

George's Marvellous Medicine

Dick (Richard McCourt) **and Dom** (Dominic Wood) **read extracts from Roald Dahl's classic children's story 'George's Marvellous Medicine'**

Dick: [to Dom] I mean normally Grandma's are lovely and sweet and kind and smell of pretty flowers, don't they?

Dom: [Waving a copy of Roald Dahl's book 'George's Marvellous Medicine'] Not in this book. This grandma is 100% the opposite. She shouts, she bullies, she eats slugs and she's got one of those puckered-up mouths that never smiles.

Dick: Uggghhhh, who would want a grandma like that?

Dom: [Pointing to the Quentin Blake illustration of George in the book] Well this lad George has got no choice. Poor George, that horrible crinkly old bag is so horrible to him.

Dick: That is until George comes up with a secret plan.

Dom: Exactly and that's what this book is all about. Everyday George's grandmother has to take a very special medicine. So George decides to make her a brand new medicine. He runs around the farm where he lives finding all sorts of weird ingredients; rotten old banana skins, shoe polish, shampoo, extra hot chilly sauce etc., and he makes a brand new mixture that he hopes will give his grandma a big whopper of a surprise!!!

Dick: I always thought in books that children were supposed to be good and old ladies were really kind, but when I first read this book I couldn't believe what George was doing!

Dom: And who can blame him? Quentin Blake's illustration really show you how disgusting that grandma is.

Dick: Oh yes, a nasty piece of work. But what it does make you think and wonder is what's going to happen to her when she tries the medicine?

Dom: You can really tell that the writer, Roald Dahl, is on George's side. This is one of my favourite parts of the book - where George doesn't want his grandma to know that he's boiling her up a big surprise.

Dick: [as Grandma]

“George, (came grandma's awful voice from the next room) it's time for my medicine.”

Dom: [as young George] “Um not yet Grandma, [George called back]. There's still 20 minutes before 11 o'clock.”

Dick: [as Grandma] “What mischief are you up to in there now? [Granny screeched] I hear noises.

Dom: George thought it best not to answer this one. He found a long wooden spoon in the kitchen drawer and began stirring hard. The stuff in the pot got hotter and hotter and soon the marvellous mixture began to froth and foam. A rich blue smoke, the colour of peacocks, rose from the surface of the liquid and a fiery fearsome smell filled the kitchen. It made George splutter ... it was a smell unlike any he had smelt before.

Dick: And suddenly George found himself dancing around the steaming pot chanting strange words that came into his head out of nowhere

Dick & Dom

“Fiery broth and witches brew
Foamy froth and riches blue
Fume and spume and spoondrift spray
Fizzle swizzle shout hooray
Watch it sloshing, swashing, sploshing
Hear it hissing, squishing, spitting
Grandma better start to pray.”

Dick: I wonder what's going to happen to her?

Dom: This book still makes me laugh. Until I read Roald Dahl I didn't think it was possible for a book to make you laugh so much that you fall off your chair or you pee your pants laughing!!! There are loads of funny books out there and you can see which stories make you laugh the most.