

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE, by Roald Dahl

Lesson 1

Before reading:

- Look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about?
 - What things can you see on the front cover?
 - What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?
 - Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?
 - What might be in the marvellous medicine?
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1. Grandma & The Marvellous Plan

V:

- What is mischief? Think of something mischievous.
- Find and copy a phrase on Page 7 that shows that Grandma is experiencing joy.
- What does it mean if something is marvellous?

I:

- How can you immediately tell that George regularly gets up to mischief?
- Why doesn't George like Grandma very much?
- How does Grandma try to convince George that she is a witch?

P:

- Predict what George's new medicine will do to Grandma.

E:

- Do you think it was fair that Grandma scalded George for growing? Why?
- Explain how Dahl uses italics for effect.

R:

- What time does Grandma need her medicine?
- Why was George so bored?
- How old is George?
- What does Grandma tell George he needs to eat?
- Why couldn't George put a snake down Grandma's back?
- How long does George have to make a new medicine?

S:

- What impression do you get of Grandma? Pick one word to sum her up and explain why you chose that word. Do the same for George.

2. George Begins To Make The Medicine & Animal Pills

V:

- What word on Page 18 is a synonym for cure?
- What does 'the faintest idea' mean?
- What does it mean to 'smell a rat'?

I:

- Why might the medicine cupboard be dreaded?
- On Page 21, George doesn't give reasons for some of the ingredients. Using the information on the page before, think of some of the reasons George might have for including them.
- Why does George think the medicine has to be brown?
- Why does George decide to boil the medicine?

E:

- Do you think the medicine is a good idea? Why?

R:

- How big is the pan George picks out?
- What is George's methodology towards making his medicine?
- What's the first thing that goes into Grandma's medicine?
- How much washing powder does George put in?
- Which medicine does George remember? Why can he touch this one?

S:

- Describe George's plan in one word.

3. The Cook Up & Brown Paint

V:

- What is spluttering?
- What is the difference between steam and froth?

I:

- Why does Grandma assume George is up to mischief?
- What does George's song remind you of?
- Why does George need the medicine to cool down?

P:

- Predict what will happen when George gives Grandma the medicine.

E:

- How does Dahl use poetry in this book?

R:

- What happens to the medicine, as it gets hotter?
- What colour is the medicine? Why is this no good?
- How does George turn it brown?
- Why does George pour the original medicine away?

S:

- Summarise how the reader feels after these chapters in one word.

4. Grandma Gets The Medicine & The Brown Hen

V:

- How do you sit hunched? Can you demonstrate it?
- What does suspended in air mean?
- Find words and phrases that show Grandma is ablaze.
- Define 'gradual'.

I:

- Why does Grandma always think George is lying?
- Why is it amazing that Grandma stands up?
- Why did George think Grandma was bound to stop when she reached the ceiling?
- Why do you think Grandma wanted more medicine?
- What is the first sign that Grandma is coming through the roof?
- Why does George give the chicken some medicine?

P:

- When the medicine goes in, predict what will happen to Grandma.

R:

- Do you think it was right for George to test the medicine on a chicken? Why?
- What is Grandma's first reaction?
- How does George extinguish Grandma?
- What colours does Grandma go?
- How tall does Grandma get?
- What bird was sat on the roof?
- How does Grandma believe she got so tall?
- What is the difference between the way Grandma grows and the way the hen grows?

S:

- Summarise these 2 chapters in one word.

Homework:

Come up with your own **marvellous medicine!** Write a short story about **how you make it** and **what happens when someone takes it.**

OR

Summarise the first half of the book in **4 sentences (one short paragraph).**