

## The Black Amulet

by J R Wallis

It was easy enough to spot the Vampire at the far end of the alleyway. As she peered round the corner of the last building in the street, Ruby spied the creature standing inside a yellow cone of light thrown down by the single street lamp, staring into a shop window.

She tiptoed round the corner, keeping close to the wall, and slid into a deep dark doorway to hide. As she moved closer to the Vampire, the old-fashioned revolver Ruby was holding tutted, then swore quietly for good measure. To be fair, the gun had been grumbling for the last ten minutes, making sure Ruby knew exactly how it felt about her hunting such a dangerous creature, urging her to turn back. A speaking gun, let alone one that could curse so well, would have scrambled the brains of most people – as would seeing a Vampire in a small market town in the middle of the night – but to Ruby none of it seemed exceptional now.

Up until a few months ago, she'd been living a regular life. But she lived in the Badlands now, a place on the fringes of the everyday world that most ordinary people knew nothing about. Not only was magic possible there, but the Badlands was also inhabited by strange and vicious monsters, making it very dangerous. But, in spite of all the extraordinary creatures that could be found there, Ruby was by far the strangest living thing of all because she was the only girl.

As far as she knew, the Badlands had only ever been a place where men and their boy apprentices had worked, tackling monsters and other nasties to keep ordinary people safe. Ruby always glowed with pride whenever she remembered she was the first girl Badlander. Even if it was still a secret for now.

'Keep it down, will you?' she hissed as the gun tutted again, before stringing together another collection of rather fruity-sounding words that would have embarrassed anyone who knew what they meant.

'Ruby, for the last time, go home,' it whispered. 'You might be brave, but you're too stubborn for your own good. You're out of your depth with this one.'

'I know what I'm doing.'

'Tackling a Vampire is almost impossible without magic. Why you've insisted on hunting it down is beyond me.'

'Why do you think?' hissed Ruby. 'All Victor Brynn makes me do is read books. It's like being back at school. We never go hunting like proper Badlanders.'

'That's because you've got a lot to learn under the circumstances.'

'You mean because I'm a girl.'

### Words in Context

Find and highlight the following words in the text.

- inhabited
- apprentices
- stubborn

What do you think they mean?

What words could you replace them with?

### Retrieval questions

1. What was extraordinary about Ruby?
2. What is unusual about the gun?
3. Who spoke first?

### Inference questions.

1. What time of day is it – support your answer with clues from the text?
2. What does the verb 'hissed' suggest about the way Ruby spoke to the gun?

### Choice questions

1. What phrase does the author use to describe how Ruby felt about being the only female Badlander?
2. What sentence does the author use to inform the reader that Ruby is new to the job?
3. What genre do you think this extract is from?

### Challenge question

Draw a picture of how you think Ruby looks.

Mucking About  
by John Chambers

It was a fine sunny day, and the only dark cloud around was Manchán's face, scowling at his family. For a week now his mother had been hinting at a surprise and at last he had found out what it was. Her brother, the abbot from the monastery across the lake, had come to collect him, for Manchán was going to be sent to become a monk. A *monk* for heaven's sake!

'Don't say that,' said Brother Abstemius.

'Say what?' said Manchán.

'You know what,' said Brother Abstemius, and Manchán sighed.

'Right,' he said. 'Sorry.'

'For your penance,' added Brother Abstemius, 'you shall peel two bushels of turnips for Brother Cook. He needs them for breakfast in the morning.'

*Turnips! For breakfast,* moaned Manchán, though not out loud. Brother Abstemius was watching



him much too closely for that. Was this how being a monk was going to be?

'There's nothing wrong with monking,' said Manchán's mother, glaring at him. 'It's a very respectable profession. People will look up to you.'

Great, thought Manchán, all reeling from the turnips.

'Is "monking" really a word?' asked Manchán's sister Méabh. 'It doesn't sound like a word to me.'

'Of course it's a word,' said Manchán's father, who couldn't read. 'It's a word like fishing, or hurling, or singing.' He listed off the three things in life that were the most important to him. Now monking was added to the list. 'Good man, Manchán,' he said. 'You'll bring honour to the family.'

