

The Worst Witch

Jill Murphy

- 1 The smile faded from the headmistress's face and she sighed, as if with deep disappointment. Mildred felt about an inch high.
- 3 "*Really*, Mildred," Miss Cackle said in a tired voice, "I have run out of things to say to you.
- 5 "Week after week you come here, sent by every member of staff in the school, and my words just seem to go straight in one ear and out of the other. You will never get the Witches' Higher Certificate if this appalling conduct continues. You must be the worst witch in the entire school. Whenever there's any trouble you are nearly always to be found at the bottom of it, and it's just not good enough, my dear. Now, what have you to say for yourself *this time*?"
- 13 "I don't really know, Miss Cackle," Mildred said humbly. "Everything I do just seems to go wrong, that's all. I don't *mean* to do it."
- 18 "Well, that's no excuse, is it?" said Miss Cackle. "Everyone else manages to live without causing an uproar wherever they go. You must pull yourself together, Mildred. I don't want to hear *any* more bad reports about you, do you understand?"



Name:

Class:

Date:

- 1 Who is Miss Cackle?

2d

☐

1 mark

- 2 How does Miss Cackle feel about Mildred at the beginning of this extract?

2d

☐

1 mark

- 3 "Mildred felt about an inch high" (paragraph 1). An inch is about the length of your thumb. What do you think this sentence tells you about how Mildred is feeling?

2a

☐

1 mark

- 4 Find and copy the words that show Miss Cackle does not think Mildred listens to her.

2g

☐

1 mark

- 5 Miss Cackle is tired of Mildred always getting into trouble.

Find **two** pieces of evidence for this statement. You do not have to use direct quotations from the text.

2b

☐

2 marks

- 6 "if this appalling conduct continues" (paragraph 2). Which of these means the same as the underlined words? Tick **one**.

not listening ☐

being an inch high ☐

very bad behaviour ☐

2a

☐

1 mark

- 7 Tick the sentence that summarises how Mildred feels. Tick **one**.

She is angry that she is being blamed for something she did not mean to do. ☐

She hates Miss Cackle and the school. ☐

She is upset that she is in trouble again. ☐

She is worried that she will not get her Witches' Higher Certificate. ☐

2c

☐

1 mark

- 8 a) Write a word from the text that describes how someone spoke.

b) Explain why you think the author chose that word.

2g

☐

2 marks

- 9 This text is from the beginning of *The Worst Witch*. Do you think Mildred stops getting into trouble after this? Explain your answer.

2e

☐

1 mark

The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate

Margaret Mahy

- 1 Suddenly there was the sea.
- 2 The little man could only stare. He hadn't dreamed of the BIGNESS of the sea. He hadn't dreamed of the blueness of it. He hadn't thought it would roll like kettledrums, and swish itself on to the beach. He opened his mouth, and the drift and the dream of it, the weave and the wave of it, the fume and foam of it never left him again. At his feet the sea stroked the sand with soft little paws. Farther out, the great, graceful breakers moved like kings into court, trailing the peacock-patterned sea behind them.
- 10 A rosy sea captain stopped to watch them.
- 11 "Well, here are two likely people," he cried. "Will you be my bo'sun, Madam? And you, little man, you can be my cabin boy."
- 13 "Thank you!" said the little man.
- 14 "Say, 'Aye, aye, sir!'" roared the captain.
- 15 "Aye, aye, sir!" replied the little man just as smartly as if he'd been saying, "Aye, aye, sir!" all his life.



Name:

Class:

Date:

- 1 List all the people who are on the beach in this extract.

- 2 How do you know that the little man hadn't ever seen the sea before this? Use a word or phrase from the text in your answer.

- 3 Reread paragraph 2. Tick the sentence that summarises this paragraph best. Tick **one**.

The little man thought the sea was very loud and very big. ☐

The little man fell in love with the sea and knew it would never leave him. ☐

The little man was surprised that the sea was full of people, animals and birds. ☐

- 4 "He opened his mouth and the drift and the dream of it, the weave and the wave of it, the fume and the foam of it never left him again." (paragraph 2)

Why do you think the author used pairs of words like drift and dream, weave and wave, fume and foam?

- 5 The sea did not really "[stroke] the sand with soft little paws" (paragraph 2), so why did the author use those words?

- 6 How does the little man's reaction to seeing the sea help you to understand why he agreed to be a cabin boy so quickly?

- 7 "here are two likely people". What does the word "likely" mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

They look like they will agree to what he wants them to do. ☐

The sea captain likes the look of them. ☐

They are strangers. ☐

They have nothing else to do but stand on the sand and look at the sea. ☐

- 8 Do you think the sea captain is going to be a kind man?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Use ideas from the text in your answer.

- 9 Why do you think the captain wants the little man to say "Aye, aye sir!" instead of "Thank you!"?

2b

☐

1 mark

2d

☐

1 mark

2g

☐

1 marks

2g

☐

1 mark

2g

☐

1 mark

2d

☐

1 mark

2a

☐

1 mark

2e

☐

1 mark

2g

☐

1 mark