

## Chapter 4 · The Potion

With the full moon approaching, Jess needs to find the ingredients to make the potion and cure Gran. But will she be able to save Gran in time or will Stamper, the werewolf hunter, get in her way?

### 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](http://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:** character profile
- **Grammar worksheet:** synonyms



### TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** characterisation



### EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** wordsearch



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1

**Stamper holds a strange machine. What is it for?**

- A. Killing werewolves
- B. Curing werewolves
- C. Finding werewolves

2

**What does it say on the advertisement board?**

- A. EWE CAN'T BEAT OUR PRICES
- B. SEE EWE IN SANDTOWN
- C. EWE WILL LOVE OUR WOOL

3

**How does Jess get hold of the potion recipe?**

- A. Jacob gives it to her in the library
- B. Stamper drops it at the wool exhibition
- C. Jess finds it in an old recipe book of Mum's

4

**Which ingredient is NOT in the potion?**

- A. Cod liver oil
- B. A river pebble
- C. Nail clippings

5

**When must Gran drink the potion?**

- A. Noon on the last day of September
- B. At sunset on the night of the full moon
- C. Just as she feels herself changing



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

6

**Why does Gran run into the road?**

- A. She sees a rabbit on the other side
- B. Because Stamper is chasing her
- C. She is following a sausage van

7

**What does Gran find in Jess's schoolbag?**

- A. A letter about detention
- B. A half-eaten sausage roll
- C. Some missing money

8

**What does Jess collect from the park?**

- A. Some puddle water
- B. Some sweet wrappers
- C. Her bike

9

**How does Jacob plan to distract Stamper?**

- A. By playing a recording of wolves howling
- B. By covering the driveway in money
- C. By dressing up in a wolf onesie

10

**How does Jess get Gran to drink the potion?**

- A. She puts it in Gran's tea
- B. She tells Gran it's a tonic that is advertised on the TV
- C. She pours it over some sausages



1

Ask: What is the format of the story?

TEACHER NOTE: A diary

What two tenses is the story written in?

TEACHER NOTE: Present and past tense

Why do you think the author has chosen to write in this way? Talk about the chase element of the story and the important timescale. Explain that format and tense create a sense of drama – the action is happening right now at times! Locate places where the entries are at different times of the same day.

2

Ask: How do Gran and Jess escape from the policeman? Ask the children to work in pairs to write the series of events as a flow chart. Enjoy the build up of comic details together (including the play on words in the advert) and Stamper ending up on the other end of the policeman's taser rather than Gran. Ponder together what the silver tubes that belong to Stamper's two goons might be used for.

3

Recap on the characters in the story. Focus on the two werewolf specialists: Jacob and Stamper. Ask the children, in pairs, to draw up a list of attributes for each character. Remind the children of Jacob's behaviour in chapter 2. Ask: How has Jacob changed since we met him in chapter 2? Agree that he acts very bravely in this chapter, even if he crumbles at the very end.

4

Recap on Gran's character. Ask: How does Gran cause problems for Jess? Point out that it is the combination of Gran's scatty and dog-like characteristics that creates much of the story's humorous moments. Ask: Would it be so funny if Stamper turned into a werewolf? Compare Gran with Jess. Ask the children to draw up lists for Gran and Jess. Discuss how Gran creates problems and Jess solves them.

5

Ask: What is in the werewolf potion? Tell the children to locate the list of ingredients in the chapter and make links to any work you've done on instruction texts. Compare the different ingredients. Ask the children to decide which seem magical and which seem comically prosaic. Talk about other magic potions the children have encountered in their reading.

6

Ask: What do you think will happen next? Discuss the elements that the children will need to consider when predicting, for example: Who is howling? Is Stamper going to get Gran? Who scratched Gran to begin with? Will the potion work? Will the police turn up? Or Jess's mother? Does anyone have a secret that might come out in the final chapter? For example, perhaps Stamper's mother was killed by a werewolf.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**1** What two tenses is the story written in? Write down an example of each.

