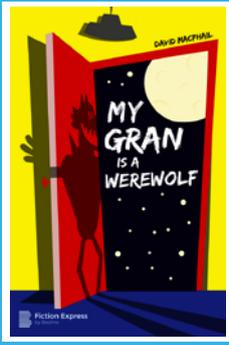


Chapter 1 · Full moon



Jess is often looked after by her frail, old gran. But tonight, Gran's voice sounds a bit like a growl and she has big, wiry hairs growing out of her nostrils. Something isn't right.

MY GRAN IS A WEREWOLF

David Macphail

CONTENT



READ!

- **Reading comprehension questions:** 10 multiple choice questions to test text retrieval and reading comprehension. These questions may also be completed online at www.fictionexpress.co.uk
- **Guided reading:** teacher's notes and a written response worksheet comprising 6 questions which allow for deeper response to the story, looking at personal response, inference and prediction



WRITE!

- **"Inspire!" words** to encourage children to include them in their own writing
- **"Spotlight!" word list** of the words highlighted and defined online
- **Writing worksheet:** noun phrases to describe setting
- **Grammar worksheet:** subjects and objects



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** the book's setting



EXPLORE!

- **Crossword:** comprehension check



Name: _____

1

Why has Gran come to Jess's house?

- A. To look after her while her mother is working nights
- B. To be looked after following an operation on her hand
- C. She lives in India and has come to visit for three months

2

What is the first sign that Gran is changing into a werewolf?

- A. She tries to bite Jess's arm
- B. She has a strange voice – a kind of growl
- C. Her feet burst from her slippers

3

How does Gran search for knitting patterns?

- A. She types knitting patterns, please into an Internet search engine
- B. She asks someone at the library every day
- C. She visits her friend Marjorie at the local knitting shop on Thursdays

4

What is the werewolf doing when Jess first sees it?

- A. Chasing Jess's cat
- B. Knitting a jumper
- C. Looking in the mirror

5

What is the werewolf wearing when Jess first sees it?

- A. Nothing at all
- B. Gran's clothes
- C. A large blanket



Name: _____

6

What is the first thing the werewolf eats?

- A. The budgerigar
- B. Chicken tikka masala
- C. A packet of sausages

7

What does Jess do when she sees the werewolf in the kitchen?

- A. Films it on Mum's tablet
- B. Runs out of the door
- C. Screams for her mum

8

Why doesn't Jess call the police when she reaches her bedroom?

- A. She wants to protect the werewolf
- B. The battery on her phone is dead
- C. Her phone is downstairs

9

How does Jess trap the werewolf?

- A. She creates a trap out of knitting wool
- B. She leaves out some meat mixed with sleeping pills
- C. She lures it into the old coal shed outside

10

Where does Jess see the werewolf at 5.30am?

- A. Crouching on the roof of the house next door
- B. On the railway embankment at the end of the garden
- C. Loping down the road towards the local supermarket



1

Locate the words *soft* and *gentle* in the description of Jess's gran. Discuss how she is quite a traditional granny. Ask the children to compare Jess's gran to their own granny. Ask if anyone has held their hands out whilst someone winds up the wool. Enjoy the humour of saying *please* to the Internet.

2

Help the children to see the initial links to *Little Red Riding Hood*. We have a girl looking after her granny, the granny has disappeared and a wolf is wearing her clothes. However, this time the wolf is granny and the reader doesn't really want a woodcutter to come along and cut her in half, as happens at the end of the fairy tale!

3

After locating the title of the story, ask the children to pick out other clues to suggest Gran is a werewolf: the plaster on the back of her hand and the beginning of the transformation with nose hair growing and growling. Recap on the traditional elements of a werewolf story.

TEACHER NOTE: Legend tells of a human who turns into a huge wolf on seeing a full moon.

A person becomes a werewolf if he or she is bitten by another werewolf. Discuss werewolves the children may have encountered in other stories, for example Professor Lupin in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Bloomsbury Children's Books).

4

Help the children to locate Jess's different reactions to the werewolf: fear, fascination and springing into action. Listen to the children's own thoughts about how they would react, gently suggesting that they probably wouldn't be able to defeat the wolf and if they ever found themselves in a similar situation they should probably get out of the house and call the emergency services!