Manchán frowned. 'Why can't I bring honour to the family by fishing or hurling or singing?' he asked. 'Like you do.'

His father scratched his head but couldn't come up with an answer. He gave up and waited for Manchán's mother to explain.

### Words in Context

Find and highlight the following words in the text.

Penance

Profession

Reeling

Monastery

What do you think they mean?

What words could you replace them with?

### Retrieval questions

1. What was the only dark cloud?
2. What was the surprise?
3. What were the turnips for?
4. How is Brother Abstemius related to Manchán?
5. Where was the monastery

### Inference questions.

1. What clues can you find in the text which suggest this is not a modern day tale?
2. Why does the phrase 'A monk for heaven's sake' make Brother Abstemius angry?
3. Why did Manchán's mother want him to be a monk? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

### Choice questions

1. How does the author portray the father's character? What makes you think this?
2. List three verbs which the author uses to show how Manchán feels about becoming a monk.
3. Skim and scan for the word '*Great*' – why is it in an italic font? @redhairedteach

My heart is thumping so fast, I feel like it wants to jump right out of my chest. My shoulder muscles are aching and my hands burn as they pull the oars. Behind me, I can hear Jim counting the strokes – two hundred and ten, two hundred and eleven ... As I lean backwards on each stroke, I can sense my ponytail brushing the floor of the boat – swish, swish, swish. The boat is rocking like crazy, and I wonder if I'm going to be thrown out. A sudden rush of ice-cold water hits me in the face, and drips down my cheeks, but I don't even blink. I have to keep going, no matter what. A small silvery fish flies past my face, just missing my nose. I want to give up, but I can hear Beth's voice from what feels like a million miles away.

'Keep going, Molly. You can do it. Don't stop now – you can't let the team down. We're almost there.'

It seems like a million years have passed before I hear the most beautiful sound in the world – the bell announcing the end of the race. I let go of the oars, and before I have time to check my hands for blisters, Beth is hugging me.

'We did it!' she shrieks. 'We did it!'

My legs are a bit wobbly as I climb out of the boat so I quickly sit down on the grass next to the washing line. Mum hands me a glass of water.

'Well done, darling,' she says. 'All you needed were three hundred strokes in your ten minutes, and you even went over that! You and Beth have beaten Jim and me in the Saturday challenge – again!'

I don't know what it feels like to row the whole way across the Atlantic, but I wonder if it feels a bit like this?

Even though I was rowing a battered old dinghy that Jim found in a skip somewhere.

Even though the boat was on the grass, and Mum had been rocking it from side to side while I rowed.

Even though the spray of water came from the garden hose that Jim was holding.

Even though the only fish in the garden came from an old fishing game Beth had found in the shed.

Even though the finishing bell was a saucepan and a wooden spoon.

Beth was dancing around the garden, singing 'We are the champions.' Mum and Jim were laughing like little kids. I lay back on the grass and tried to catch my breath.

My best friend Beth and her dad moved in with Mum and me ages ago. At first that was really weird, but now I was getting used to it, and sometimes I can hardly remember a time when they didn't live with us. Like all dads, Jim can be a bit annoying sometimes, but he comes up with the craziest and best ideas. The Saturday challenge was in its third week, and it was always Mum and Jim against Beth and me. The rules were a bit vague, but no one cared – mostly we were all too busy laughing for anything else to matter.

The first week, Jim set up a very complicated obstacle course in the garden, where you had to run the first half in odd wellies, and the second half with a glass of water in your pocket. The second week, we all had to pretend to be horses, jumping over bamboo canes propped up on kitchen chairs, with extra points for the best horsey sound effects. These things might sound a bit lame and stupid, but as long as you know there's no one planning to make a video and post it on YouTube, they are really, really fun.

After a while, everyone calmed down.

'That was so brilliant, Jim,' I said. 'I think that was the best challenge ever.'

'Thanks, Molly,' he said. 'I do my best – and wait till you see what I've got planned for next week.'

'Tell us, please, Dad!' said Beth. 'I don't think I can wait a whole week to find out.'

'Sorry, sweetie-pie,' he said as he put his arm around her. 'You're just going to have to be patient. Now let's go inside, I think it's time we ordered that takeaway you've been promised. How about we get a big pot of Irish stew?'

