



The Enchanted Urn

by Wendy Milton

TEACHER'S RESOURCE

Using this resource

This resource is designed to be used as students read each chapter. Each section is divided into the following:

Vocabulary

This section highlights some of the trickier words or phrases that students will find in this chapter. Work through the list, or pick out a few words of interest, and ask students about each word using these questions:

- What is another word the author could have used instead of _____?
- What does the word _____ mean?
- Can you find the word _____ in a dictionary?
- Can you think of another word that means the same as _____?
- What is a _____?
- What does the author mean by _____?

Comprehension

This section includes questions to help gauge your students' understanding of the text. Some questions can be answered by a straightforward reading of the text, while others may involve students drawing on prior information or drawing conclusions.

Conversation

This section includes questions of a more interpretive, open-ended nature to encourage higher-order thinking. Questions may ask students to make predictions, use their imaginations and draw upon personal experiences.

Worksheets

Worksheets are included for some chapters.

Before you begin

Can a house be haunted?

Chapter 1 Pages 1-7

Vocabulary

anxiety	p. 1
mantelpiece	p. 4
inevitably	p. 4

Comprehension

- How would you describe Tim's mother?
- What suggests that Tim has gone back in time?
- What warning is engraved on the urn?
- What does Tim *feel* at the end of his nightmare?
- What happened to the Colonel?

Conversation

Have you ever had a nightmare that kept coming back?



Worksheet 1 TR Page 15

In your own words, what is the poem on the urn about?
Who is talking, and to whom is she talking?

Chapter 2 Pages 8-12

Vocabulary

paralyse	p. 8
haphazard	p. 9
obligated	p. 11

Comprehension

- Why does Boomer howl?
- What does Tim mean, when he says to Gil: 'That's sick'?
- What does Gramps believe about 'departed souls'?

Conversation

'Just because you can't see things doesn't mean they're not there.'
Do you agree? Can you think of an example?

Chapter 3

Pages 13–22

Vocabulary

eccentricities	p. 14
rebellious	p. 17
random	p. 19
incredulity	p. 21

Comprehension

- How does Mr Barnett earn his living?
- What does Tim's heart tell him about his grandfather's ambition?
- What do Aunt Maudie's photographs reveal?
- How does Aunt Maudie explain Tim's nightmare?
- What does Aunt Maudie believe about Tim's great, great grandmother?

Conversation

Do you have an ambition to do something or be someone?

Chapter 4

Pages 23–29

Vocabulary

reincarnation	p. 23
dementia	p. 24
fruitcake	p. 28

Comprehension

- How might a dog that's a 'departed soul' help Mr Barnett?
- Why isn't Tim being honest with his father?
- Why is Gramps 'flustered'?
- Of what is Mr Bothole complaining?

Conversation

Have you ever thought someone a snob? Why?

Chapter 5

Pages 30–35

Vocabulary

tirade	p. 31
rejoinder	p. 31
enchanted	p. 32
stampede	p. 33

Comprehension

- What makes Monty a good friend?
- When was the Boer War and where was it fought?
- Why do Tim's classmates laugh when he explains 'a cycle's curse'?

Conversation

How would you describe a good friend?

Chapter 6

Pages 36–43

Vocabulary

accosted	p. 39
gibbering	p. 41
unperturbed	p. 42
passé	p. 43

Comprehension

- What sort of impression is Monty making on Mrs Barnett? Why?
- What does Monty mean by: 'You owned that one, Mr Selwyn'?
- Tim 'looked apologetic'. Is he apologising to Mr Bothole?
- Is Mrs Barnett's reaction to Merle predictable?

Conversation

Have you ever seen a magician do things that you couldn't explain?

Chapter 7

Pages 44–52

Vocabulary

psychics	p. 46
reconnaissance	p. 48
brusquely	p. 49
rout	p. 51

Comprehension

- How does Monty respond to Tim's confession?
- Who, according to Gramps, is the woman in the blue cloak?
- Why is Kirsty making an effort to speak 'earnestly'?
- What do the youths who've accosted Gramps want?
- Why does Monty say Gramps needs a dog?

Conversation

Do people forget where they live? What other things do people forget?



Worksheet 2

TR Page 16

What is dementia, and who is likely to suffer from it?
Is there a cure?

