Who is Nanny McPhee?

The Brown children are shocked when they meet their new nanny, Nanny McPhee, as she has a rather alarming appearance. In fact she has an enormous bulbous nose, hairy warts on her face, an unsightly snaggle tooth and a single repulsive eyebrow!

Activity

Using the description of Nanny McPhee above, draw a portrait of how you think Nanny McPhee might look.

When Nanny McPhee arrives at the Browns' house the children are destroying the kitchen. Instead of shouting and getting upset like her predecessors, Nanny McPhee calmly bangs her walking stick on the floor. The children realise that the walking stick is actually a magic cane which makes the children...

Extension

What do you think happens to the children when Nanny McPhee taps her magic cane? Write about the children's first encounter with Nanny McPhee and how she gets the children to behave.
Meet the Brown children

The Brown children are experts at getting rid of nannies. They play silly pranks and outrageous tricks on them until they run screaming from the house, never to darken their doorstep again.

Simon is the oldest boy and the leader of the pack when it comes to making mischief. He keeps a chart showing the amount of time it’s taken to drive each nanny away. It’s never very long!

When Nanny McPhee arrives they try their hardest to scare her away. The children refuse to get out of bed, they pretend to be ill, they obliterate the kitchen, they put a toad in the teapot and feed worm sandwiches to their guests! However, Nanny McPhee is not put off by these tricks and uses her magic cane to get the children to behave. The children soon realise that Nanny McPhee is not as easy to get rid of as their other nannies.

Activity

If you had a adult that you wanted to get rid of how would you make her run screaming from your house? Think of the most horrible tricks you could play and make a list of the five nastiest pranks and how they work.

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2

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Behave, or beware!

Nanny McPhee mysteriously arrives at the Browns’ house to tame the dreadfully behaved Brown children.

Nanny McPhee who seems to enjoy giving them a taste of their own medicine, uses any mischief the children make against them. For example, the children decide they won’t get up in the morning and pretend to be ill. Nanny McPhee uses her magic to keep them in their beds no matter how hard they try to get out!

As the children’s behaviour improves Nanny McPhee’s appearance seems to change and the children begin to like Nanny McPhee more. Nanny McPhee warns them that “When you need me but do not want me, I must stay. When you want me, but no longer need me, then I have to go.”

Activity

In the film, one of the lessons Nanny McPhee teaches the children is to do exactly as they are told. Many people tell them what to do but who should the children listen to?

As a class, think of the people who we should listen to when they tell us to do something. Who should children listen to in school and why?

At school we have rules to follow to help us behave correctly. As a class, think about the rules that everyone in your class needs to follow. Use worksheet 4 to create a poster of your class rules.
Class Rules