

## YEAR 3 ENGLISH WEEK 2

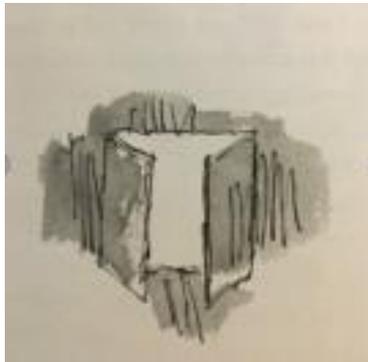
MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March

In school we read up to the end of chapter 3 of 'Billy and the Minpins' by Roald Dahl.

Here is a short summary of the story so far:

Billy goes into the forest even though his Mum tells him not to. He hears a terrifying noise. He thinks it is one of the monsters that his Mum has warned him about. He runs through the forest as fast as he can to get away from the monster and finally escapes by climbing a tree. Sitting on the tree, he notices something strange happen to the bark...

'He watched intently as the tiny shutters of tree-bark opened wider and wider, and when they were fully open they revealed a small squarish window set neatly in the curve of the big branch. There was some sort of a yellowish glow coming from deep inside the window.'



READING SKILL: PREDICTION

What do you think is behind the window? What do you think is making the 'yellowish glow'?

READING SKILL: VOCABULARY

Use a dictionary to find out the meaning of these words:

Ancient, miniature, peculiar, peering, vertical

Use each of these words in a sentence.

Extension- write a list of synonyms for each word

TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> March

READING SKILL- RETRIEVAL

Read the pages below and answer the true or false questions.

## WE ARE THE MINPINS

The very next thing Little Billy saw was a tiny face at the window. It had appeared suddenly, from nowhere, and it was the face of an extremely old man with white hair. Little Billy could see this clearly despite the fact that the whole of the tiny man's head was no larger than a pea.

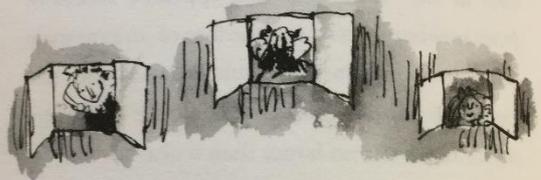


This ancient miniature face was staring straight at Little Billy with the most severe expression on it.

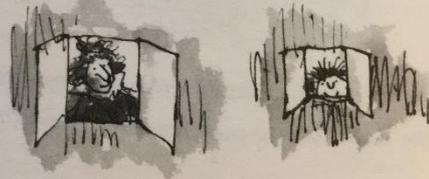
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The skin on the face was deeply wrinkled all over, but the eyes were as bright as two stars.

Now something *even more* peculiar began to happen. All around him, not only on the huge main trunk of the tree but also on all the big branches that grew out of it, other tiny windows



were opening and tiny faces were peering out. Some of these faces belonged to men and others were clearly women. Here and there the head of a child was seen peering over a windowsill. The heads of these children were no larger than the



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heads of matchsticks. In the end, there must have been more than twenty small windows all around where Little Billy was sitting, and from each window these amazing little faces were peering out. No sound came from any of the watchers.

The faces were silent, unmoving, almost ghost-like.

Now the tiny old man in the window nearest to Billy seemed to be saying something, but his voice was so soft and whispery, Little Billy had to lean right up close to catch his words.



'You're in a bit of a twizzler, aren't you?' the voice was saying. 'You can't go down again because if you do you'll be guzzled up at once. But you can't possibly sit up here forever, either.'

'I know, I know!' Little Billy gasped. 'Don't shout,' the tiny man said. 'I'm not shouting,' Little Billy said. 'Talk softer,' the tiny man said. 'If you talk too loud your voice will blow me away.'

'But . . . but . . . who *are* you?' Little Billy asked, taking care to speak very softly this time.

