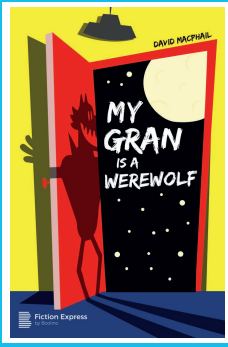


Chapter 5 · A Wolf in the Blood



When Jess discovers that being a werewolf runs in the family, she must learn the ways of the wolf in order to keep the family secret. But, as the next full moon approaches, all is not as it seems...

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:** write your own ending
- **Grammar worksheet:** conjunctions



TALK!

- **Discussion activity:** discuss the story



EXPLORE!

- **Art activity:** design a book cover



Name: _____

1

What happens after Gran takes the potion?

- A. She starts to turn green
- B. She begins to laugh uncontrollably
- C. She sits down and falls asleep

2

What frightening thing does Stamper see behind Jess?

- A. Another werewolf
- B. Jacob with a sword
- C. A huge vampire

3

What stops Stamper firing the stun gun?

- A. Jacob pounces on top of him
- B. Gran wraps him in knitting wool
- C. He becomes too scared to move

4

What happens when Stamper's men lasso the wolf?

- A. The wolf spins around and the men go flying
- B. The wolf kicks them away and escapes
- C. Gran attacks them with her knitting needles

5

What does the wolf do to Stamper?

- A. Bites him to turn him into a werewolf
- B. Hisses at him until his hair turns white
- C. Scratches a W into his arm with its nail



Name: _____

6

Why is Gran not cured of being a werewolf?

- A. She gets bitten again by another werewolf
- B. The potion recipe was wrong
- C. The potion only works once

7

How did Mum become a werewolf?

- A. She was bitten as a child
- B. Being a werewolf runs in the family
- C. She married a werewolf

8

What does Mum do when it is a full moon?

- A. She locks herself in an empty crypt
- B. She hides in the basement at home
- C. She goes to a clinic for werewolves

9

What is Jacob's next book going to be about?

- A. Stamper
- B. Gran
- C. Vampires

10

What happens to Jess at the end of the story?

- A. She runs away from home
- B. She becomes a werewolf
- C. Jacob comes to rescue her



1

Recap on the events of the story. Ask: What happens to Jess at the end? How do you know? Ask the children to find evidence in the text. Ensure that the children understand Mum's explanation of why she is a werewolf.

TEACHER NOTE: It's hereditary.

Ask: Why is Jess a werewolf? Together suggest different reasons, for example perhaps the condition no longer skips a generation or perhaps she was scratched by Gran or Mum.

2

Ask: Did you enjoy the ending? Encourage the children to articulate their thoughts. Were they disappointed that Jess turned into a werewolf or did they think that might be fun? Did they want Gran to be cured? Introduce the idea of a theme for a story. Talk about how one theme might be accepting differences — which Jess does do but Stamper doesn't.

3

Ask: Why does Stamper want to kill werewolves? Agree that he is paid to hunt them but that he also seems to hate them. What should Jess say to Stamper if he comes back? Read the fight scene together again and talk about how it is built up: at first it looks as if Mum is trapped but then Jacob's bravery and Mum's strength win out. Point out how Stamper's men are described as 'goons'.

4

How is Jess a brave person throughout the whole story? Together list all the ways that Jess is brave: trapping the werewolf, finding Jacob on her own, standing up to Stamper, not running away from Gran etc. Ask: How would you react if a member of your family turned into a werewolf? Ask: Is Jacob brave? Remember his behaviour in chapter 2 and compare that to his behaviour here. Suggest that 'being brave' might also be a theme for this book.

5

Focus on the setting of the graveyard. Ask the children to find three phrases that describe the graveyard. Ask: What is the atmosphere of the graveyard and how is it created?

TEACHER NOTE: It is empty and silent, with moss-covered gravestones and large empty tombs.

Ask if the children think that Gran and Mum will have a scary time locked in the crypt together (with Gran's cheese and pickle sandwiches).

6

Ask: If you had to write another chapter, what would happen next? Discuss different options, analysing together how they might and might not fit with the story so far.



Name: _____

1

What happens to Jess at the end? How do you know?

2

Did you enjoy the ending? Explain your answer.

3

What should Jess say to Stamper if he comes back?



Name: _____

4 _____

How is Jess a brave person?