---

---

---

**2** How do Jess and Gran escape from the policeman?

---

---

---

**3** How has Jacob changed since we met him in chapter 2?

---

---

---



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**4** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does Gran cause problems for Jess?**

---

---

---

**5** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is in the werewolf potion?**

---

---

---

**6** \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you think will happen next?**

---

---

---



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 4 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.

branded

calm before  
the storm

cutting  
it fine

furiously

glimpse

racked

squidged

wielding



Find these words in chapter 4. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

**advertisement** – a notice or announcement promoting or selling a service, event or product

**apologetic** – expressing regret, saying sorry

**horizon** – the line at which land appears to meet sky

**ointment** – a cream that is rubbed onto the skin

**sandshoes** – another word for ‘plimsolls’. Special shoes with a soft top and rubber sole

**scent** – a distinctive smell

**shedding** – losing fur

**taser** – a weapon that gives an electric shock

**tonic** – a substance that helps give someone a feeling of well-being

**torture** – the act of inflicting pain on someone as punishment, often in order to force them to say something or agree to something

**wielding** – to hold and use a weapon





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Write four physical characteristics that describe the character of Jacob Galleon. Then, write four descriptive words that sum up his thoughts and feelings. Find evidence from the chapter, as well as your own ideas, to help you. Draw a picture of Jacob in the space below.

Appearance (face and clothes):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

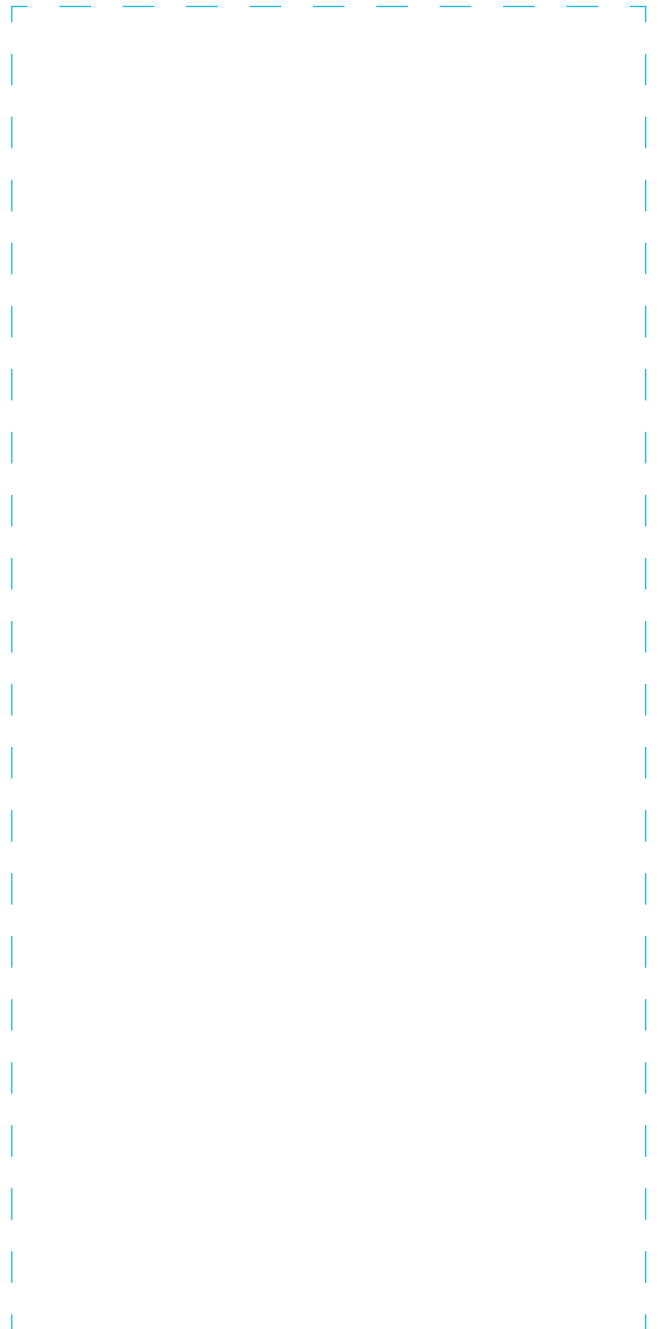
Thoughts and feelings:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A **synonym** is a word or phrase that has the same meaning or a similar meaning to another word or phrase. Authors often use synonyms in place of the word *said* to show how the characters are different through the way they speak.