## Words in Context

Find and highlight the following words in the text.

- wobbly
- vague
- propped

What do you think they mean?

What words could you replace them with?

## Retrieval questions

1. Where is Molly?
2. What created the spray from the ocean?
3. What events were involved in the obstacle race?

## Inference questions

1. Does Molly have long or short hair? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
2. What clues in the first paragraph shows how determined Molly is?
3. How do you think Molly would feel if a video was posted on YouTube? Explain why you think this.
4. Why do you think Jim has designed all these silly activities?

## Choice questions

1. Why does the author repeat 'Even though' at the start of several sentences.

## Challenge question

What effect does the first paragraph have on the reader?

1. Match the word and suffix to make an adjective.

Word	Suffix
region	less
play	al
worth	ful

2. Complete the sentences below by adding the **conjunctions** in the right places. Make sure that you use each one only once.

and    but    or

To make a sandwich you need a filling \_\_\_\_\_ bread \_\_\_\_\_ rolls, \_\_\_\_\_ you don't need to cook it!

3. Circle the **subject** in the sentence below and circle the **object**.

The boy gave the ball to the dog.

4. Match correct **determiner** to use in each sentence. Use each **determiner** only once.

Sentence	Determiner
There was ____ annoying sound coming from the brakes on my bicycle.	a
The children hoped for ____ sunny afternoon.	an
I knew it was ____ the last one left in the shop.	the

5. Which one of these needs a **question mark** at the end?

- |   | Tick one                 |
|---|--------------------------|
| The child could not answer the question         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The teacher asked the child a question          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can you answer the question                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nobody knew why he couldn't answer the question | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Challenge yourself!

In class, I went over ( a lot!) the difference between a noun and a verb in a sentence. Can you write *cover* and *brush* both in a sentence used as a noun and in another used as a verb?

*\*\*remember, you cant change the word e.g add an ending\*\**

What was the rule?

Noun

Verb



## FACT FINDING!

Research facts about something recently which has happened in the news in Hull.

These facts will be used to write your own news report.

A vertical rectangular box with a red border, containing 25 horizontal black lines for writing.

A vertical rectangular box with a red border, containing 25 horizontal black lines for writing.

Round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy.

I can round any number to 10, 100, 1000, 10 000 or 1000 000 000

I can round a decimal to one or two D.P.

I can round a decimal to the nearest whole number.

	<u>Nearest 10</u>	<u>Nearest 100</u>	<u>Nearest 100 000</u>	<u>Nearest 1 000 000</u>
8 344 567				
1 995 765				
9 765 345				
982 678				

	<u>Nearest whole number</u>	<u>Rounded to 1 D.P.</u>	<u>Rounded to 2 D.P.</u>
4.56			
9.16			
5.03			
8.89			

Work out the missing number.

362.29 rounded to nearest \_\_\_\_\_ is 362.

8 978 342 rounded to the nearest \_\_\_\_\_ is 9 000 000.

4.567 rounded to the nearest \_\_\_\_\_ is 4.6

**CHALLENGE**

A number rounded to the nearest 100 is 600. What is the smallest possible

### Challenge

1. Miss Northen says "If I round 26.63 to the nearest 10, I do not need to look at the tenths or hundredths." Do you agree? Explain your reasoning.
2. Give an example of a six digit number which rounds to the same number when rounded to the nearest 10000 and 100000. Explain why this has happened.
3. Spot the mistake!  
Miss Pulford rounded 215678 to the nearest ten thousand and wrote 220678. Can you explain to Miss P what mistake she has made and why she has done it?

### Application to 2017 Test Questions.

10

Round 84,516

to the nearest 10

to the nearest 100

to the nearest 1,000

2 marks

19

Dev thinks of a **whole** number.

He multiplies it by 4

He rounds his answer to the nearest 10

The result is 50

Write **all** the possible numbers that Dev could have started with.

