

Penguin  Readers

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE



Illustrated by Quentin Blake

ROALD DAHL

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LEVEL

3

This book has been simplified for English Language Learners
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ABOUT ROALD DAHL AND QUENTIN BLAKE



Roald Dahl was a children's writer, and many of his stories are very famous across the world. Do you know any Roald Dahl books?



Quentin Blake drew pictures for Roald Dahl's stories. Do you like the pictures in this book? Which is your favourite picture?

About this story

In the story, George makes a magic medicine for his grandma because he hopes that she will become nicer. In 2020, some real doctors read this story, and they used all the same ingredients to make the medicine. They wrote, "If someone takes this medicine, they will become very ill, and it might kill them." Children around the world love this story, but parents and teachers always tell them, "Don't try to make this medicine at home!"

MEET . . .



George Kranky



Grandma



Mrs Kranky



Mr Kranky

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

NEW WORDS



(a) medicine (n.)

This makes you better
when you are ill.



stir (v.)

move things to mix
them together



a spoonful (n.)

something in
a spoon



a cabbage (n.)

a green or purple vegetable



a slug (n.)

a small animal with
a soft body



magic (n. and adj.)

Magic things are strange
and wonderful.



explode (v.)

suddenly break into
many pieces

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What will happen in the story?
Answer the questions.

- 1** Look at the picture on page 10.
What is Grandma holding?
- 2** Look at the picture on page 14.
How is George feeling?
- 3** Look at the picture on page 16.
What is George planning to do?

Now let's read Chapter 1 and Chapter 2!

CHAPTER 1

Grandma

"I'm going shopping in the village," George's mother, Mrs Kranky, said to George on Saturday morning.

"Be a good boy and don't be naughty."

This is a silly thing to say to a small child because the child always thinks, *What naughty things can I do?*

Then George's mother said, "And don't forget to give Grandma her **medicine** at eleven o'clock."

Then she left, closing the door behind her.

Grandma was sleeping in her chair by the window. She could not move from that chair, so she sat there all day, and she never went outside. Now Grandma opened one of her little eyes, and she said, "You heard your mother, George. Don't forget my medicine."

"I won't, Grandma," George said.

"And try to be good this time. You're always so naughty."

"Yes, Grandma," George said.

George felt so bored. He had no brothers or sisters. His parents were farmers, and they lived on a farm that was miles from anywhere, so he could not play with any other children. He was bored of looking at farm animals, and he was really bored of living with his horrible grandma.

George tried to like Grandma, but he could not. Most grandmothers are kind old ladies, but George's grandmother always shouted at him. She never smiled at George, and she never said, "How are you this morning, George?" or "Let's play a fun game!"

"Make me a nice cup of tea," Grandma shouted at George.

"Yes, Grandma," George said. "How much sugar would you like in your tea today?"

"One **spoonful**," she said, "and no milk."

George went into the kitchen, and he made

Grandma a cup of tea. He put one spoonful of sugar in it and no milk. Then he **stirred** the tea, and he carried it into the living room.

Grandma drank some of the tea. "It's not sweet enough," she said. "Put more sugar in it."



George carried the cup back to the kitchen, and he added another spoonful of sugar. Then he stirred the tea again, and he took it to Grandma.

"Where's the spoon?"

"You don't need the spoon, Grandma," George said. "I stirred your tea for you."

"I can stir my own tea," she said. "Bring me the spoon."

George brought her the spoon.

When George's mother and father were at home, Grandma never spoke to George like this. She was always more horrible when his parents were not at home.

Grandma drank some of her tea, looking over the top of her cup at George. "You're growing too fast," she said. "When children grow too fast, they become stupid!"

"I can't stop growing, Grandma," George said.

"Of course you can," she shouted.

"But I *have* to grow, Grandma," George replied. "If I don't, I won't become an adult."

"Don't be silly," she said. "Look at me. Am I growing? No, I am not."

"But you grew when you were younger," George said.

"I only grew a bit," the old woman answered. "And then I stopped when I was still very small."

George looked at Grandma. She was very small. Her feet did not even touch the floor, and her head was only halfway up the chair.

"But how can I stop growing?" George asked her.

"You must stop eating chocolate," Grandma said. "Chocolate makes people too tall. You must only eat **cabbage**."

"But I don't like cabbage!" George said.

"That doesn't matter," Grandma said, angrily. "Cabbage is good for you. You must eat it three times a day. And cabbage is even better with **slugs** in it. Slugs make you clever."

"Oh no!" George said. "I can't eat SLUGS! Mummy and Daddy always wash the slugs away."



"Mummy and Daddy are stupid, like you,"
Grandma said.

George started moving to the door. He did not want to be near this horrible woman.

"Where are you going?" she asked, pointing her finger at George. "Come closer to me, and I'll tell you secrets."

George did not move.



"I know many big secrets," she said, and suddenly she smiled. But it was a horrible, cold smile, and George began to feel frightened. He wanted to run, but he could not move.

"And I can do **magic** things," Grandma said. "I can do terrible magic things to you. You must be nice to me, or your eyes will fall out of your head, and teeth will grow from your fingers!"

"Grandma!" George cried, turning and running to the door. "Stop!"

"You can run now," Grandma shouted, "but I'll always be here, waiting for you!"

George ran into the kitchen, and the door closed loudly behind him.



Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Match the pictures to the words.

1



2



3



4



5



6



magic

medicine

stir

a spoonful

explode

a slug

Correct the sentences.

1 Grandma lives **near** George and his parents.

~~Grandma lives with George and his parents.~~

2 Grandma is kind to George.

3 Grandma is very tall.

4 "Chocolate makes people clever," says Grandma.

5 George wants to make a magic tea for Grandma.

6 George must give medicine to Grandma at ten o'clock.