

Year 6-Year 7 - Tewkesbury School English Transition

A description of Mrs Pratchett who was a sweet shop owner taken from *Boy* by Roald Dahl.

The woman who owned it was a horror. We hated her and we had good reason for doing so. Her name was Mrs Pratchett. She was a small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry. She never smiled. She never welcomed us when we went in, and the only times she spoke were when she said things like, 'I'm watchin' you so keep yer thievin' fingers off them chocolates!' Or 'I don't want you in 'ere just to look around! Either you forks out or you gets out!' But by far the most loathsome thing about Mrs Pratchett was the filth that clung around her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long. And do not forget please that it was these very hands and fingers that she plunged into the sweet-jars when we asked for a pennyworth of Treacle Toffee or Wine Gums or Nut Clusters or whatever. The mere sight of her grimy right hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of a jar would have caused a starving tramp to go running from the shop. But not us. Sweets were our life-blood. We would have put up with far worse than that to get them. So we simply stood and watched in sullen silence while this disgusting old woman stirred around inside the jars with her foul fingers.

Would you want to buy sweets off Mrs Pratchett? Why?

Pick out some words/phrases from the description that make Mrs Pratchett sound horrible or dirty.

Why do you think the characters kept on going to the sweet shop even though Mrs Pratchett looked like this?

Based on the description draw Mrs Pratchett.

Writing Competition.

Write a description of a sweet shop owner that is the complete opposite to Mrs Pratchett. Think about how the best and nicest shop owner would speak to people and how she would look.

Ask your parent or teacher to help you email your description to one of the Year 7 English teachers at Tewkesbury School by sending it to emily.gray@tewkesburyschool.org

The winner will be announced when you start Tewkesbury School in September!