, there is another example of him having to think carefully. Who was he trying to protect?

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### **Chapter 17 – 18**

1. What was unusual about the way Scott had used the handcuffs? (page 111)
2. What is meant by custody? (page 111)
3. What was Doug’s father’s occupation? (page 113)
4. Who did Doug’s mother work for? (page 113)
5. Write a paragraph describing Doug’s mother in your own words. (page 114)
6. What was the result of Doug’s attempt to escape through the bathroom window? (page 115)
7. Who is Karl Klapper and why has he come to the motel? (page 116)
8. What was so unusual about this doctor? Note his appearance and his method of transport. (page 116)
9. What do we learn about Anna on page 117? Give as much detail as you can.
10. What did Scott do that made Doug think of his father? (page 118 - 119)

11. What is meant by ‘apprehensively’. Why was Doug apprehensive, when he noticed the handcuffs again? (page 120)
12. ‘No, every action has a consequence.’ Explain what this meant for Doug. (page 120)
13. What evidence is there that Doug was quite athletic? (page 121)
14. What was the consequence for this escape attempt? (page 122)



## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE

### Chapter 19 – 20



1. What did the detectives use to replace the handcuffs? (page 123)
2. Why do you think they might have put the bracelet on his right hand? (page 123)
3. Why couldn't Doug take the bracelet off? (page 124)
4. Imagine that you wore a bracelet that monitored your every move. Write a half a page on how you would feel about your lack of freedom and the lack of privacy you would be experiencing. (page 124 - 125 may give you some idea of how it would feel)

5. Doug is really distressed about this bracelet and the fact that he feels like a real criminal. Why does he feel so sad? (page 125)
6. On page 125, 126, we have Doug recalling things that didn't make sense. What were some of these things?
7. What church do you think is referred to on page 126? Why did Doug decide not to go to his own church that day?
8. We see Scott's sense of humour when he suggests collecting some things for Doug. Explain. (page 127)
9. The tension between Scott and Doug seems to be easing. How can you tell? (page 127)
10. Explain how Scott arrived at the name Operation Foxtrot Five. (page 128)
11. By what shorthand do you think the name Operation Foxtrot Five would be referred to by those on the case?
12. Look up the phonetic alphabet and write it out. Using this alphabet, write your name and a short sentence about yourself.
13. Interesting – there is a hint about the next book in the series. What is the hint? (page 128)
14. On your map of WA, write in the town of York.
15. Where had the detectives taken Doug? (page 129)
16. What sport is mentioned on page 130?
17. Why do you think Scott allowed Doug to hold the rope for him, when he was on the beam? (page 131 –132)
18. Page 133, 134 paints quite a different picture to other parts of the book, where Doug is on the run. Explain the difference.
19. What is meant by 'mutual trust' and why was it important for Doug and Scott? (page 134)

## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE

### Chapter 21 –22



1. There is a humorous incident on page 135, 136. Describe this incident.
2. Page 136, 137 gives the reason why the detectives have brought Doug out to the camp. What is it?
3. Why do you think Scott tells Doug about his rebellious teenage years at his time? Who is the policeman who helped Scott to turn his life around? (page 138)
4. What information do we learn about the key from pages 139 –140?
5. ‘Doug battled with his thoughts’. Explain this statement. (page 141)
6. Explain how the accident happened in chapter 22.
7. Why does Doug decide to tell Scott anything he wanted to know? (page 146, 147)
8. What is meant by ‘It was over. At least this part was over’? (page 148)
9. Do you think that Doug really trusts Scott now? Give reasons for your answer.

## OPERATION FOXTROT FIVE

### Chapter 23-24



1. What does it mean by ‘crunch time’? (page 149)
2. Who was the visitor who came before Doug and the others left Sydney? (page 151)
3. Why did Doug shift ‘uncomfortably’ on page 152.
4. Explain what the different coloured arrows and the roses meant. (page 152)
5. Describe the tension on page 153. Why is Doug so sad?
6. Who is Doug trying to protect? (pages 153 – 155)
7. Scott says to Doug on page 154, ‘You ran away instead of standing up for what you believed.’ Was this fair? Is it true that Doug didn’t have the courage to stand up for what he believed? Write at least half a page. (see also page 156)
8. Scott had to be firm to make Doug listen to anything about the Family and Children’s Services. What did Scott say to reassure Doug that things would be all right? (page 154)
9. Would Tori be allowed to be their ‘court-appointed supervisor’? Why or why not? (page 154)
10. Doug is delighted with the suggestion made by Scott about the court appointed supervisor, but he still has a concern. What is it?
11. What was the promise that kept Scott going, even though he was in such a lot of pain from his injuries? (page 158)
12. Why did Scott wake Doug in the early hours of the morning? (page 159, 160)
13. What does ‘people smuggling’ mean? (page 162)

14. It is not until the last few pages that the story reaches a climax and the Smiths, together with the reader, learn why the police had mounted such an operation to find them. Comment on this. What is the explanation at the end?
15. What will happen to Tori now that the children are in the custody of Scott? (page 166)
16. Scott was having second thoughts about looking after the kids. Why? (page 166)
17. Collect articles on Boat People. You could use newspapers, the Internet or library to research this topic.
18. Prepare for a debate on the topic - The Boat People should all be sent home.
19. Why were the police so interested in finding the Smith children?
20. From the novel, discuss the importance of family.
21. Pretend you are in the police force and it is your job to write a police report on the case of the Smith children after it has finished.
22. Write a report on ***Operation Foxtrot Five*** for your local newspaper, outlining what happens in the story and some of the features that kept you reading until the very end.
23. Write a mystery thriller of your own and give it a code name.