Chapter 8

Pages 53–59

Vocabulary

taunts	p. 54
appalling	p. 58
blanched	p. 59

Comprehension

- How does Monty define the difference between reincarnation and transmigration?
- Do you think Kirsty likes Monty? How does Monty feel about Kirsty?
- How does Gramps knocking on the hairdresser's window, affect Mrs Barnett?

Conversation

Who or what would you like to be reincarnated as?

Chapter 9

Pages 60–67

Vocabulary

vigilant	p. 64
mortified	p. 65
mythology	p. 66
segment	p. 67

Comprehension

- Why doesn't Mrs Barnett want Monty to stay for tea?
- 'I can show you my snake, Monty.' What does this tell us about Gramps?
- What does Mrs Barnett mean when she says: 'Well, he *would*, *wouldn't* he?'
- How are the 'non-believers' causing trouble?
- Mrs Barnett describes 'the Honourable' as 'top drawer'. What does this mean?

Conversation

What does Tony Baloney's surname suggest?



Worksheet 3

TR Page 17

Make a list of surnames that suit certain professions (like Capper for a dentist and Digger for archaeologist).

Chapter 10

Pages 68–74

Vocabulary

twaddle	p. 68
aliases	p. 69
contemptuous	p. 72
quadruped	p. 74

Comprehension

- What does 'separate wealthy people from their money' mean?
- Why is it appropriate that Freddy and 'Fingers' are Elsie's accomplices?
- What theory does Monty keep to himself about Rocket's escape attempts?
- Do events prove him right?
- What makes Mrs Barnett a 'pushover' (easy target) for Elsie Smith?

Conversation

Are some people easy targets for criminals? Why?

Chapter 11

Pages 75–79

Vocabulary

pandemonium	p. 75
pawning	p. 75
dingy	p. 76
coveted	p. 77

Comprehension

- Why is Harry Nostrillo keen to find the urn?
- Why does Harry's register say 'Peckersniff', and not 'Beckersniff'?
- Harry could see the Farrellys were 'bad news'. What does 'bad news' mean?
- What did the Farrellys threaten to do if Harry failed to co-operate?

Conversation

Have you ever seen a pawnshop? Why do people go there?



Worksheet 4

TR Page 18

Draw a picture of the urn, and list the names of those characters who want it.

Chapter 12

Pages 80–88

Vocabulary

intervened	p. 81
obligated	p. 82
commiserations	p. 84
proffered	p. 86
flailing	p. 87

Comprehension

- Why does Tim ask Beckers if he's descended from a long line of hobbits?
- What does Kirsty discover from a Beckers family document?
- Who performed the robbery?
- What is Mr Barnett's exciting news and what does it reveal?

Conversation

If *The Enchanted Urn* were made into a film, why would the Clever Pets Agency scene make good viewing?

Chapter 13

Pages 89–93

Vocabulary

fazed	p. 89
confidante	p. 90
unrepentant	p. 91
consolation	p. 92

Comprehension

- How do Tim's father and Aunt Maudie react when Sandy's identity is revealed?
- Is Gramps' reaction any different?
- Why is Tim seen as 'a cross between St Francis of Assisi and Doctor Doolittle'?
- What assurance does Tim give to his great, great grandfather?

Conversation

Are people who talk to their pets crazy?

Chapter 14

Pages 94–101

Vocabulary

geriatric	p. 94
sheepish	p. 97
manipulated	p. 100
gobsmacked	p. 100

Comprehension

- What is 'black Thursday', and why is it called that?
- How do the children ensure that Gramps passes his assessment?
- What links Malvolio's situation (in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*) with that of Gramps?
- Gramps gives a virtuoso performance of 'The Hot Canary'! Can you explain this?

Conversation

Should people be able to wear what they like?



Worksheet 5 TR Page 19

Draw a picture of Gramps in one of his outfits.

Chapter 15

Pages 102–107

Vocabulary

gushed	p. 102
tiered	p. 104

Comprehension

- For what 'pressing event' is Mrs Barnett preparing?
- What does the theft of the urn by 'two men' suggest to Elsie?
- Would Mrs Barnett be enjoying her husband's Wacky Woofer demonstration?
- Would she be enjoying her father's appearance as a wizard? Why or why not?
- Why does Mrs Barnett's guest 'slip away' when the police arrive?

Conversation

Have you ever been embarrassed by your relatives?

