

Chapter 4

One day all the children were summoned to the hall. They had already been to assembly that day so they knew that this was for something out of the ordinary. This put them on edge and they were more nervous than ever. Miss Vile stood on the stage looking at the rows of pale, frightened faces.

"Quake, why don't you; you vermin!" she screeched. She detested children and she no longer tried to hide it. Some of the younger children began to sob. "Stop your pathetic snivelling!" she shrieked. She began to pace across the stage. "Our school has an excellent reputation for discipline and behaviour, yet yesterday one of you miserable creatures tried to escape from the school grounds during the lunch period. This is totally unacceptable and will be dealt with severely."

The day before, a small boy, with a mop of red hair, had sneaked out of the hall during lunch time, and crossing the playground unobserved, he had managed to pull some wooden panels off the fence. If he had been a little more composed, he would have taken just one more panel off before making his escape.

As it was, he attempted to squeeze through the hole before it was large enough to allow him to pass through. When the rest of the school came out for marching practice he was still there: stuck between two panels of wood. He was quickly yanked back inside, and kicking and screaming he was dragged into the building. That was the last the children had seen of him.

"Isaac Rowlings! Come here, boy!" Isaac appeared from the side of the stage. "Stand by the desk." He walked with odd stiff movements. He appeared to be in some sort of trance. "Bring the rod of retribution."

The children watched, transfixed with horror, as Miss Dawn carried a metre-long cane over to Miss Vile. Miss Vile stroked the cane fondly before raising it in the air, and then bringing it down on the desk with such force that the whole stage seemed to vibrate. The children instinctively closed their eyes as the cane made contact with the desk with a terrible thwack. "Bend over the desk." The children gasped, but Isaac did as he was asked without a murmur of protest. Miss Vile then took several steps towards the back of the stage. She was evidently going to have a run-up. Amber couldn't believe what she was seeing. She had to do something to stop her. But what? Then, before Amber had time to think, Miss Vile was running towards Isaac like a woman possessed, her hand held high ready to strike. The children watched, eyes wide in terror, as the cane came whipping down on the poor, unfortunate boy. But then! Nothing! No sound! No scream! Only silence. Miss Vile held up the cane to see what had happened. The cane wobbled! It had turned to jelly!





Name: _____



I can use imperative verbs (commands).

An imperative sentence gives a direct command. It can end in a full stop or an exclamation mark. They often end in an exclamation mark to show the forcefulness of the command.

The verb, often called the bossy verb, goes at the beginning of the sentence.

When Miss Vile saw that her cane had turned to jelly she was furious – to say the least! She thought that one of her witch teachers had done it as a practical joke. She was not amused.

Miss Vile made all sorts of demands when she saw what had happened.

Turn these polite requests into commands using the imperative verb. (The verbs have been underlined to help you.)

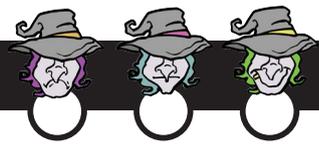
QUESTION

COMMAND

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Would everybody <u>listen</u> to me? | ..... |
| 2 | Could somebody <u>tell</u> me who did this? | ..... |
| 3 | Would you please <u>answer</u> my question? | ..... |
| 4 | Can somebody <u>bring</u> me another cane? | ..... |
| 5 | Please could you <u>get</u> one for me now? | ..... |
| 6 | Would everybody just <u>stop</u> where they are? | ..... |
| 7 | Could you <u>forget</u> about the cane? | ..... |
| 8 | Can you <u>leave</u> the cane where it is? | ..... |
| 9 | Would everybody <u>stand up</u> , please? | ..... |
| 10 | Teachers, please would you <u>lead</u> the children out? | ..... |

Extension Choosing verbs of your own, write a question followed by a command.





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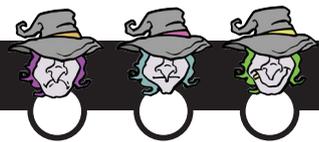
QUESTION

COMMAND

- 1 Would everybody listen to me?
- 2 Could somebody tell me who did this?
- 3 Would you please answer my question?
- 4 Can somebody bring me another cane?
- 5 Please could you get one for me now?
- 6 Would everybody just stop where they are?
- 7 Could you forget about the cane?
- 8 Can you leave the cane where it is?
- 9 Would everybody stand up, please?
- 10 Teachers, please would you lead the children out?
- 11 What command do you think Miss Vile gave when the children began to mutter?
.....
- 12 What command do you think Miss Vile gave when her staff began to whisper among themselves?
.....

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Complete the question and the command for these statements. (The first one has been done for you.)

- 1 **Statement** Everybody needs to listen to me.
Question Would everybody listen to me?
Command Listen to me!
- 2 **Statement** Someone is going to tell me who did this.
Question
- 3 **Statement** You are going to answer my question.
Question
- 4 **Statement** I would like you to stop what you are doing.
Question
- 5 **Statement** You are going to forget about the cane.
Question
- 6 **Statement** It is time for everybody to stand up.
Question
- 7 **Statement** The teachers are going to lead the children out.
Question

Extension Choosing verbs of your own, write a question followed by a command.

