



ROALD DAHL

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

Illustrated by Quentin Blake



George Kranky

is eight years old and wondering what sort of mischief he might get into.

George's Grandma is a grizzly old grouch and George wants to teach her a lesson . . .

And when Grandma's finished drinking George's marvellous medicine she'll really have SOMETHING TO GRUMBLE ABOUT.



WARNING

Do not try to make
Georges Marvellous
Medicine yourselves at
home. It could be
dangerous!!

Task 1 : Chapter 1 - Grandma!

Read **Chapter One** of *George's Marvellous medicine* (can be found on our Class Web Page). Answer as many of these questions as you can based on what you read.

1. If you were left alone what mischief would you get up to?

2. What part of the day did *George's* mother go to the village?

3. What does '*...bored to tears*' mean?

4. Why didn't *George* have any other children to play with?

5. Why wasn't *George* at school?

6. Why does *George* think his Grandma is miserable?

7. Why do you think *George's* grandma never ordered him around when his mum and dad were around?

8. Why does Roald Dahl use italics?

9. What does '*A tingle of electricity flashed down the length of George's spine*' mean?

12. Using the information from the first chapter, draw Grandma and label her too with the words and phrases used to describe her.

Compare her to your own Grandma - I hope they are not like each other at all!

My Grandma is;

.....

.....

.....

George's Grandma was;

A grizzly old grunion of a Grandma with
Wicked eyes,
Pale brown teeth,
A small puckered-up mouth like a dog's
bottom.

Task 2: George makes the Medicine

Read the following extract:

**ROALD
DAHL**

EXTRACT FROM

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE



EXTRACT ONE

from 'George Begins to Make the Medicine' (pp. 17-21)

"In the bathroom, he gazed longingly at the famous and dreaded medicine cupboard. But he didn't go near it. It was the only thing in the entire house he was forbidden to touch. He had made solemn promises to his parents about this and he wasn't going to break them. There were things in there, they had told him, that could actually kill a person, and although he was out to give Grandma a pretty fiery mouthful, he didn't really want a dead body on his hands. George put the saucepan on the floor and went to work.

Number one was a bottle labelled GOLDEN GLOSS HAIR SHAMPOO. He emptied it into the pan. 'That ought to wash her tummy nice and clean,' he said.

He took a full tube of TOOTHPASTE and squeezed out the whole lot of it in one long worm. 'Maybe that will brighten up those horrid brown teeth of hers,' he said.

There was an aerosol can of SUPERFOAM SHAVING SOAP belonging to his father. George loved playing with aerosols. He pressed the button and kept his finger on it until there was nothing left. A wonderful mountain of white foam built up in the giant saucepan.

With his fingers, he scooped out the contents of a jar of VITAMIN ENRICHED FACE CREAM.

In went a small bottle of scarlet NAIL VARNISH. 'If the toothpaste doesn't clean her teeth,' George said, 'then this will paint them as red as roses.'

He found another jar of creamy stuff labelled HAIR REMOVER. SMEAR IT ON YOUR LEGS, it said, AND ALLOW TO REMAIN FOR FIVE MINUTES. George tipped it all into the saucepan.

There was a bottle with yellow stuff inside it called DISHWORTH'S FAMOUS DANDRUFF CURE. In it went.

There was something called BRILLIDENT FOR CLEANING FALSE TEETH. It was a white powder. In that went, too.

He found another aerosol can, NEVERMORE PONKING DEODORANT SPRAY, GUARANTEED, it said, TO KEEP AWAY UNPLEASANT BODY SMELLS FOR A WHOLE DAY. 'She could use plenty of that,' George said as he sprayed the entire canful into the saucepan.



What is Roald Dahl trying to teach us about medicines?

Are you allowed to help yourselves to medicines at home? Why not?

(Warning: medicines are only safe if taken sensibly with adult supervision)

Now read extract 2:

EXTRACT TWO

from 'George Begins to Make the Medicine' (pp. 21-24)

"On his mother's dressing-table in the bedroom, George found yet another lovely aerosol can. It was called **HELGA'S HAIRSET. HOLD TWELVE INCHES AWAY FROM THE HAIR AND SPRAY LIGHTLY.** He squirted the whole lot into the saucepan. He did enjoy squirting these aerosols.

There was a bottle of perfume called **FLOWERS OF TURNIPS.** It smelled of old cheese. In it went.

And in, too, went a large round box of **POWDER.** It was called **PINK PLASTER.** There was a powder-puff on top and he threw that in as well for luck.

