

Notes for teachers and librarians on *Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny* by Kita Mitchell

INTRODUCTION

Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell and illustrated by Nathan Reed is the perfect KS2 class reader for an introduction to comedy writing and the comedy genre, aimed at children aged 8+. These notes include reading comprehension questions to support and elevate understanding of the text and to improve reading inference, retrieval and predictive skills, as well as suggestions for classroom activities to enjoy the book across different areas of the curriculum – from taking part in hot-air balloon debates, to creating portraits of grandparents, to learning about the geographical features of Australia and exploring the origin of species according to Charles Darwin!

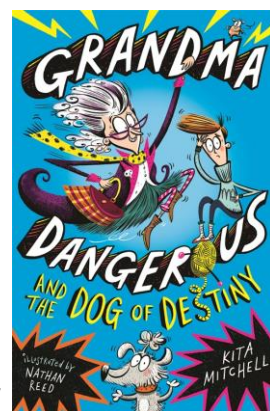
ABOUT THE BOOK

WARNING: DO NOT GIVE THIS BOOK TO YOUR OWN GRANDMA. SHE MIGHT GET IDEAS...

Ollie's dad is missing - but Grandma Dangerous is on the case! She has a hot-air balloon, thirty packets of biscuits and a pooch with magical powers (she says).

But as they sail through the skies, Ollie realises they're not just on a rescue mission...

Grandma's on the run!

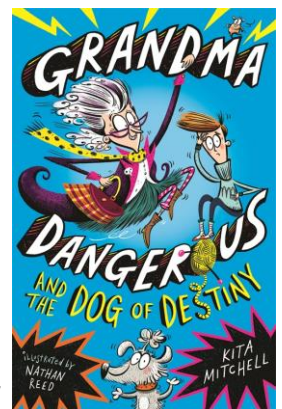


Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell
9781408355060 | Available now

Notes for teachers and librarians on *Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny* by Kita Mitchell

READING GROUP QUESTIONS

- How does the first chapter set the tone and style of the book? What type of story will *Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny* be? What do you predict might happen?
- In the opening pages, what can you tell about Ollie's personality from the way he speaks to his mum, as well as from his general thoughts, speech and actions in Chapter 1?
- How does the author Kita Mitchell create humour in presenting Grandma Dangerous' character in Chapter 2? Pick out some examples.
- What do you learn about Grandma Dangerous in Chapter 2? Make a bullet point list of five things. What can you infer about her personality from the way Ollie describes her? How does the author create the sense that Grandma Dangerous is hiding something from Ollie?
- How do the illustrations by Nathan Reed enhance your understanding of the story? How do they help to show the personalities of the different characters? Do they make you laugh? Why?
- What is Ollie's relationship with Piper? How does he feel about her in Chapter 5? How do you know? Does Ollie's relationship with Piper change as the story progresses?
- How does Grandma Dangerous explain where she found the dog in Chapter 7? What are Ollie's feelings about the situation?
- What does Ollie learn about his mum's whereabouts from the email in Chapter 9? How does Ollie react to this news?

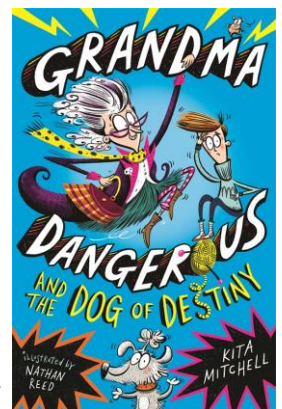


Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell
9781408355060 | Available now

Notes for teachers and librarians on
Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny
by Kita Mitchell

READING GROUP QUESTIONS (cont.)

- How does the author Kita Mitchell create comedy by showing contrast between what Ollie thinks is happening, and what is really happening in the story?
- Why is Rose ‘not just any old Egyptian Choodle’? What do we find out about her in Chapter 11?
- Why do you think the author use the colour ‘beige’ to describe Great Potton at the beginning of Chapter 14? How does Grandma stand out in comparison to this beige colour?
- When they arrive in Australia in Chapter 25, Ollie decides that Humpty Doo is ‘nothing like Great Potton’. How is it different? What are his first impressions?
- How does the author leave clues that Bruce is up to something in Chapter 32? What are his motivations? Who do you think are the villains in the story?
- Why do you think the author and illustrator have chosen to change the background of the text in Chapter 36 to a black colour? What does this represent? How does it help to convey what is happening in the story?
- What does Ollie learn about himself by the end of the story? How do his relationships also change? What do you think are the important messages of the story?



