

The Perfect Potion

In *George's Marvellous Medicine*, George creates a medicine for his grouchy, grumpy, Grandmother Kranky (see what Roald Dahl did with her name?). Here are some of the ingredients he tipped into a pan as he toured the house:



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



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.



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.



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 FORM THE HAIR AND SPRAY LIGHTLY. He squirted the whole lot into the saucepan. He did enjoy squirting these aerosols



[George] took down 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.

Roald Dahl has used a lot of his literary tricks in this list!

With a red pencil, circle all the alliteration;

Onomatopoeia in blue;

Rhymes in green;


Funny made-up names and words in purple; and


Similes and metaphors in orange.




The Perfect Potion

For whom would you create a potion? What would you want it to achieve? A nice brew for the Matildas soccer team, to make them win the next World Cup? Something special for your sister, to stop her feet from stinking? Brainstorm at least three ideas here...

 A potion for _____ to make them _____

 A potion for _____ to make them _____


 A potion for _____ to make them _____


Talk to a partner or group about your ideas. Discuss which ideas will work the best as you try to write a funny recipe that uses all of Roald Dahl's tricks: alliteration, rhyme, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia. Circle your winning idea.





Ingenious Ingredients


Now, brainstorm ingredients that will work for your potion. Notice how Roald Dahl described some of his ingredients: with a Proper Noun brand name (*Dishworths dandruff cure*); with alliteration (*Helga's Hairset*); with a made-up name (*Nevermore Ponking*). Many ingredients also included an explanation of what they did (*guaranteed to keep away unpleasant body smells for a whole day*). Brainstorm at least five ingredients here.

 Name: _____
What it does: _____

 Name: _____
What it does: _____

 Name: _____
What it does: _____

 Name: _____
What it does: _____

 Name: _____
What it does: _____



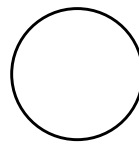
Mixing the Medicine

George's brew *fizzes*, *crackles*, and *pops* as he cooks it up. This is called onomatopoeia. What are some sounds that the ingredients on the left might make as they bubbled in a pot? Draw three of your ingredients on the right, and brainstorm the sounds they will make.



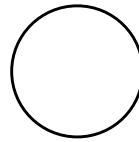
Engine oil

slop, glug, {what else?}



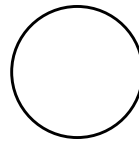


Dog treat





Head lice shampoo



Quantities Count

Roald Dahl uses a metaphor to describe how much toothpaste George puts in his brew (*he squeezed out the lot of it in one long worm*). How much of your ingredients will you need to use? What are some creative ways to describe the quantities? Cupful? Spoonful? Squeeze and count to ten?

Ingredient	Quantity to use for potion



Time to Brew!

Time to bring it all together! You can write a poem describing how to make your putrid potion, or a narrative. Try to throw in all of Roald Dahl's tricks. We made an example of each kind ...

The Matildas needed her, of this she was sure,
If she made her medicine, they would score and score.

First on her list was Donkey-Dew, a tonic to give tired old burros a kick,
Get them running and striking, that should do the trick.

Then a glinsinggood gollop of Titan's Strength glue,
The ball would stay stuck to each Matilda's shoe.

Fizzle! Fizzle! Guzzle! Glup!
The potion turned green as she heated it up.



She roamed the clubhouse, her head in a terrible funk. She just had to lift the team out of its kerslump! Then Georgie spotted them in the team fridge. Rainbow coloured bottles of sports drinks. "Guaranteed to give you a LIFT" the label said. She had it! She would make her own winning libation!

On her way home to the farm she picked up a bucket. First stop: the barn. Donkey-Dew tonic, she read on the bottle. "Give your tired old burro a new lease of life. One capful each week." Four globulous glugs went into the drink—the Matilda's hooves would be hammering soon.

She searched the shelves of her Dad's bathroom cabinet. Harry's Hair tonic? Hair wasn't the problem. Super Spicy Strength Scent? No! She wanted to repel defenders, not attract them. On to the kitchen.

Titan's Strength Grip-O-Matic Glue, she read. Just one drop will do. She splooshed it all in.