He found a couple of **LIPSTICKS.** He pulled the greasy red things out of their little cases and added them to the mixture.

The bedroom had nothing more to offer, so George carried the enormous saucepan downstairs again and trotted into the laundry-room where the shelves were full of all kinds of house-hold items.

The first one he took down was a large box of **SUPERWHITE FOR AUTOMATIC WASHING-MACHINES.** **DIRT, it said, WILL DISAPPEAR LIKE MAGIC.** George didn't know whether Grandma was automatic or not, but she was certainly a dirty old woman. 'So she'd better have it all,' he said, tipping in the whole boxful.

Then there was a big tin of **WAXWELL FLOOR POLISH. IT REMOVES FILTH AND FOUL MESSSES FROM YOUR FLOOR AND LEAVES EVERYTHING SHINY BRIGHT,** it said. George scooped the orange-coloured waxy stuff out of the tin and plonked it into the pan.

There was a round cardboard carton labelled **FLEA POWDER FOR DOGS. KEEP WELL AWAY FROM THE DOG'S FOOD,** it said, **BECAUSE THIS POWDER, IF EATEN, WILL MAKE THE DOG EXPLODE.** 'Good,' said George, pouring it all into the saucepan."



Responding to the text...

Roald Dahl has created some amazing ingredients to put into George's Medicine and now it is your turn...

- Use **Incredible Ingredients** to practice generating proper nouns (names) and adjectives to inject Roald Dahl humour into everyday products - you may want to use some alliteration too!
- Then, use the **Absolutely Awful Adverbs** sheet as a prompt and add an adverb to some of your ingredients you will put in the medicine using this time a proper noun an adverb and an adjective.

e.g. Sharon's shockingly shimmering shampoo!

- Create 5 ingredients described in this way, they can be from a range of rooms around the house.

In Extract One it says: ' NEVERMORE PONKING DEODRANT SPRAY, GUARANTEED...TO KEEP AWAY UNPLEASANT BODY SMELLS FOR A WHOLE DAY'

This is a type of slogan, a slogan uses words to persuade people to buy it, they make you believe that your life will be better if you buy that product.

- Can you highlight any more slogans in extract 2?
- Use the **Words to Persuade** sheet to help you add slogans to the ingredients you made up in the previous task

e.g. Sharon's shockingly shimmering shampoo, for radiant hair with unbeatable shine'

- Record your ideas. How many can you create?

Extension:

Create a Story board or script for an advertisement for one of the products you have created or maybe design the packaging your product comes in?

INCREDIBLE INGREDIENTS



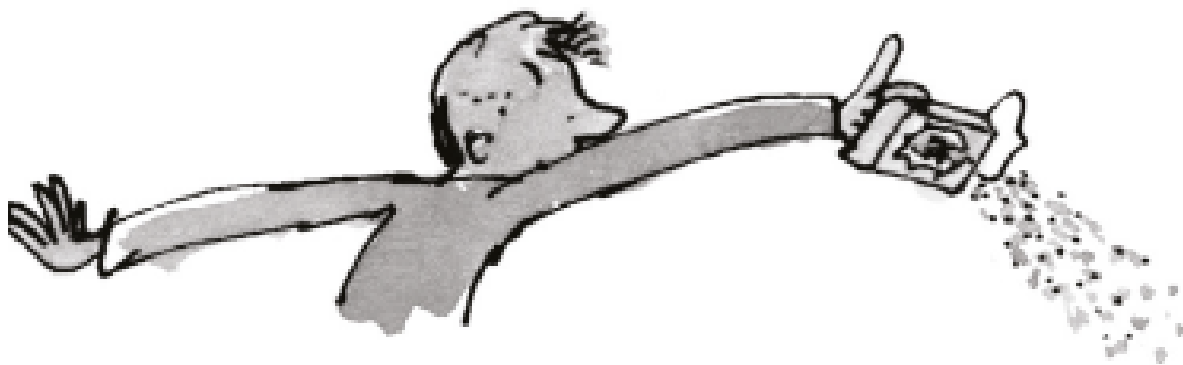
Fill George's saucepan with as many incredible ingredients as you can imagine. Describe each ingredient with a perfect proper noun and an atrocious adjective. If you can use alliteration then even better for producing a perfectly potent potion!