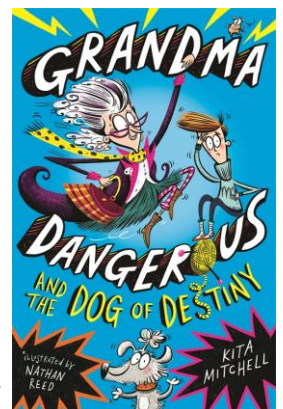
Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell
9781408355060 | Available now

Notes for teachers and librarians on *Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny* by Kita Mitchell

SUGGESTED ACTIVITES

Literacy

- Write a diary entry in role as Ollie before his experience in Australia, and after. How has he changed?
- In Chapter 1, Ollie mentions ‘an incident involving a trifle and firework’ with Grandma Dangerous. What do you think this incident might’ve been? Write a short paragraph describing what you think might’ve happened.
- Write the TV interview with Bruce. What questions would you ask him in role as the reporter? How would he respond?
- Create a comic strip version of one of the scenes in the story (for example, the scene in which Grandma Dangerous, Ollie, Piper, Rose and Myrtle are trying to leave Great Potton in a hot-air balloon). How will you make it funny? Remember to include dialogue, sound effects, action and narration.
- Write a missing person’s poster for Ollie’s dad. How would you describe him? How would you draw him? What incentive will you include to encourage people to look for him?
- In groups, imagine you are all in a hot-air balloon, just like the one that Grandma Dangerous and Ollie use to fly to Australia! Individually, decide on the most important character in the book and think of reasons for your choice. Take it in turns to debate why your chosen character is the most important, remembering to use lots of persuasive techniques when you speak. The most persuasive person stays in the balloon the longest and wins the balloon debate!



Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell
9781408355060 | Available now

Notes for teachers and librarians on *Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny* by Kita Mitchell

Literacy (cont.)

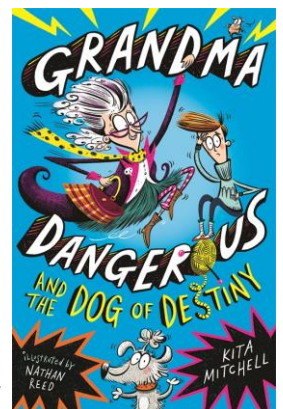
- Create your own unique or eccentric grandparent character. How are they unique or special? How do they stand out from the crowd? Use Kita Mitchell's colourful description of Grandma Dangerous in Chapter 14 as inspiration.

Drama and Speaking & Listening

- Create a presentation for the class on a grandparent or important family member. What are their most important qualities, and their most annoying habits? Why are they important to you? What adventures have you been on together?
- Complete a hot-seating activity in which members of the class take turns to sit in the hot seat as different characters from the book. What questions will you ask each character? How will each character respond? How will they show their different personalities through their use of voice, choice of language, body language and facial expressions?
- In groups, re-create the television broadcast where Bruce is interviewed on television. How will he behave? What sorts of things will he say? As an extension, include some other characters in the broadcast, e.g. Grandma Dangerous and Ollie.

Science

- Rose is an Egyptian Choodle – a fictional species of dog. What real-life species of dog do you know? Make a bullet point list of their names and different features. Why do different species of dogs exist?
- What do you know about Charles Darwin and his famous scientific work, *The Origin of Species*? In groups, carry out some research into his theory of evolution and present your findings back to the class.



Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell
9781408355060 | Available now

Notes for teachers and librarians on *Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny* by Kita Mitchell

Geography

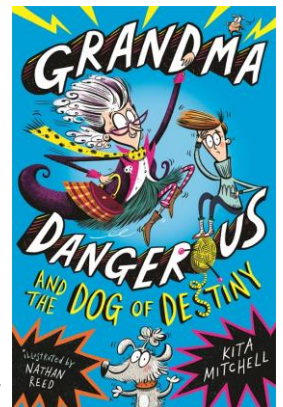
- In the book, the characters travel to Australia. What do you know about this country? What is its climate and culture? What are its physical features? What types of animal can be found there?
- In Chapter 28, Ollie wonders whether he has 'explorer genes'. What do you think are the qualities of a good explorer? Can you give examples of when you have explored somewhere new?

PSHE

- Create a family tree depicting the different grandparents on either side of your tree. What is the importance of these relationships to you?
- Write a positive letter to your own grandparent or someone in your family, explaining why you value your relationship and why it helps you in your day-to-day life.
- Write a list of five action points for what you could do to improve a relationship with a grandparent, friend or parent. How could you go on an adventure together?

Art & Design

- Design and draw a hot-air balloon for Grandma Dangerous, Ollie, Piper, Rose and Myrtle to travel to Australia in.
- Create a portrait of one of your grandparents or a family member that is important to you. How are they unique or special?



Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny by Kita Mitchell
9781408355060 | Available now