



WACKY FAMILIES

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES

My Gran the Gorilla

Jackie French
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Illustrations
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before reading

- 1 This story is about TJ's grandmother and other friends and family. **Decide** if these sentences are True (T) or False (F).

TJ's gran is a little old lady.

TJ's good friend is a girl.

There are different animals in the story.

The animals are all typical family pets.

TJ is three years old.

- 2 **Look** at the picture on the front cover of the book. **Unjumble** the letters to spell out what's happening.

TJ is VIIIIEASGGTTNN something he's found on the ground. _____

Gran is AIERGWN a hat and a scarf. _____

Linda is GIIHNNTK of some long words. _____

Egbert is OIOKNGL over TJ's shoulder. _____

The wombat is IINNFFGS the ground. _____

Pop is DANSINGT behind them. _____

- 3 This story was written by an Australian author, Jackie French, and the story takes place in Australia. **Test** how much you know about the country.

- What continent is Australia in? _____
- Which is the biggest city in Australia? _____
- What is the principal language spoken in Australia? _____
- There are 150 species of what animal living in Australia? _____
- Can you name a famous Australian singer, athlete or actor? _____

4 “Gran” is one way to call your grandmother. **Complete** these alternative names for your grandparents.

G _ _ _ _ _ (grandmother)

N _ _ _ _ (grandmother)

G _ _ _ _ _ p _ _ _ (grandfather)

G _ _ _ _ _ p _ _ (grandfather)

G _ _ _ _ _ d _ _ _ (grandfather)

5 Do you speak Australian? **Match** these typical expressions with their definition:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. He's as crook as Rookwood. | He's eaten too much. |
| 2. He's a drongo. | He's really, really ugly. |
| 3. He's got a face like a dropped pie. | He's gone crazy. |
| 4. He's a firie. | He's very ill. |
| 5. He's as full as a centipede's sock drawer. | He's an idiot or a fool. |
| 6. He's gone off like a frog in a sock. | He's a firefighter. |

6 Gran is holding a banana cake. What are the ingredients you need to make a banana cake? **Find** the recipe (look in a cookery book, on the internet or ask someone in your family), then **write** the list of ingredients - and why not cook (or draw) the cake too!

during reading

Chapters 1 to 4

1 Match the different foods with the characters who like them.

	TJ	Baby Jane	Gran	Egbert
Ice cream				
Ketchup				
Lettuce				
Potato and banana salad				
Banana cake				



2 **Decide** which of these words TJ uses to talk about his Gran.

endangered species lonely in love clever slimy
the best in the universe friendly the coolest in the world

3 Unjumble what Linda and TJ say about their teacher, Mr. Pifflewhiskers.

a bit / Mr. Pifflewhiskers / other / different from / teachers. / is

gold / car / sports car / with / is / seats / leopard-skin / and / and
/ X-Box / mini-bar. / His / ordinary / an / an

his / is / ordinary / motorbike / with / and / motorbike / 12-cylinder /
6000-horsepower / gold wheels. / LED lights / And / an

an / ordinary / And / is / boat / yacht / his / with / bathrooms /
and / two / satellite / 40-metre / TV.

He / much. / He / just / DVDs / to / doesn't / brings / teach /
watch.

And / doesn't / real / give / homework! / he

4 Fill in the missing words describing Gran.

This gran was wearing _____ and a long pink _____ and an
orange _____. Her hair was _____ and green (like the green
hair TJ's sister Jane 3 wore at Hallowe'en!) She had a giant _____
on her head, her lips were pink and her _____ were pink too.
In one enormous _____ she was holding a plate of banana cake
and in the other a _____.

Chapters 5 to 8

1 **Draw** the things TJ and Gran found in the Bush.



elephant droppings



cowpat



wombat droppings



elephant footprints



cow prints



wombat prints

2 **Put** the Wombat's story in order.

- TJ "told" the wombat he would help to hunt the poachers.
- In the last week, every wombat in the whole of Gobbledegook bush had disappeared - all except this one.
- It lifted its tail and did three small square droppings.
- The wombat sniffed TJ's droppings.
- The smell of his droppings told them his story.
- The wombat had sniffed every rock and wombat hole but they had all gone.
- The wombat came out of the giant hole in the river bank.
- It had been hiding, until this morning when Gran had sniffed an elephant near her banana tree and had gone out into the bush to investigate.