EXAMPLE: Hilda's horrible hairspray

..... perfume

..... powder

..... lipstick



..... washing powder

..... floor polish

..... flea powder

ABSOLUTELY AWFUL ADVERBS



scintillatingly	massively	certainly
LAVISHLY	demonstrably	viciously
BREATHLESSLY	perfectly	BADLY
powerfully	effortlessly	HIGHLY
properly	hideously	slowly
GENERALLY	really	FABULOUSLY
SMOOTHLY	BRILLIANTLY	terribly
WONDERFULLY	OUTSTANDINGLY	effectively
QUICKLY	shockingly	DANGEROUSLY
obviously	GREATLY	monstrously
tantalisingly	simply	daringly
delightfully	SHARPLY	PRACTICALLY
mightily	LUSCIOUSLY	ravishingly
HORRIBLY	fetchingly	boldly

SWEET PERSUASION



explosive	superior	tremendous
TRULY	magnificent	miracle
PROVEN	results	REMARKABLE
revolutionary	guaranteed	FASTEST
extremely	astonishing	astounding
INCREDIBLE	radiant	STUNNING
OUTSTANDING	SURE-FIRE	amazing
WONDERFULLY	OUTSTANDINGLY	effectively

Task 3 : Revolting Rhymes!

**ROALD
DAHL**

EXTRACT FROM

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE



EXTRACT ONE

from 'The Cook-up' (p.34)

'Fiery broth and witch's brew
Foamy froth and riches blue
Fume and spume and spoondrift spray
Fizzle swizzle shout hooray
Watch it sloshing, swashing, splashing
Hear it hissing, squishing, spissing
Grandma better start to pray.'

EXTRACT TWO

Double, double toil and trouble, Macbeth, William Shakespeare

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the caldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.



Read extract 1 and extract 2

Both extracts describe the mixing and brewing of 2 very different potions/ medicines but they are alike in many ways.

Have a go at the **Revolting Rhymes** to see how well you can rhyme a range of words.

Compare and contrast this section of poetry with Roald Dahls:

	Roald Dahl	William Shakespeare
Alliteration used		
Rhyming pattern		
Repetition used		
What's it about?		

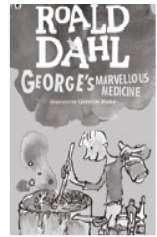
Do you think Roald Dahl was influenced by William Shakespeare? Why? Why Not?

Have a go at making your own magic medicine mixing poem up on the **My Perilous Potion** sheet or a sheet / book of your own - You could use some of the ingredients you created in an earlier task!