5 _____

Can you find three words or phrases that describe the graveyard?

6 _____

If you had to write another chapter, what would happen next?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in chapter 5 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.

blood-
curdling

creep

ferocious

gut-
wrenching

scrambled

silent as
the grave

staggering

woozy



Find these words in chapter 5. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

ancient – something old that belongs to the past

crypt – a room underground or beneath a church, used as a burial place

device – an object made or adapted for a particular purpose

generation – the average time period of about thirty years, in which children grow up, become adults, and have children of their own

lassoed – caught something, usually an animal, with a lasso – a kind of rope which has a loop on the end

metallic – made from metal

passed out – became unconscious, as if you suddenly fell asleep

promptly – without delay, immediately

quivered – trembled or shook, often from feeling afraid

stun gun – a device used to stop an attacker, typically by giving them an electric shock

tomb – a large chamber for burying the dead



Name: _____

Imagine you are Jacob Galleon and you are retelling the story of *My Gran is a Werewolf* in a book. Rewrite the ending – you could give yourself (Jacob) a more important role. Or you could change what happens to Stamper and his goons. What will happen to Jess, her mum and her gran in your story's ending?

In the beginning,

Then,

Finally,



Name: _____

A **conjunction** is a word that links other words, phrases or clauses together. Conjunctions create fluid sentences and can help give an understanding of time and reason - when and why something happens.

Complete these sentences from chapter 5 by drawing a line to join the sentence to its missing conjunction.

1. The howl hadn't come from Gran
_____ she hadn't turned into a wolf.

and

2. Then I realised, with blood-curdling fear,
that it wasn't me they were staring at _____
something behind me.

as

3. I've cured one werewolf _____ now another
one turns up in its place.

so

4. "Ooh, I need a nice sit down, dear," said
Gran _____ she plonked herself on a garden
chair and promptly dozed off.

but

5. He was holding his hands out in a cradle
_____ Gran coiled wool round his fingers.

so

6. Your gran has been behaving very strangely,
_____ I hid on the railway embankment.

although

7. Gran seems fine, _____ I don't really
think it has sunk in for her yet.

because

8. I feel a bit woozy, _____ I think I might go to
bed.

while



In pairs or a small group, talk about the story the author, David Macphail, has written and its ending. Were you pleased with the ending or disappointed? Give reasons for your answers.

Did the way the story end come as a surprise or had you already guessed what would happen to Jess and Gran?

If you could read the diary of one of the other characters in the story, whose diary would you choose?

Discussion Activity

Next, look at your Write! worksheet and share the new endings you wrote with one another. Did you have similar ideas?

What different ideas did you come up with? Take some of those different ideas and combine them to retell the story of *My Gran is a Werewolf* as a class.

You could share your stories with David Macphail on the Fiction Express blog.



Name: _____

Design your own book cover for the story of *My Gran is a Werewolf*.



ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension

- 1. What happens after Gran takes the potion?
C. She sits down and falls asleep
- 2. What frightening thing does Stamper see behind Jess?
A. Another werewolf
- 3. What stops Stamper firing the stun gun?
A. Jacob pounces on top of him
- 4. What happens when Stamper's men lasso the wolf?
A. The wolf spins around and the men go flying
- 5. What does the wolf do to Stamper?
Hisses at him until his hair turns white
- 6. Why is Gran not cured of being a werewolf?
C. The potion only works once
- 7. How did Mum become a werewolf?
B. Being a werewolf runs in the family
- 8. What does Mum do when it is a full moon?
A. She locks herself in an empty crypt
- 9. What is Jacob's next book going to be about?
C. Vampires
- 10. What happens to Jess at the end of the story?
B. She becomes a werewolf

WRITE! Conjunctions

1. The howl hadn't come from Gran _____ she hadn't turned into a wolf.	and
2. Then I realised, with blood-curdling fear, that it wasn't me they were staring at _____ something behind me.	as
3. I've cured one werewolf _____ now another one turns up in its place.	so
4. "Ooh, I need a nice sit down, dear," said Gran _____ she plonked herself on a garden chair and promptly dozed off.	but
5. He was holding his hands out in a cradle _____ Gran coiled wool round his fingers.	so
6. Your gran has been behaving very strangely, _____ I hid on the railway embankment.	although
7. Gran seems fine, _____ I don't really think it has sunk in for her yet.	because
8. I feel a bit woozy, _____ I think I might go to bed.	while

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