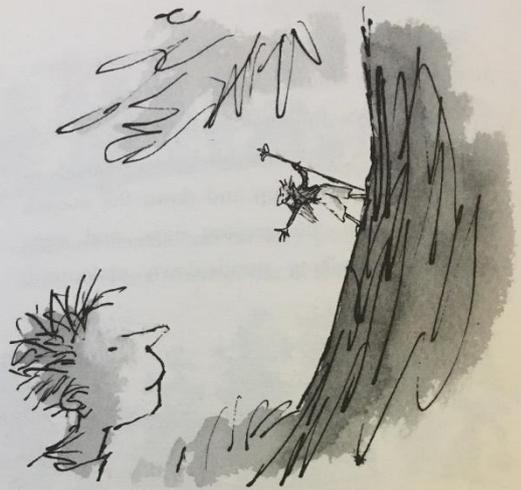
'We are the Minpins,' the tiny man said, 'and we own this wood. I shall come closer, then you will hear me better.' The old Minpin climbed out of his window and walked straight down the big steeply sloping branch, then up another branch until he found a place only a few inches from Little Billy's face.

It was amazing to see him walking up and down these almost vertical branches without the slightest trouble. It was like seeing someone walking up and down a wall.

'How on earth do you do that?' Little Billy asked.

'Suction-boots,' the Minpin said. 'We all wear

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them. You can't live in trees without suction-boots.' On his feet he was wearing tiny green boots rather like miniature wellies.

His clothes were curiously old-fashioned, mostly brown and black, the sort of thing people wore two or three hundred years ago.

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Suddenly, all the other Minpins, men, women and children, were climbing out of their windows and making their way towards Little Billy. Their suction-boots seemed to allow them to walk up and down the steepest branches with the greatest ease, and some were even walking upside-down underneath



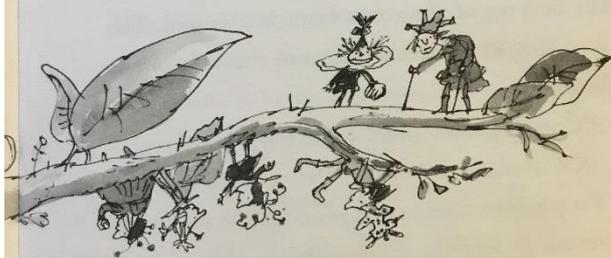
the branches. All of them were wearing these old-fashioned clothes from hundreds of years



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ago, and several had on very peculiar hats and bonnets. They stood or sat in groups on all the



branches around Little Billy, staring at him as though he were someone from outer space.



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'But do you all actually *live* inside this tree?' Little Billy asked.

The old Minpin said, 'All the trees in this forest are hollow. Not just this one, but *all* of them. And inside them thousands and thousands of Minpins are living. These great trees are filled with rooms and staircases, not just in the big main trunk but in most of the other branches as well. This is a Minpin forest. And it's not the only one in England.'

'Could I peep inside?' Little Billy said.

'Of course, of course,' the old Minpin said. 'Put your eye close to that window.' He pointed to the one he had just come out of.

Little Billy shifted his position and placed one eye right up against the square hole that was no bigger than a postage stamp.

What he now saw was quite marvellous.

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True or False?

The old man was happy to see Billy.

The old man's head was no bigger than a pea.

There were 20 small windows in the tree.

The Minpins wore miniature welly boots to help them walk up and down the tree trunks.

Write your own true/false questions for this chapter.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Read the description below of what Billy could see through the tiny window. (Page 41)

'Little Billy saw a room that was lit by a pale yellow light of some sort and it was furnished with beautifully made miniature chairs and a table. To one side was a four-poster bed. It was like one of the rooms Little Billy has once seen in the Queen's Doll's House at Windsor Castle.'

Design and draw your own Minpin house. Think carefully about what you would like to include in each room and how you would like your house to be decorated. Every room in your house should have a stairway up to the room above. Label your drawing. Remember to use lots of interesting adjectives and expanded noun phrases.

To find out more information about expanded noun phrases watch this video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/z3nfw6f>

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Describe your Minpin house in detail: both inside and out. Use expanded noun phrases, descriptive adjectives, prepositional phrases (e.g. On the floor, In the garden) and varied sentence openers - every detail counts!

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Re-draft your work, checking for spellings, punctuation and grammar. Now, which part are you going to re-write with the most changes? Select it, using square brackets and rewrite it underneath.

Is your presentation the best it can be, in cursive script?