TEACHER NOTE: She shows fear through her beating heart and cold sweat. She shows fascination by filming the wolf. She springs into action by trapping the wolf in the coal shed.

5

Point out the phrase *Or so she said*. Ask the children what this phrase might suggest. Allow the children to speculate on the relevance of the cat bite, without making any suggestions.

TEACHER NOTE: This phrase could suggest that it wasn't a cat bite.

6

Ask the children to locate the different descriptions of the werewolf: what it looks like, how it moves, what it does and how it makes Jess feel.



Name: _____

1

What sort of person is Gran?

2

What might be the significance of the cat bite?

3

How does the reader know the werewolf is Gran?



Name: _____

4

Which fairy tale does this opening chapter remind you of?

5

What does the werewolf look like?

6

How does Jess react to seeing the werewolf? What would you do in her shoes?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of *My Gran is a Werewolf*.

You may wish to explore this vocabulary, to improve children's understanding of the chapter, and inspire and enhance the quality of their own writing. You might like to display the words in the classroom, and encourage children to use new vocabulary as part of the Write! worksheet tasks.

reddened

leering

drooled

wary

ogled

barricade

ear-
splitting

basking



Find these words in chapter 1. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

barricade – a barrier to stop someone getting in or out

bobbin – a cylinder or cone-shaped object that holds thread used for sewing

cotton reel – another word for a ‘bobbin’

fangs – large, sharp teeth

knitting pattern – instructions that tell you how to knit an item of clothing

nostrils – openings in the nose that allow air to get into the lungs

railway embankment – a thick wall of earth built to carry a railway

retreated – to withdraw

silhouette – the dark shape or outline of someone or something

splintered – to break into small pieces

spool – another word for a ‘bobbin’



Name: _____

This picture shows a night-time street scene with the moon high in the sky. Write a paragraph describing Jess's street, house and garden. Try and include five noun phrases in your writing.





Name: _____

Here are some sentences from chapter 1 of *My Gran is a Werewolf*.
Underline the object of the sentence in red and the subject in blue.

1. She patted the plaster.
2. I tiptoed down the stairs.
3. I slammed the door.
4. I grabbed Mum's tablet with shaking hands.
5. Then I remembered that the phone was downstairs.
6. The creature was tangled in Gran's knitting.
7. The wolf was limping across the garden.
8. Had the wolf eaten her?



Who (or what) is at the door?

A

The nosy next-door neighbour

What do you think has made the neighbour pop round? Do you think Jess would be pleased to see this person at the door? Do you think she would choose to answer the door? What do you think will happen in chapter 2 if this is the winning option?

B

The police

How would the police have known to come to the house? Do you think they might have come about something else other than the werewolf? Predict what will happen in chapter 2 if this is the winning option.

C

A mysterious figure

Have you any ideas who this might be? Do you think he or she is good or bad? What do you think Jess will do if this is the winning option?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *My Gran is a Werewolf*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, compare Jess's home before there is a werewolf in her house and after. What are the first clues to suggest that something strange is happening? You could discuss the author's use of a diary narrative in this opening chapter. How does it help the author set the scene? Why do you think he chose to use a diary?