2 marks



## Year 3/year 4 statutory word list grouped by area

suffix -ly, -ally	-ible words	split digraph – long vowel sounds	Other words
accidentally actually occasion(ally) probably	possible	Two letters make one sound that are split (e.g. guide - 'i-e') arrive decide describe extreme guide surprise (review work from Year 1)	answer breath breathe build calendar complete consider continue early earth experiment group guard forward(s) fruit
'n' spelt as 'kn'	<b>-ough letter strings</b> enough though/although thought through (currently taught in Years 5/6)		
knowledge knowledgeable	<b>Words from other countries</b>	<b>cross-curricular words</b> earth eight/eighth fruit heart history increase minute natural opposite position quarter regular weight material experiment length	heard heart history imagine important increase island learn length material minute natural often particular peculiar perhaps popular potatoes promise purpose quarter regular remember sentence special (-tial words) straight strange strength surprise woman/women
<b>-tion and -sion</b> words mention occasion position possess(ion) question	bicycle (cycle - from the Greek for <i>wheel</i> ) (bi-meaning 'two')		
<b>'or' sound spelt 'ough'</b> caught naughty (regional pronunciation)	<b>'i' sound spelt as 'u'</b> busy/business	<b>'s' sound spelt as 'c' before 'e', 'i' and 'y'</b> bicycle centre century certain circle decide exercise experience medicine notice recent (review work from Year 2)	
<b>'el', 'ey' and 'elgh' sounds</b> eight/eighth reign weight height (exception)	<b>adding prefixes</b> (dis)appear (dis)believe (re)build (re)position		
<b>adverbials</b> therefore	<b>unstressed vowels</b> different favourite February interest library ordinary separate		
<b>-ous words</b> famous various	<b>double consonants</b> address appear arrive different difficult disappear grammar occasion opposite pressure suppose		

Spelling Champion 3/4 words

Task One: Write out any spelling words you need a quick reminder on.

Task Two: Write a variety of sentences using the above spellings.

Task Three: Play the Y6 Spelling Champion game against family members. Who will be the spelling champion? Tweet your results.

## Year 5/year 6 statutory word list grouped by area

Unstressed vowels	Other words	ie are adjacent	-ous words
accommodate bruise category cemetery definite desperate dictionary embarrass environment exaggerate marvellous nuisance parliament privilege secretary vegetable	amateur average awkward bargain controversy curiosity develop forty guarantee harass hindrance identity individual interfere interrupt language leisure lightning muscle neighbour persuade programme queue recognise relevant restaurant rhyme rhythm shoulder signature stomach temperature twelfth vegetable vehicle yacht	soldier sufficient variety ancient foreign (exception to the pattern)	disastrous marvellous mischievous
		<b>Double consonants</b>	<b>Words originating from other countries</b>
		accommodate accompany according aggressive apparent appreciate attached committee communicate community correspond immediate occupy occur opportunity recommend suggest	conscience conscious desperate yacht
<b>Unstressed consonants</b>			<b>Cross-curricular words</b>
government			forty temperature twelfth
<b>Suffixes and prefixes</b>			<b>-le words</b>
according attached criticise (critic+ise) determined equip(-ment, -ped) especially frequently immediate(-ly) (un)necessary sincere(-ly)			available vegetable vehicle muscle
<b>'i' before 'e' except after 'c' when the sound is 'ee'</b>	<b>-tion words</b>	<b>Word families</b>	<b>'c' makes 's' sound before 'l', 'e' and 'y'</b>
achieve convenience mischievous (regional pronunciation, e.g. if use the 'ee' sound)	competition explanation profession pronunciation	familiar identity signature symbol (this is revision from year 3/year 4)	cemetery convenience criticise excellent existence hindrance necessary prejudice sacrifice
	<b>-ough letter strings</b>	<b>'y' makes the 'i' as in 'bin' sound</b>	
	thorough	physical symbol system (this is revision from year 3/year 4)	

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Year 6

CHALLENGE!!!

Who out of Year 6 can find more words which are not on this list but follow the spelling rules? Tweet your responses.



Spelling Champion 5/6 spelling words

Task One: Write out any spelling words you need a quick reminder on.

Task Two: Write a variety of sentences using the above spellings.

Task Three: Play the Y6 Spelling Champion game against family members. Who will be the spelling champion? Tweet your results.