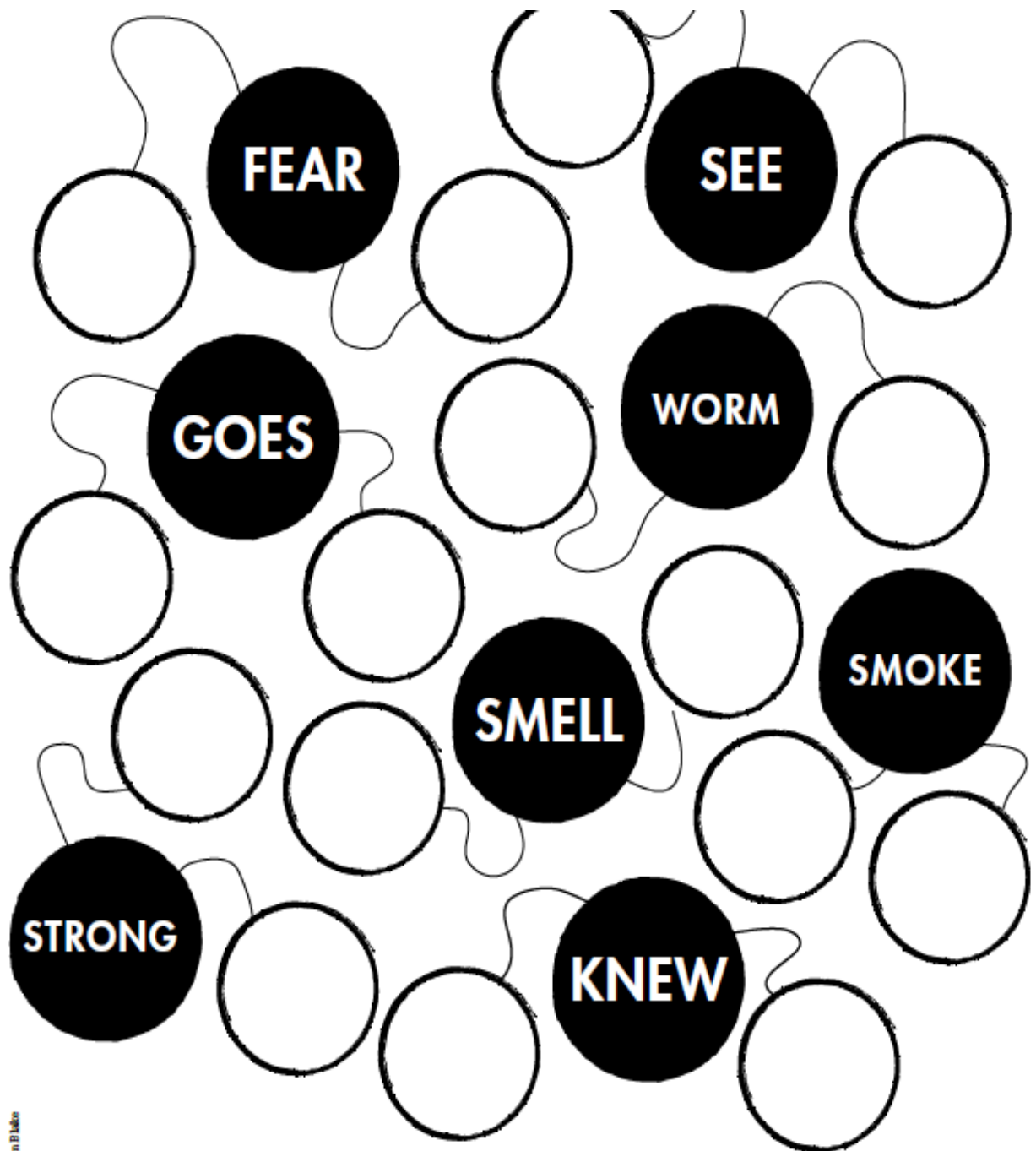
Extension

Practice reading your poem aloud for others with fabulous expression.

REVOLTING RHYMES



Roald Dahl was the ruler of rhyme. Has he met his match in you today? Here's your challenge: follow the smoky lines and rhyme the words below. If you can think of even more rhymes, then take a bow and accept your crown as the new king or queen!





Saucepans at the ready, it's time to make your own magic medicine. First you need to decide what special power your magic medicine will have. Then you need a revolting recipe.

for _____'s perilous potion
potion's special powers

INGREDIENTS:

REVOLTING RECIPE:

A generous helping of rhyming couplets

For example: 'Throw in a wiggly, squiggly worm. That should make your tummy squirm.'

Resource 1 should give you plenty of ideas if you are stuck. You can do it!

A sprinkling of onomatopoeia

'Pop', 'bang', 'sizzle', 'whizz'. See Resource 2 – there's plenty there.

A dash of alliteration

Now a slimy, slithering, slug...

A splash of repetition as required. Shakespeare repeated the line 'Double, double toil and trouble.'

What could you write instead? 'Hubble, stubble, saucepan bubble'? You can be as silly as you like!

Task 4: Grandma gets the Medicine!

ROALD
DAHL

EXTRACT FROM

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE



EXTRACT ONE

from 'Grandma Gets the Medicine' (pp. 38-41)

'Are you going to gulp it all down in one go?' George asked her. 'Or will you sip it?'

'What I do is none of your business,' the old woman said. 'Fill the spoon.'

As George removed the cork and began very slowly to pour the thick brown stuff into the spoon, he couldn't help thinking back upon all the mad and marvellous things that had gone into the making of this crazy stuff – the shaving soap, the hair remover, the dandruff cure, the automatic washing-machine powder, the flea powder for the dogs, the shoe-polish, the black pepper, the horseradish sauce and all the rest of them, not to mention the powerful animal pills and powders and liquids...and the brown paint.

'Open your mouth wide, Grandma,' he said, 'and I'll pop it in.'

The old hag opened her small wrinkled mouth, showing disgusting pale brown teeth.

'Here we go!' George cried out. 'Swallow it down!' He pushed the spoon well into her mouth and tipped the mixture down her throat. Then he stepped back to watch the result.

It was worth watching.

Grandma yelled '*Oweeeee!*' and her whole body shot up *whoosh* into the air. It was exactly as though someone had pushed an electric wire through the underneath of her chair and switched on the current. Up she went like a jack-in-the-box...and she didn't come down...she stayed there...suspended in mid-air...about two feet up...still in a sitting position...but rigid now...frozen...quivering...the eyes bulging...the hair standing straight up on end.

