

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Good morning all.

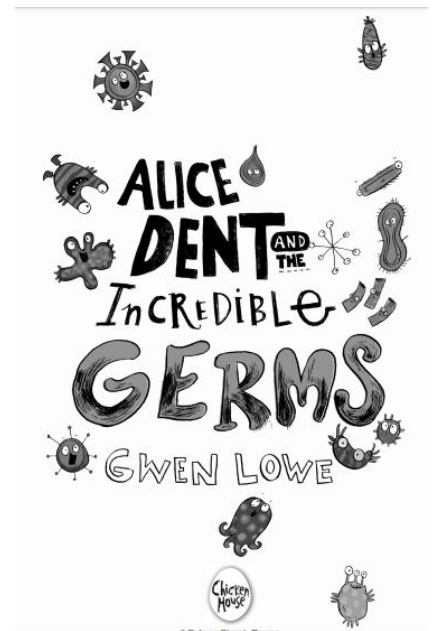
Today we are going to complete our reading of **Alice Dent and the Incredible Germs**.

WALT – use retrieval skills to answer questions

WALT – use inference skills to answers questions

The doctor came to visit that afternoon. She was extremely annoyed to have to come out. She knew the Dents well; Mrs Dent phoned her every day.

‘I suspect it’s only a virus,’ she said crossly, after checking Alice carefully for rashes. ‘But I’ll have to



send this swab for testing; that new Best Minister insists on knowing what germs children have nowadays. Yet more work for me – as if we doctors haven’t got enough to do already,’ she added, poking a thin stick down Alice’s throat. It tickled and before she could stop herself, Alice giggled.

The doctor froze.

‘Have you been giggling a lot? Are you feeling cheerful?’ she asked suspiciously.

‘No, not at all,’ said Alice, shaking her head.

‘Well don’t do it again – don’t you know how dangerous it is to giggle right now?’ And after another long hard stare at her, the doctor turned to Alice’s parents.

‘If it’s anything more than a common cold, I’ll eat my stethoscope.’

‘Thank goodness,’ said Mrs Dent from behind the door. ‘I was afraid that she had the pie Ru—’

‘Not in front of the child!’ hissed Mr Dent.

‘No sign of that, so don’t worry. And she can come downstairs – no need for her to stay up here until the results are back; they take days.’

Despite what the doctor had said, Mr and Mrs Dent were taking no chances. Dressed in frilly

aprons, green masks and fur-trimmed gloves, they only unlocked Alice's door to deliver foul black medicine on a long-handled spoon or to post chips or toast through the narrow gap. All Alice could do was lie on her bed, getting crosser every day.

'I've got to get out!' she muttered to her Venus flytrap plants. There was a row of these on every windowsill; Mr Dent insisted on it. 'Better than bug spray,' he always declared.

Alice didn't mind them; her room was quite bare otherwise. She kept a few things hidden under a loose floorboard, but Mrs Dent had ruined everything else by putting it through the dishwasher ten times or toasting it in the oven.

Alice was so bored that she ended up talking to the flytraps and feeding them cold chips. After several days, the plants were wilting and Alice was desperate.

'For goodness' sake! You can't lock me up just coz I've got a cold, it's illegal! I'm bored stiff! Please, please, PLEASE let me out!' she pleaded with her parents.

But it was no good.

'No can do, sorry – dangerous things, colds,' said Mr Dent anxiously.

### Questions:

1. Use a dictionary to find the definition of these words -  
**swab    stethoscope    narrow**
2. How did the doctor feel about visiting the Dents? Why?
3. What did Alice do to make the doctor suspicious?
4. How do you know that the doctor was sure that Alice just had a common cold?
5. What do the Dents do to keep their distance from Alice? Give 3 examples.
6. What are venus fly traps? Why did Mr Dent insist on keeping them?
7. How long did Alice spend in her room and what did she do to occupy herself?
8. In the last paragraph Alice says, please, please, PLEASE let me out! Why did the author write PLEASE in capital letters?

## Answers:

1. Use a dictionary to find the definition of these words -  
**swab            stethoscope            narrow**
2. How did the doctor feel about visiting the Dents? Why?  
**frustrated and annoyed as the Dents phoned her everyday. It would be more work for her.**
3. What did Alice do to make the doctor suspicious?  
**Alice giggled**
4. How do you know that the doctor was sure that Alice just had a common cold?  
**Because she said 'If it's anything more than a common cold, I'll eat my stethoscope.'**
5. What do the Dents do to keep their distance from Alice? Any 3 examples.  
**Dressed in frilly aprons, green masks and fur-trimmed gloves, kept Alice in a locked room, delivered medicine on a long-handled spoon, posted chips or toast through the narrow gap.**
6. What are venus fly traps? Why did Mr Dent insist on keeping them?  
**They are carnivorous plants that eat insects. Mr Dent thought that they would keep away the insects.**
7. How long did Alice spend in her room and what did she do to occupy herself?  
**Alice spent several days talking to the Venus Fly Traps and feeding them cold chips.**
8. In the last paragraph Alice says, please, please, PLEASE let me out!  
Why did the author write PLEASE in capital letters?  
**Alice was stressing this word and saying it loudly.**