



*Have you read any of Jill Murphy's The Worst Witch books?
Perhaps you've watched the TV adaptation on CBBC...?*

Your task for the next three days is read two extracts from the first book and then have a go at answering some questions.

Day 1

Read the first extract from *The Worst Witch* by yourself .

Top tip!

If you struggle with any words, try the following reading strategies.

- Sound the word out. Can you split the word up and then try to say it?
- Think about whether it looks like another word that you know.
- Miss the word out and read ahead. Then go back and 'guess' what the word may have been.

Extract 1

There were so many rules that you couldn't do anything without being told off and there seemed to be tests and exams every week.

Mildred Hubble was in her first year at the school. She was one of those people who always seem to be in trouble. She didn't exactly mean to break rules and annoy the teachers, but things just seemed to happen whenever she was around. You could rely on Mildred to leave her hat on back-to-front or her bootlaces trailing along the floor. She couldn't walk from one end of a corridor to the other without someone yelling at her, and nearly every night she was writing lines or being kept in (not that there was anywhere to go if you were allowed out). Anyway, she had lots of friends, even if they did keep their distance in the potion laboratory, and her best friend Maud stayed loyally by her through everything, however hair-raising. They made a funny pair, for Mildred was tall and thin with long plaits which she often chewed absent-mindedly (another thing she was told off about), while Maud was short and tubby, had round glasses and wore her hair in bunches.

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Reading Activity

Jill Murphy gives us lots of information about Mildred in this extract.

Go back to the text and find information to **fill in this fact file** about Mildred.

You could copy the table out and fill it in, or talk through what you would write down instead.

Question

What year is Mildred in?

What is Mildred like at school?

What does Mildred look like?

Any other information about Mildred?

Answer

Day 2

Now read the second extract from *The Worst Witch* .

•As you read, focus on the characters of Mildred and Ethel.

Extract 2

"I think Miss Cackle gave you that cat on purpose," Ethel sneered. "You're both as bad as each other."

"Oh, be quiet," said Mildred, trying to keep her temper. "Anyway, it's not a bad cat. It'll learn in time."

"Like you did?" Ethel went on. "Wasn't it last week that you crashed into the dustbins?"

"Look, Ethel," Mildred said, "you'd better be quiet, because if you don't I shall..."

"Well?"

"I shall turn you into a frog and I don't want to do that."

Ethel gave a shriek of laughter.

"That's really funny!" she crowed. "You don't even know the beginners' spells, let alone ones like that."

Mildred blushed and looked very miserable.

"Go on then!" cried Ethel. "Go on then, if you're so clever. Turn me into a frog. I am waiting."

It just so happened that Mildred did have an idea of that spell (she had been reading about it in the library). By now, everyone had crowded round, waiting to see what would happen, and Ethel was still jeering. It was unbearable.

Mildred muttered the spell under her breath - and Ethel vanished. In her place stood a small pink and grey pig.

Cries and shouts rent the air.

"Oh no!"

"That's torn it!"

"You've done it now, Mildred!"

Mildred was horrified. "Oh, Ethel," she said, "I'm sorry, but you did ask for it."

The pig looked furious.

"You beast, Mildred Hubble!" it grunted, "Change me back!"

[Go to next slide to complete the reading activity...](#)

What impression did you get of Mildred and Ethel? What did you learn about the characters in this extract?

Make a point about a character and then find evidence in the text to support your point. Aim to make at least two points of your own. Organise your answers in tables like below.

If you don't have a pen and paper, you could point to your evidence in the text instead.

Mildred

Impression

1. Is very confident
- 2.
- 3.

Evidence

"Turn me into a frog. I am waiting."

Ethel

Impression

1. Cares about what people think of her
- 2.
- 3.

Evidence

Mildred blushed

DAY 3

Read **extract 2** again. If you don't understand any words or phrases, you could use an online dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

Activity 3

Extract 2 ends with a real cliff-hanger. As a reader, we really want to know what will happen next.

Will Mildred be able to reverse the spell?

Will a teacher come and discover what Mildred has done?

Will the 'pig' run away?

Write down 4 predictions or say them out loud.

You might like to use some of these sentence starters to help you.

I think...

I wonder if...

I don't think...

Remember in your sentences to explain why you think what you do. You should try to use *what you have read in the extract* to explain your thinking.