

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?"



Challenge 3

1 Who is Miss Cackle?

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

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?

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

Challenge 3

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

Answers: