**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo! (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocab Bingo!**

* *Follow the link in the chat to Vocab Bingo! The first person to get a full row or column wins!* [**mfbc.us/m/drj2ku**](https://mfbc.us/m/drj2ku)

**Opening Activity**

*Look at this illustration of a Witch from Roald Dahl’s The Witches. Come up with as many adjectives as you can to describe the scene here.*

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

The Witches by Roald Dahl

REAL WITCHES dress in **ordinary** clothes and look very much like ordinary women. They live in ordinary houses and they work in ORDINARY JOBS.

That is why they are so hard to catch.

A REAL WITCH hates children with a red-hot **sizzling** hatred that is more sizzling and red-hot than any hatred you could possibly imagine.

A REAL WITCH spends all her time **plotting** to get rid of the children in her particular **territory**. Her **passion** is to do away with them, one by one. It is all she thinks about the whole day long. Even if she is working as a **cashier** in a supermarket or typing letters for a businessman or driving round in a fancy car (and she could be doing any of these things), her mind will always be plotting and **scheming** and **churning** and burning and **whizzing** and phizzing with **murderous** **bloodthirsty** thoughts.

"Which child," she says to herself all day long, "exactly which child shall I choose for my next **squelching**?"

A REAL WITCH gets the same pleasure from squelching a child as you get from eating a plateful of strawberries and thick cream.

She **reckons** on doing away with one child a week. Anything less than that and she becomes **tetchy**.

One child a week is fifty-two a year.

Squish them and squiggle them and make them disappear.

That is the **motto** of all witches. Very carefully a victim is chosen. Then the witch **stalks** the **wretched** child like a hunter stalking a little bird in the forest. She **treads** softly. She moves quietly. She gets closer and closer. Then at last, when everything is ready...phwisst! ... and she swoops! Sparks fly. Flames leap. Oil boils. Rats howl. Skin **shrivels**. And the child dis-appears.

A witch, you must understand, does not knock children on the head or stick knives into them or shoot at them with a pistol. People who do those things get caught by the police.

A witch never gets caught. Don't forget that she has magic in her fingers and **devilry** dancing in her blood. She can make stones jump about like frogs and she can make tongues of flame go flickering across the surface of the water.

These magic powers are very frightening.

Luckily, there are not a great number of REAL WITCHES in the world today. But there are still quite enough to make you **neurotic**. In England, there are probably about one hundred of them altogether. Some countries have more, others have not quite so many. No country in the world is completely free from WITCHES.

A witch is always a woman.

I do not wish to **defame** women. Most women are very personable. But the fact remains that all witches are women. There is no such thing as a male witch.

On the other hand, a **ghoul** is always a male. So indeed is a barghest. Both are dangerous. Bu neither of them is half as dangerous as a REAL WITCH.

As far as children are **concerned**, a REAL WITCH is easily the most **malicious** of all the living creatures on earth. What makes her doubly malicious is the fact that she doesn't look malicious. Even when you know all the secrets (you will hear about those in a minute), you can still never be quite sure whether it is a witch you are gazing at or just a kind lady. If a tiger were able to make himself look like a large dog with a waggy tail, you would probably go up and pat him on the head. And that would be the end of you. It is the same with witches. They all look like nice ladies.

For all you know, a witch might be living next door to you right now.

Or she might be the woman with the bright eyes who sat opposite you on the bus this morning.

She might be the lady with the **dazzling** smile who offered you a sweet from a white paper bag in the street before lunch.

She might even--- and this will make you jump--- she might even be your lovely school-teacher who is reading these words to you at this very moment. **Scrutinise** that teacher. Perhaps she is smiling at the **absurdity** of such a suggestion. Don't let that put you off. It could be part of her cleverness.

I am not, of course, telling you for one second that your teacher actually is a witch. All I am saying is that she might be one. It is most unlikely. But--- and here comes the big "but"---it is not **unfeasible**.

Oh, if only there were a way of knowing conclusively whether a woman was a witch or not, then we could round them all up and put them in the meat--grinder. Unhappily, there is no such way. But there are a number of little signals you can look out for, little **quirky** **habits** that all witches have in common, and if you know about these, if you remember them always, then you might just possibly manage to escape from being squelched before you are very much older.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. Who is the narrator and what kind of voice does the narrator have?
3. Where do we think this extract comes in the story – at the beginning, middle, or end?
4. Why are Witches difficult to catch?
5. What facts are we given about Witches in this extract?
6. What questions do you have about Witches after reading this extract?
7. How does the narrator make the reader feel involved in the text?
8. What is the effect of Roald Dahl’s use of verbs in this extract?

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*

1. Ordinary
2. Sizzling – very hot
3. Plotting – secretly making plans
4. Territory – a piece of land owned by a person
5. Passion – strong and barely controllable emotion
6. Cashier – a person responsible for payments in a shop
7. Scheming
8. Churning – moving about vigorously (usually liquid)
9. Whizzing – move quickly through the air
10. Murderous
11. Bloodthirsty
12. Squelching
13. Reckon – be of the opinion
14. Tetchy – irritable or bad-tempered
15. Motto – a short sentence or phrase chosen to encapsulate certain beliefs
16. Stalk
17. Wretched
18. Tread – walk in a specified way
19. Shrivel – wrinkle and contract due to loss of moisture
20. Devilry
21. Neurotic – abnormally sensitive, obsessive or anxious
22. Personable – friendly and easy to get on with
23. Defame – damage someone’s good reputation
24. Ghoul – an evil spirit
25. Concerned – worried, troubled or anxious
26. Malicious
27. Dazzling
28. Scrutinise – examine or inspect closely and thoroughly
29. Absurdity – being unreasonable or ridiculous
30. Conclusive – decisive, proving something
31. Unfeasible – inconvenient or impractical, not possible
32. Quirky
33. Habits

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today.
* Write a diary entry describing an encounter with a Witch. Use 10 of the words in the list above or their antonyms or synonyms.