

Monday 29th June 2020

Guided reading – WALT - understand what the writers use of words tells us.

Good morning little readers. Today we are going to look at how the author uses words to help us understand the characters.

The book, *The Worst Witch* by Jill Murphy, was one of my favourites as a child. I have even watched the series shown on the BBC. It is about disaster-prone Mildred Hubble who causes all sorts of calamities at Miss Cackle's Academy.

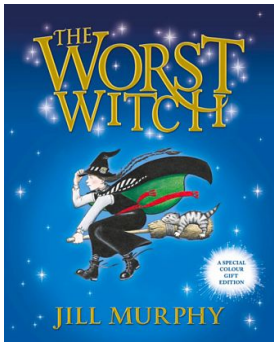
TASK -

Read the first extract from *The Worst Witch* by yourself.

Top tip!

If you struggle with any words, try the following reading strategies.

- Sound the word out. Can you split the word up and then try to say it?
- Think about whether it looks like another word that you know.
- Miss the word out and read ahead. Then go back and 'guess' what the word may have been.



There were so many rules that you couldn't do anything without being told off and there seemed to be tests and exams every week.

Mildred Hubble was in her first year at the school. She was one of those people who always seem to be in trouble. She didn't exactly mean to break rules and annoy the teachers, but things just seemed to happen whenever she was around.

You could rely on Mildred to leave her hat on back-to-front or her bootlaces trailing along the floor. She couldn't walk from one end of a corridor to the other without someone yelling at her, and nearly every night she was writing lines or being kept in (not that there was anywhere to go if you were allowed out). Anyway, she had lots of friends, even if they did keep their distance in the potion laboratory, and her best friend Maud stayed loyally by her through everything, however hair-raising. They made a funny pair, for Mildred was tall and thin with long plaits which she often chewed absent-mindedly (another thing she was told off about), while Maud was short and tubby, had round glasses and wore her hair in bunches.

Writers choose their words carefully so that readers can really get to know the characters.

TASK -

Think about how Jill Murphy has added extra information about her characters, then have a look at some of the quotes in the table below.

Explain what they tell us about the characters or the plot.

You can copy out the table and fill in your answers, or say your answers out loud.

Top tip

You could use these sentence starters to help you.

This tells us that...

This shows us that...

Quote	What does this tell you
There were so many rules that you couldn't do anything without being told off...	This tells us that no matter how well-behaved the pupils were, they would probably still get in trouble because there were so many rules.
... but things just seemed to happen whenever she was around.	
... not that there was anywhere to go if you were allowed out.	
even if they did keep their distance in the potion laboratory..	
. with long plaits which she often chewed absent-mindedly.	