

Chapter 5

Isaac left the stage without getting caned. Amber was amazed at what had happened in the hall. She presumed she had made the cane turn to jelly, but she couldn't be sure. She couldn't remember reciting the spell. It had all happened so quickly! She was relieved to see that Miss Vile didn't for one minute suspect any of the children. She was laying the blame squarely with her staff. She told them that there would be an emergency staff meeting that very evening. The witch teachers had left moaning.



In the dining hall later that day, Amber was queueing up to get her lunch. The children were expected to eat in silence, though they were permitted to tell the cook what they wanted, so there was always a bit of conversation with Mrs Rump, the school cook. Mrs Rump was a strong-willed, big-boned, hot-tempered woman who used to be the scourge of the school. She always made sure that the kitchen was shipshape and everything was spick-and-span. And woe betide anyone who crossed her! Now she was the children's only friend among the staff. Amber chose pizza and chips. She saw the strain on Mrs Rump's face as she served her.

"I don't know what's wrong with me these days, love. Overwork, I expect," she said. "Mind you, that lot are a waste of space." She indicated the kitchen staff further along the counter. "Next to useless! I don't know what was wrong with me old team." Amber realised that the usual dinner ladies had all been replaced. (Miss Vile was removing the kitchen staff in the same way as she had removed the teachers.) Now only Mrs Rump remained! Amber saw that Mrs Rump's uniform was hanging loosely off her once ample figure.

"You mustn't go, Mrs Rump!" she blurted out a little too loudly.

"Quiet in the line!" came the stern reply from one of the teachers supervising the dinner hall. Amber took her plate and headed to her designated place to sit side-by-side with her downcast classmates. All you could hear was the clatter of knives and forks, and the occasional shriek when some unfortunate child was hit over the knuckles with a ladle. Children were not allowed to be left-handed and anyone caught holding the fork in their right hand was reminded with a sharp rap from a blunt instrument. Isaac, the red-haired boy who Amber had saved from the flogging, stood up to eat his lunch. Amber wondered whether Miss Vile had punished him after all. She wondered about a great many things; particularly why Miss Vile wanted to replace all the dinner ladies. Then a terrible thought struck her! Was Miss Vile planning to do something to the food?





Name: _____



I can use hyphens to form compound words.

Hyphens can be used for several reasons, but the main one is when they are used to link words to form a compound word. Often the words are compound adjectives.

Place the appropriate hyphenated compound words into the sentences below.

bad-tempered red-haired left-handed self-service worn-out
red-hot hand-picked fact-finding strong-minded strong-arm

- 1 The children lined up for the canteen.
- 2 The cook grumbled about her staff.
- 3 Mrs Rump was a woman.
- 4 Amber chose the pizza with the chillies.
- 5 The dinner ladies all worked for Miss Vile.
- 6 The supervisors told the children off.
- 7 The children were rapped on the knuckles.
- 8 The boy wasn't able to sit down.
- 9 Miss Vile used tactics to deal with disobedient children.
- 10 Amber decided she needed to go on a mission.

11 Make a list of all the hyphenated words in the passage.

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Extension Make a list of all the hyphenated words you know.





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1 Match the words in the first box to the words in the second box to form hyphenated compound words. Then place them into the sentences below. (The first one has been done for you.)

- | | | |
|--------|-------|----------|
| bad | _____ | handed |
| red | _____ | finding |
| left | _____ | out |
| self | _____ | tempered |
| worn | _____ | haired |
| red | _____ | service |
| hand | _____ | arm |
| fact | _____ | minded |
| strong | _____ | hot |
| strong | _____ | picked |

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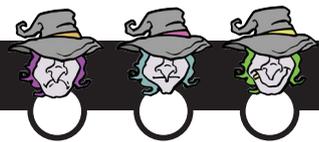
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bad	handed	children
red	finding	canteen
left	out	cook
self	tempered	boy
worn	haired	chillies
red	service	dinner ladies
hand	arm	tactics
fact	minded	mission
strong	hot	supervisors
strong	picked	woman

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