

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl

Reading Questions and Answers

p.38 The author uses the phrase 'wicked little eyes' to describe grandma watching George. Think of a synonym and an antonym for the word 'wicked'.

- Example answer: A synonym for 'wicked' is evil and an antonym for 'wicked' is 'kind'.

p.38 Find a verb on this page that describes how Grandma sits.

- Example answer: The word 'hunched' describes how Grandma sits.

p.38 Find three adjectives, verbs or phrases on this page that encompass how George is treated by his grandma.

- Example answer: Grandma snaps, shouts and cries at him.

p.40/41 How has the author contrasted George with his Grandma?

- Example answer: The author describes George as polite, cool and calm, whilst Grandma is hot, shocked and desperate for help.

p.41 Find some verbs on this page that show the author is making comparisons between Grandma and a horse.

- Example answer: Grandma 'bucked', 'shied' and 'snorted'.

Find words that tell you how Grandma is feeling after taking George's medicine.

- Example answer: Grandma's feelings change as the time passes after the medicine has been taken. At first she is alarmed and feels like she is on fire when she shouts 'Call the fire brigade!'. Then she goes very quiet, does not answer George's questions and begins to shoot through the roof as she grows rapidly. Then her emotions are excited and positive as she declares 'Whoopee!'.

Deeper Reading

How has the author's choice of words created a feeling of excitement in this chapter?

- Example answers: The author uses a lot of exclamations, both negative and positive in this chapter, which shows intense feeling. He emphasises some sentences by standing them alone e.g. p.39 'It was worth watching', which increases the suspense and excitement for the reader. The chapter is also packed full of fast paced action, with the reader having no idea what will happen next to Grandma e.g. 'Call the fire brigade!' she shouted suddenly.

Explain the moment when you realised that a real change in Grandma's personality had happened. Give evidence with your answer.

- Example answer: Grandma starts to seem very different when she starts to grow tall. Her head bursts through the ceiling and on p. 46 she cries, 'Whoopee!' which suggests she is starting to enjoy herself and have fun. She even declares excitement when she gets to see the outdoors for the first time in 20 years.