- 3 Do you speak “Linda”? **Replace** her long words with the ones from the box.

walk cool delicious criminal slimy talk
someone who likes using very long words curly-haired

“Banana sandwiches are sumptuous!” said Linda. _____

“My Mum says I am sesquipedalian.” _____

“Gran’s banana cake is super saporous!” _____

“Egbert is limacine.” _____

“Maybe we could perambulate to your house after school.” _____

“Wombat poachers are totally flagitious!” _____

“We have to confabulate with your Gran.” _____

“You are a ulotrichous idiot!” _____

- 4 **Fill** the gaps with prepositions to complete the text.

Mr. Pifflewhiskers came _____ of school and crossed the playground. He looked around then jumped _____ the wall to the bush.

“See!” said Linda triumphantly. “He’s running _____! Let’s follow him!”

They tried to move quietly _____ the trees but the dry leaves sounded like breakfast cereals when they walked _____ them. TJ wished he could swing _____ the trees like his dad.

They followed Mr. Pifflewhiskers over the river and _____ the hill.

He was being very careful, and he kept looking _____ to check nobody was following.

Suddenly Mr. Pifflewhiskers stopped. He picked up a stick and touched the ground in _____ of him.

Chapters 9 to 12

- 1 TJ falls into a wombat trap. Can you think of three more different traps? **Draw** them!



- 2 When TJ and Linda are trapped in the wombat hole, TJ tries to find out more about his new friend. **Find** Linda's answers to TJ's questions.

TJ's questions:

1. "How did you do that? Do you do gymnastics or something?"
2. "Er...where did you live before you came to Gobbledegook?"
3. "Um...and what did your parents do?"
4. "Why did you come to Gobbledegook?"
5. "Is your pop a gardener?"

Linda's answers:

- a. "This and that,"
- b. "Here and there,"
- c. "That was easy,"
- d. "No."
- e. "Well my Pop - that's my Mum's dad - wanted a really big garden."

3 TJ's Gran isn't much like other people's grannies. **Compare** his Gran with a granny you know.

TJ's Gran wore green hair, a giant hat and a pink shirt.

Granny_____

TJ's Gran had the longest, strongest arms of any gran in the universe.

Granny_____

TJ's Gran had a banana cake in her handbag.

Granny_____

TJ's Gran taught Egbert sign language.

Granny_____

TJ's Gran jumped up and down.

Granny_____

4 TJ's Gran is sure there is an elephant somewhere near. **Underline** the evidence that tells her she's right.

- Gran smelled an elephant by her banana tree.
- Linda smelled of elephant.
- Linda's mum gave her perfume for Christmas.
- Linda has seen elephants on TV.
- Gran has seen droppings.
- Gran has seen cowpats.
- Gran has seen tracks.
- Gran has lived in the jungle.
- Linda's family arrived in town at the same time the wombats started to disappear.
- Gran heard footsteps.

Chapters 13 to 17

- 1 Linda tells Mr Pifflewhiskers “We know who you are”. **Finish** their conversation.

Linda says, “We know you are not a teacher, because _____

Linda says, “We know you are rich, because _____

Linda says, “We know you are a wombat poacher, because _____

Mr Pifflewhiskers says, “I’m not a teacher, because _____

Mr Pifflewhiskers says, “I’m not a wombat poacher, because _____

- 2 Who’s who? **Put** the information about Gran or Pop into correct column

Gran		Pop
	...lived in the jungle.	
	...worked in a circus.	
	...doesn't want to live in a zoo.	
	...is part of the family.	
	...likes carrots.	
	...likes bananas.	
	...has to live in secret.	
	...is loved by their new family.	

3 **Find** 18 things belonging to the poachers, Egbert, TJ and Gran.

nethelicoptercamouflageshirtcamouflagetrouserslongmoustache
longbeardguntranquiliserguntranquilisersrifleschoolbagheartofgold
mindofacrazyhyenaslimeskateboardsecretweapontwostickshandbag

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 18. _____ |

4 The Gobbledegook Volunteer Bushfire Brigade comes to the rescue.
Choose the right words to complete what happens next.

Very Big Sean told them making fires was permitted / prohibited.

