



Chapter 1 · The competition

The ghostly Creeps struggle to sell their scary goods and have few customers. So they decide to enter a Halloween window display competition to win a TV interview. What will they display?

LITTLE SHOP OF GHOSTS

Simon Cheshire

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
- **Punctuation worksheet:** full stops and question marks



TALK!

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



EXPLORE!

- **Anagram:** reinforcement of new vocabulary



Name: _____

1 What makes the Little Shop of Ghosts unlike the other shops in the mall?

- A. It only appears at Halloween
- B. It is dark and covered in cobwebs
- C. Nothing inside is for sale

2 Who owns the Little Shop of Ghosts?

- A. Mr Glide
- B. Mr Shriek
- C. Mr Creep

3 What does the Little Shop of Ghosts sell?

- A. Scary things
- B. Jokes for Halloween
- C. Antiques

4 How does Mr Creep describe the dragons' eyeballs?

- A. Green and slimy
- B. Very poisonous
- C. Yummy on toast

5 What does ogre powder do?

- A. Keeps away ogres from your house
- B. Turns you into an ogre if you eat it
- C. Explodes when you throw it at the floor



Name: _____

6

What competition is the shopping mall holding?

- A. Best window display for Halloween
- B. Most customers over the Halloween period
- C. Most items sold over the Halloween period

7

How does Cedric hear about the competition?

- A. He sees a poster in the mall
- B. He receives an email on his phone
- C. A customer told him about it

8

What is special about the spooky items for sale in the Little Shop of Ghosts?

- A. They are hand crafted
- B. They are real
- C. They are battery powered

9

What does Cedric say are fun at parties?

- A. Tarantulas
- B. Clowns
- C. Real ghosts

10

Why does Cedric's father want to win the competition?

- A. Because he needs the £100 prize money
- B. Because he has always wanted to be on TV
- C. Because it will persuade people to come to the shop



1

Locate the description of the shop being 'squeezed' and discuss the impression this makes. A shop can't be squeezed but the use of this word makes it sound as if it is narrow and that the other two shops overwhelm it – making it look small and insignificant.

2

Look at what makes the story funny and not scary. Although the shop is full of scary things – spend time locating the traditional ghost story setting elements such as real ghosts, skeletons and eyeballs – no one is scared of them because they think everything is fake. No one is frightened and no one is in danger. The ghosts seem rather sad and sweet. The humour comes out of the mismatch between the ghosts' ideas and thoughts and their customer's ideas and thoughts.

3

Consider the name 'Mr Creep'. Discuss the meaning of the word 'creep' and 'creepy' – the words suggest moving or behaving in a secretive and underhand way. Discuss how this might be a good name for a ghost, but perhaps this ghost isn't so creepy, though he might like to be.

4

Discuss the humour in a ghost having a mobile phone. Ask: What sort of things might we expect a ghost to have – maybe a fountain pen and old-fashioned paper?

5

Help the children to understand that people think the items for sale are too strange and they don't understand them. Ask: Do you think people would be more likely to buy the items if they knew that Cedric and Mr Creep were real ghosts and the items were real? Do you think they should pretend that the items are fake? Do you think that the shop should be cleaned up or left covered in cobwebs? If you owned the shop how would you make people buy the items inside?

6

Discuss what the children might buy from this shop. Use this opportunity to draw the children back to the details in the text and to engage with the setting. Encourage them to use their imaginations to describe other items that might be for sale in the Little Shop of Ghosts.



Name: _____

1 How can a shop be 'squeezed' between two others? What impression does this make?

2 Why is the story not scary? What makes it funny?

3 What does the name Mr Creep suggest?



Name: _____

4 _____

Were you surprised when Cedric had a mobile phone? Why?

5 _____

Why do you think the shop is doing badly?

6 _____

What would you buy if you went into the Little Shop of Ghosts?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of Little Shop of Ghosts.

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.

attract

display

fake

in a huff

themed

tinkly



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

attract - make someone like something

display - arranging objects to show

fake - not real

in a huff - feeling cross

marzipan - a sweet paste made of almonds used in baking

ogre - a man-eating giant or a cruel and terrifying person

poisonous - something that can cause harm or even death

skeletons - the framework of bones inside or outside of bodies

skull - the bone framework protecting the brain

tarantulas - very large, hairy spiders

themed - giving a setting or theme to

tinkly - giving a light, clear ringing sound



Name: _____

Draw a picture of the book setting.

Write three noun phrases below that describe what you can see in the picture.



Name: _____

Here are some sentences from chapter 1 of Little Shop of Ghosts.
Write them out again, and include the correct punctuation – a full stop
or a question mark.

1

The customer stared at him

2

What are these packets here

3

“How about a box of tarantulas ” Cedric suggested

4

She left the shop in a huff

5

Our stuff is real

6

What shall we put in our display



What would make the best Halloween display for the Little Shop of Ghosts?

A

A family of live (or, actually, not that live) zombies

Do you know what zombies are? Do you think these would be safe to have in a busy shopping mall? How will the Creeps keep the zombies in the shop window? Do you think the shoppers will believe the zombies are real, or not?

B

The Creeps' pet fire-breathing dragon

Would a fire-breathing dragon enjoy sitting in a shop window display? How will the Creeps stop him from breathing fire and endangering their customers? Predict what will happen in chapter 2 if this is the winning option.

C

Cedric's witchy Aunt Vestra and her steaming cauldron

What do you think Aunt Vestra might look like? What does she have in her steaming cauldron? What might she do to shoppers she does not like the look of?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of Little Shop of Ghosts?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, share descriptions of the Little Shop of Ghosts. You could use your Write! worksheet to help your discussion. Do you have the same impression of it, or have you imagined different things about the story's setting?



Name: _____

The letters in these words or names from chapter 1 have been mixed up. Can you unscramble them?

P E R E C

--	--	--	--	--

P O S H

--	--	--	--

S G O S T H

--	--	--	--	--	--

R I D C E C

--	--	--	--	--	--

J E K O S

--	--	--	--	--

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What makes the Little Shop of Ghosts unlike the other shops in the mall?
B. It is dark and covered in cobwebs

2. Who owns the Little Shop of Ghosts?
C. Mr Creep

3. What does the Little Shop of Ghosts sell?
A. Scary things

4. How does Mr Creep describe the dragons' eyeballs?
C. Yummy on toast

5. What does ogre powder do?
A. Keeps away ogres from your house

6. What competition is the shopping mall holding?
A. Best window display for Halloween

7. How does Cedric hear about the competition?
B. He receives an email on his phone

8. What is special about the spooky items for sale in the Little Shop of Ghosts?
B. They are real

9. What does Cedric say are fun at parties?
A. Tarantulas

10. Why does Cedric's father want to win the competition?
C. Because it will persuade people to come to the shop

WRITE! Worksheet: Full stop or question mark?

1. The customer stared at him.
2. What are these packets here?
3. "How about a box of tarantulas?" Cedric suggested.
4. She left the shop in a huff.
5. Our stuff is real.
6. What shall we put in our display?

EXPLORE! Anagrams

CREEP / SHOP / GHOSTS / CEDRIC / JOKES