Have a look at these synonyms for the word *said* and decide if they belong to Stamper's forceful character or Jacob Galleon's more mild-mannered personality. Write each word in the correct box below.

barked

murmured

demanded

whimpered

shouted

whispered

Stamper

Jacob



### Who is howling?

**A**

#### Gran

If Gran is howling, what does this mean? Do you think the potion has worked? What do you think Gran will do if she turns into a werewolf? What do you think will happen in chapter 5 if this is the winning option?

**B**

#### Mum

Give reasons as to why you think Mum might be howling. Could it be that she's upset to find so many people in her garden, including a werewolf? What other reasons can you think of? What do you think she will do next?

**C**

#### Jacob Galleon

Look back through the previous chapters to see if you can find any clues as to why Jacob might be howling? What do you think will happen in the final chapter if this is the winning option?

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

### Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, talk about the characters you have met so far in the story. Can you identify two contrasting characters? Are there any characters that share similar characteristics? Give reasons for your answers, looking for clues in the chapter.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We've met lots of interesting characters in the story of *My Gran is a Werewolf*. Find these characters in the wordsearch.

E	P	P	N	Y	B	E	G	D	A	M	S
I	Y	S	T	A	M	P	E	R	K	U	G
L	R	U	G	O	O	N	S	E	D	M	R
U	N	Q	F	D	I	P	C	U	T	V	A
J	A	C	O	B	G	A	L	L	E	O	N
R	E	P	P	I	R	T	H	T	I	E	K
S	Q	X	X	B	H	H	D	M	L	E	P
S	D	G	W	E	R	E	W	O	L	F	X
E	R	G	P	O	L	I	C	E	M	A	N
J	I	S	V	U	N	R	P	R	K	D	N

GRAN

GOONS

JACOB GALLEON

JESS

JULIE

KEITH TRIPPER

MADGE

MUM

POLICEMAN

STAMPER

WEREWOLF

**READ! Comprehension**

1. Stamper holds a strange machine. What is it for?  
C. Finding werewolves
  
2. What does it say on the advertisement board?  
A. EWE CAN'T BEAT OUR PRICES
  
3. How does Jess get hold of the potion recipe?  
A. Jacob gives it to her in the library
  
4. Which ingredient is NOT in the potion?  
C. Nail clippings
  
5. When must Gran drink the potion?  
B. At sunset on the night of the full moon
  
6. Why does Gran run into the road?  
C. She is following a sausage van
  
7. What does Gran find in Jess's schoolbag?  
B. A half-eaten sausage roll
  
8. What does Jess collect from the park?  
A. Some puddle water
  
9. How does Jacob plan to distract Stamper?  
C. By dressing up in a wolf onesie
  
10. How does Jess get Gran to drink the potion?  
B. She tells Gran it's a tonic that is advertised on the TV

**WRITE! Synonyms**

**Stamper**

barked / demanded / shouted

**Jacob**

murmured / whimpered / whispered

EXPLORE! Wordsearch

E						E	G	D	A	M	
I		S	T	A	M	P	E	R		U	G
L			G	O	O	N	S			M	R
U											A
J	A	C	O	B	G	A	L	L	E	O	N
R	E	P	P	I	R	T	H	T	I	E	K
S											
S			W	E	R	E	W	O	L	F	
E			P	O	L	I	C	E	M	A	N
J											