The wombat poachers could / couldn't run away because they were slug slime statues.

The Australian Customs Office had been tracking the poachers / children for months.

Gobbledegook Volunteer Bushfire Brigade decided to sell / adopt the helicopter.

Very Big Sean's wife thought Gran's banana cake could / couldn't win the National Banana Cake Championships.

Big Marge invited Pop to leave / join the Gobbledegook Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

after reading

1 **Match** these words from the story with their definitions.

If you sign something...	you smell very, very bad.
If you gulp...	you notice something difficult to see.
If you pong...	you use gesture and body language to communicate, not words.
If you track something...	you excavate or move earth.
If you dig somewhere...	you take in air suddenly when you are surprised or frightened.
If you spot something...	you follow an animal by looking for its footprints and droppings.

2 This story is all about TJ's family and friends. **Write** about his family and friends.

There are ___ people in his family (TJ, his _____, his _____, _____, and his _____).

He has a pet _____.

His dad likes to _____.

His granny lives in a tree _____.

His granny's favourite food is _____.

His best friend has a(n) _____.

His teacher is _____.

His teacher lives _____.



3

Do you speak “Gran”? **Translate** her noises (underlined) into English.

1. “Cake cake cake!” cried Baby Jane, high up on Gran’s shoulder.

“Geek,” said Gran kindly, giving Baby Jane a bit of banana cake too.

2. Mr. Pifflewhiskers smiled at Gran. “This is the best banana cake I’ve tasted!”

“Gook!” said Gran happily.

3. Gran was sniffing all around her. Suddenly she pointed in front of her.

“Geeeeek!”

TJ looked. “Wow! That’s the biggest cowpat I’ve ever seen.”

“Gook,” roared Gran angrily. She shook her head till her hat flew off.

“What do you mean it’s not a cowpat?” TJ asked.

“Gook gook gook!” shouted Gran, picking up her hat and pushing it back onto her green hair.

She put one long arm out in front of her and waved it up and down.

“Gooo-ooo-ook!”

4. “Geek geek geek,” said Gran slowly.

She sniffed the droppings again and signed excitedly. “Geek geek geek!”

“But...but that’s terrible!” TJ shook his head.

4 Search for 7 animals and 6 jobs in this wordsearch puzzle.

- Elephant
- Wombat
- Slug
- Gorilla
- Cow
- Kangaroo
- Koala
- Vet
- Poacher
- Teacher
- Librarian
- Gardener
- Customs officer

N	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	C	L	O
K	A	P	W	O	M	B	A	T	U	I	K
T	G	O	R	I	L	L	A	G	S	B	T
E	A	O	U	P	X	Q	D	C	T	R	B
F	R	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	A	V
O	D	T	O	T	A	R	O	W	M	R	O
N	E	B	E	I	Q	S	O	W	S	I	V
T	N	V	K	O	A	L	A	N	O	A	E
B	E	O	T	C	U	U	O	E	F	N	P
V	R	V	E	T	H	G	W	R	F	S	N
O	J	E	F	L	A	S	O	E	I	X	E
V	E	P	O	A	C	H	E	R	C	U	R
E	Q	V	N	L	S	O	E	Ñ	E	D	E
M	O	A	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	P	P



5 Find the odd-one-out and explain your reasons.

TJ	Jane 1	Jane 2	Jane 3
Jane-Tarzanne	Baby Jane	Mum	

_____ is the odd-one-out, because _____.

Gran	Linda	Pop	Egbert
------	-------	-----	--------

_____ is the odd-one-out, because _____.

banana cake	chocolate-covered bananas
banana smoothies	Roast Chicken Surprise

_____ is the odd-one-out, because _____.

Big Marge	Very Big Sean
Long Beard	Gran

_____ is the odd-one-out, because _____.

Gran	Linda	Pop	Egbert
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_____ is the odd-one-out, because _____.

6 Put the pictures in order and retell the story.


