'Is something wrong, Grandma?' George asked her politely. 'Are you all right?'

Suspended up there in space, the old girl was beyond speaking.

The shock that George's marvellous mixture had given her must have been tremendous.

You'd have thought she'd swallowed a red-hot poker the way she took off from that chair.

Then down she came again with a *plop*, back into her seat.

'Call the fire brigade!' she shouted suddenly. 'My stomach's on fire!'

'It's just the medicine, Grandma,' George said. 'It's good strong stuff.'

'Fire!' the old woman yelled. 'Fire in the basement! Get a bucket! Man the hoses! Do something quick!'

'Cool it, Grandma,' George said. But he got a bit of a shock when he saw the smoke coming out of her mouth and out of her nostrils. Clouds of black smoke were coming out of her nose and blowing around the room.

'By golly, you really are on fire,' George said.

'Of course I'm on fire!' she yelled. 'I'll be burned to a crisp! I'll be fried to a frizzle! I'll be boiled like a beetroot!'

Responding to the text...

What simile has Roald Dahl used in this piece of text?

Why did he use this simile? What effect does it have on the reader?

*Remember a simile compares two things using the word 'as' or 'like'

Using **Sassy Similes** think of some original similes which could be used to describe Grandma

How does Roald Dahl build excitement in his writing?

- Punctuation marks especially ! and ...
- Italics for emphasis
- Short sentences create a heart beat effect which generates excitement
- Powerful verbs
- Difference in character's reactions e.g. George is calm so that makes Grandma's panic even more obvious!

Have a go at writing your own exciting passage using the **Exciting Writing** sheet.

SASSY SIMILES



Similes create imagery; this means that they paint instant pictures in our heads. Roald Dahl was very good at using similes to make funny, pop-up pictures: 'Up she went like a jack-in-the-box' and 'she shot out of the roof like a rocket!' Can you finish the similes below?



Grandma's stomach exploded like

Grandma was as shocked as

It's time to think of your own silly similes for Grandma. Remember to use the words 'as' or 'like' in your sentences. You could think about Grandma's personality traits or her appearance e.g. 'Grandma was as bitter as/as spiteful as...', 'Her teeth were brown like...' Now off you go - invent as ingeniously as George himself!

EXCITING WRITING!



Can you deliver a dose of skin-tingling excitement to the idea below?

To make your writing exciting, remember to bring it alive by adding some:

- **DIRECT SPEECH.** "Fire!" the old woman yelled," (rather than "the old woman was on fire")
- **EXCITING PUNCTUATION** like ellipses or exclamation marks (but not too many as this reduces their power – a bit like having Christmas every day)
- **ONOMATOPOEIA**
- **FAST-PACED, EXCITING ACTION** mixed in with some calmer bits. The calm makes the storm seem all the stronger.

THE IDEA:

There is a problem in the playground at George's school. Billy the Bully has been punching some of the younger children and taking food from their lunchboxes. George has discovered that there's some of Grandma's Marvellous Medicine still left in the cupboard. He decides to give it to Billy the Bully. The effect that the medicine has on Billy is surprisingly different to the effect that it had on Grandma.

Chapter 7: Billy the Bully Gets the Medicine

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple rows of dashed lines for tracing and solid lines for writing.

Task 5: What happened to Grandma?

Marvellous medicine, George told himself. He found it fascinating to stand there watching what it was doing to the old hag. What next ? he wondered.

He soon found out.

Suddenly she began to grow.

It was quite slow at first ... just a very gradual inching upwards ... up, up, up ... inch by inch ... getting taller and taller ... about an inch every few seconds ... and in the beginning George didn't notice it.

But when she had passed the five foot six mark and was going up towards being six feet tall, George gave a jump and shouted, "Hey, Grandma ! You're growing ! You're going up ! Hang on, Grandma ! You'd better stop now or you'll be hitting the ceiling!"

But Grandma didn't stop.

It was a truly fantastic sight, this ancient scrawny old woman getting taller and taller, longer and longer, thinner and thinner, as though she were a piece of elastic being pulled upwards by invisible hands.

When the top of her head actually touched the ceiling, George thought she was bound to stop.

But she didn't.

1. What was George watching ?

.....

2. Did George like his Grandma ?

.....

3. Can you find 5 words that are describing size in some way?

.....

.....

.....

4. How do you think Grandma was feeling ?

.....

.....

5. Can you write the next two sentences of the story ?

.....

.....

.....

