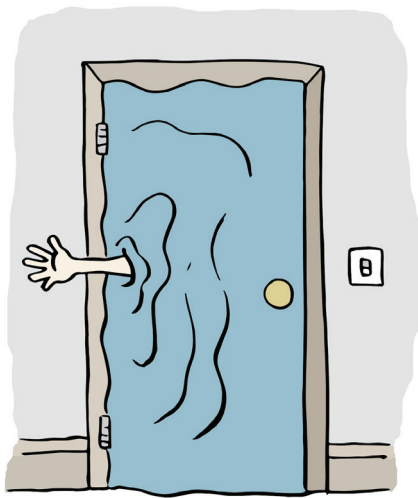


Chapter 9

With a self-assurance that she didn't have before, Amber was able to harness the power of her anger and convert it into magic. She reached out her hand towards the locked door. Instead of meeting solid wood, her hand slid through a soft elastic substance and came out on the other side unharmed, though somewhat sticky! She had successfully turned the door to jelly! She then pushed her arm through, before squeezing her whole body between a gap in the gummy, glutinous matter that was once the door. It was not an unpleasant experience: she emerged somewhat tacky, but with lips that tasted of strawberry! It had taken her most of the morning, but she was now free!

To stop Miss Vile she would need to get around the school unseen, and for that she would need to make herself invisible. She knew she had the confidence to make herself disappear, but how would she know if she had succeeded? The other times, when she had achieved invisibility, she hadn't realised it until much later. There was no way of knowing for sure if it had worked. She decided she just had to risk it. She took a deep breath and opened the office door. There was no one in the corridor. She turned towards the hall and just as she did, who should come charging round the corner? Her ex-friend – AJ. She stood still and watched him run straight past without the slightest notion that she was there. Now she knew her magic had worked – she could, at last, control her ability to make herself invisible. She confidently reversed the spell and called out to AJ. He turned back surprised.



"Oh! Hello, Amber. Funny! I didn't see you there!" he started. Then he babbled everything out at once, with hardly a pause for breath. "Sorry I ignored you the other day, but I had the most terrible toothache. I was on my way to the dentist's. Mum said it was because of all the sweets I keep eating. She's banned me from having any more sweets, and she threw the bag that Miss Vile had given me in the bin. I haven't had any sweets all weekend! And do you know what? I'm feeling much better. It was as if those sweets were doing something to me! Over the last few weeks, I have behaved like a real jerk – telling on my friends and stuff, doing everything Miss Vile wanted. I can't believe I did it. Do you really think it could be the sweets that made me act like that?" Amber couldn't stop herself from putting her arms around him and giving him a hug – it was good to get her old friend back.

"Yes, it was the sweets. I've got so much to tell you." She told him everything that had happened over the last few days and about Miss Vile's plan to drug the children and kidnap them. "Come on," she said. "You can help."

"We'd better hurry," said AJ. "They're about to serve lunch!"



Name: _____



I can use synonyms to improve my sentences.

A synonym is a word that means the same thing (or a very similar thing) to another word. We use synonyms so that we don't keep repeating the same words over and over again. It is very useful to know and use a range of synonyms to make our writing more interesting to read.

Underline one of the synonyms in the brackets that is the closest in meaning to the original word written in bold. (You will find all these synonyms in the thesaurus, but you will have to make sure it makes sense in the context of the sentence.)

- 1 Amber had a **self-assurance** she didn't have before. (*belief / confidence / trust*)
- 2 She was able to **convert** her anger into a magic power. (*reform / alter / change*)
- 3 She **reached** out her hand towards the door. (*stretched / extended / touched*)
- 4 Her hand slid through a jelly-like **substance**. (*stuff / material / fabric*)
- 5 She squeezed her whole body through the **sticky** jelly. (*tacky / tricky / gluey*)
- 6 She **emerged** on the other side tasting of strawberry. (*surfaced / appeared / materialised*)
- 7 She had to make herself invisible in order to **stop** Miss Vile. (*pause / thwart / quit*)
- 8 AJ came **charging** round the corner of the corridor. (*accusing / attacking / rushing*)
- 9 He ran past without **noticing** she was there. (*regarding / seeing / marking*)
- 10 Amber confidently **reversed** the spell. (*upset / overturned / undid*)
- 11 AJ's mother had **banned** him from eating any more sweets. (*forbidden / outlawed / excluded*)
- 12 AJ thought that the sweets were making him **behave** in a strange way. (*act / perform / operate*)
- 13 Amber told AJ about Miss Vile's plan to **kidnap** the children. (*hijack / abduct / seize*)
- 14 AJ said they must hurry for they were about to **serve** lunch. (*assist / obey / dish up*)

Extension Using a thesaurus see how many words in the passage you can change whilst keeping the meaning the same.



I can use synonyms to improve my sentences.

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Replace the word in **bold** with a synonym from the list that is the closest in meaning to the original. (You will find all these synonyms in the thesaurus, but you will have to make sure it makes sense in the context of the sentence.)

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| reached
stretched
extended
touched | sticky
tacky
tricky
gluey | self-assurance
belief
confidence
trust | substance
stuff
material
marking | noticing
regarding
alter
change |
| convert
reform
alter
change | stop
pause
thwart
quit | emerged
surfaced
appeared
excluded | banned
forbidden
outlawed
excluded | charging
accusing
attacking
rushing |

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- 8 AJ came **charging** round the corner of the corridor.
- 9 He ran past without **noticing** she was there.
- 10 His mother had **banned** him from eating any more sweets.

Use a thesaurus to find synonyms for the words in bold.

- 11 Amber confidently **reversed** the spell.
- 12 AJ thought that the sweets were making him **behave** in a strange way.
- 13 Amber told AJ about Miss Vile's plan to **kidnap** the children.
- 14 AJ said they must hurry for they were about to **serve** lunch.

Extension Using a thesaurus see how many words in the passage you can change whilst keeping the meaning the same.





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Find the words that were used in the passage to complete the sentences. Then replace the words with a synonym from the list. (You will find all these synonyms in the thesaurus, but you have to make sure it makes sense in the context of the sentence.)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <u>reached</u>
stretched
extended
touched | <u>sticky</u>
tacky
tricky
gluey | <u>self-assurance</u>
belief
confidence
trust | <u>substance</u>
stuff
material
marking |
| <u>convert</u>
reform
alter
change | <u>stop</u>
pause
thwart
quit | <u>emerged</u>
surfaced
appeared
excluded | |

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