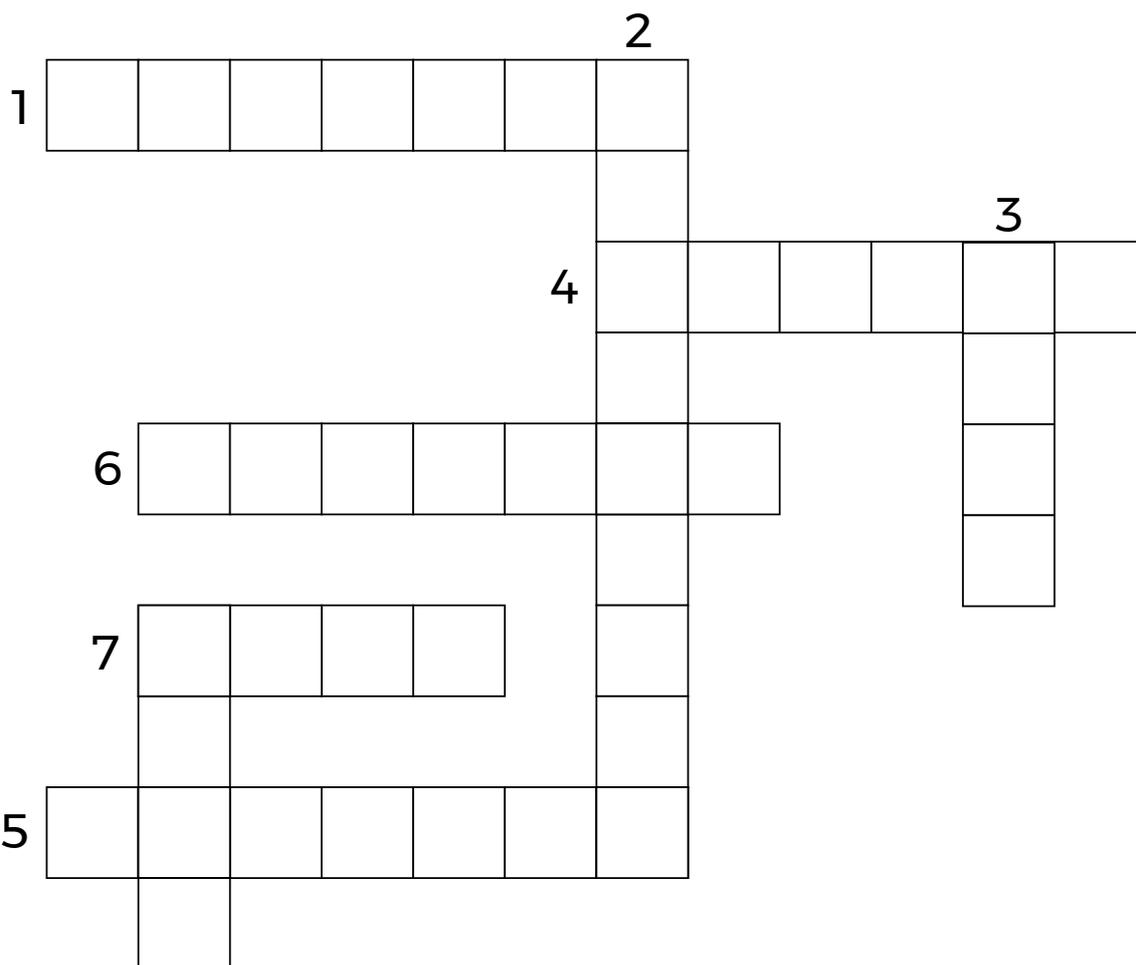
Name: _____

CLUES Across

- 1. What does Gran like to collect as a hobby? (7)
- 4. What word does Gran type into the Internet at the end of every search? (6)
- 5. She patted the _____ on the back of her hand. (7)
- 7. Where is Jess’s mum? (7)

CLUES Down

- 2. What month is it? (9)
- 3. Where does Jess trap the werewolf? In the coal _____. (4)
- 6. Where is the phone? (7)
- 7. What creature does Jess find in the living room? (4)



READ! Comprehension

1. Why has Gran come to Jess's house?
A. To look after her while her mother is working nights

2. What is the first sign that Gran is changing into a werewolf?
B. She has a strange voice – a kind of growl

3. How does Gran search for knitting patterns?
A. She types knitting patterns, please into an Internet search engine

4. What is the werewolf doing when Jess first sees it?
C. Looking in the mirror

5. What is the werewolf wearing when Jess first sees it?
B. Gran's clothes

6. What is the first thing the werewolf eats?
B. Chicken tikka masala

7. What does Jess do when she sees the werewolf in the kitchen?
A. Films it on Mum's tablet

8. Why doesn't Jess call the police when she reaches her bedroom?
C. Her phone is downstairs

9. How does Jess trap the werewolf?
C. She lures it into the old coal shed outside

10. Where does Jess see the werewolf at 5.30 am?
B. On the railway embankment at the end of the garden

WRITE! Worksheet: Subjects and Objects

1. She patted the plaster. Subject
Object _____
2. I tiptoed down the stairs.
3. I slammed the door.
4. I grabbed Mum's tablet with shaking hands.
5. Then I remembered that the phone was downstairs.
6. The creature was tangled in Gran's knitting.
7. The wolf was limping across the garden.
8. Had the wolf eaten her?