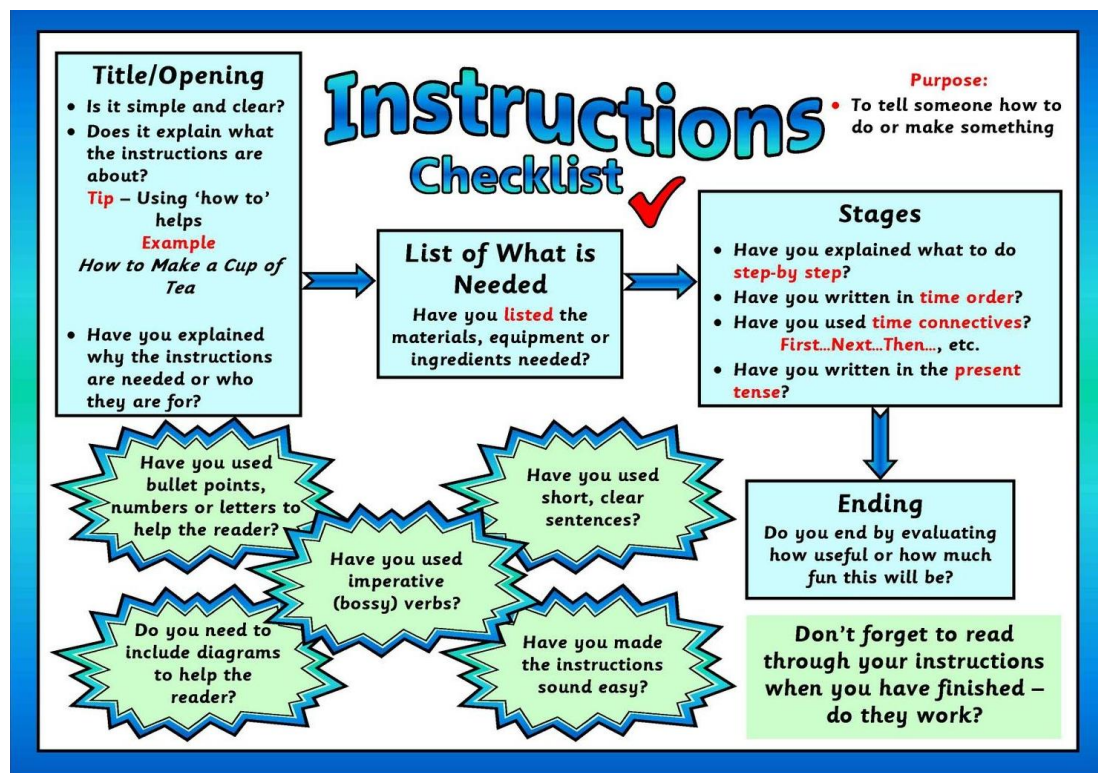
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Task 7: A New Medicine!

Now George's Aunt has come to stay and she's equally mean as grandma was! Poor George!

Write a set of instructions for George to create a new medicine for his Aunt.

Make sure you use all the features of instructions so that your writing is the best it can be:



KEY FEATURES	✓	KEY FEATURES	✓
Title (This may begin with "How to...")		Bullet points or numbers for each step	
Sub-headings to create clear sections		Adverbs to explain how the action should be done	
An opening sentence to encourage the reader to have a go		Chronological order and adverbs of time (firstly, secondly, then, next)	
A clear list of equipment or ingredients needed		Technical vocabulary (subject-specific)	
Simple steps for each action in the method		Diagrams or illustrations with labels	
Imperative (bossy) verbs (put, mix, twist, add, fill)		Closing statement which shows or describes what the reader has achieved	
Formal, impersonal tone (third person, formal connectives)			

↓

George's marvellous medicine



Ingredients

[illegible][illegible]

How to make

Task 8 : Who will Buy?

You have invented a marvellous medicine!

Now you want to tell everyone about your medicine to make you rich!

You are going to design a persuasive leaflet or poster to help you do this

Be sure to use the following persuasive features:

- Alliteration e.g. fabulous foam, beautiful blue
- Facts about the medicine
- Opinion about the medicine
- Repetition
- Emotive language - get people to feel for your product and feel they need to have it
- Power of 3 adjectives to help describe your medicine

While creating a leaflet or poster that sells your medicine to the world try and include some of the following features:

- Attractive, eye catching design
- A title, logo and slogan
- Your persuasive paragraphs
- Pictures - drawings / diagrams
- Other useful information - price, website, instructions etc