Chapter 16

Pages 108–113

Vocabulary

measly	p. 109
reflective	p. 110
lichen	p. 111
muted	p. 111
muffled	p. 113

Comprehension

- Why is Elsie angry with Freddy and 'Fingers'?
- What does Tim realise about Merle?
- How does Tim feel when Gwynneth's ghost appears?
- What important question does Tim ask Gwynneth?

Conversation

Have you ever seen a ghost? Do you know of anyone who claims to have seen one?

Chapter 17

Pages 114–119

Vocabulary

sombre	p. 115
waffling	p. 115
ransacked	p. 116

Comprehension

- How did Merle's curse 'backfire'?
- Is Tim right when he accuses Merle of wanting to steal the urn?
- What was Merle going to do with Guinevere's ashes?
- Why doesn't Merle know 'the key'?

Conversation

Would you trust Merle? Why or why not?

Chapter 18

Pages 120–129

Vocabulary

traction	p. 122
debris	p. 122
compensation	p. 123
dejected	p. 125
tickety-boo	p. 128

Comprehension

- Why does Monty say 'the Honourable' might not be what she seems?
- What prompts Sandy to remember Gwynneth's song?
- What was Gil before he was reincarnated as a magpie?
- Why is Mr Parmeter 'pleasantly surprised'?
- Do you agree with Tim's father that the journalist's article isn't bad?

Conversation

When things are going wrong, it's nice to have sympathetic relatives. Are there occasions when you've found your relatives comforting?

Chapter 19

Pages 130–136

Vocabulary

poppycock	p. 131
conning	p. 131
illustrious	p. 132
seedy	p. 135

Comprehension

- What does Beatrice reveal about 'the Honourable'?
- How does Kirsty succeed at The Kit and Caboodle?
- What does Monty suggest they do whilst the Honourable is visiting Tim's mother?

Conversation

If you had to wear a disguise, what would it be? Would it work?



Worksheet 6 TR Page 20

Write a story in which your hero adopts a disguise.

Chapter 20

Pages 137–145

Vocabulary

sarky	p. 137
counteract	p. 140
demure	p. 140
addled	p. 144

Comprehension

- What is Freddy and Fingers' plan?
- When Elsie telephones her decorator, who is she really calling? Why?
- What does Tim find out about Merle?
- What does Merle give to Tim?

Conversation

Would you rather have a mobile or a crystal ball?

Chapter 21

Pages 146–153

Vocabulary

slander	p. 147
seethed	p. 148
maître d	p. 149
clamoured	p. 153

Comprehension

- Why does Tim 'freak'?
- Does Mrs Barnett believe what Tim says about her illustrious friend?
- Was Gramps going to take his rat?
- Why is Aunt Maudie thinking: 'Takes one to know one'?

Conversation

Have you ever longed to be good at something, and even imagined yourself doing it?

Chapter 22

Pages 154–167

Vocabulary

eddied	p. 160
transfusion	p. 161
blearily	p. 162
objets d'art	p. 163

Comprehension

- What does Gramps confess? What promise does he extract from Tim?
- 'There are times, Margot, when I think you must be someone else's daughter'? Why does Gramps say this?
- How is Merle's crystal ball limited?
- Is it unusual for Mrs Barnett to agree with Monty?

Conversation

Why can't Mrs Barnett accept that her illustrious friend is a crook?

Chapter 23

Pages 168–175

Vocabulary

legendary	p. 171
cagily	p. 173
hysteria	p. 174
distraught	p. 175

Comprehension

- What worries Monty?
- What does the furnace look like?
- Why does the urn fascinate Tim?
- 'It's your fault for sucking up to that woman just because you thought she was a High Court judge!' Do you agree with Aunt Maudie?

Conversation

Has anyone ever said to you: 'It's your fault'? Was it? How did the accusation make you feel? Have you said the same thing to anyone?

Chapter 24

Pages 176–183

Vocabulary

pretence	p. 179
momentum	p. 180
salivating	p. 182
prolonged	p. 183

Comprehension

- 'She took it', says Tim. Do the children manage to convince Fingers?
- What does Fingers mean by 'do a flit'?
- What does Freddy call Fingers 'sarky'?
- Is Aunt Maudie's 'diversion' successful?
- What happens to Fingers' gun?

Conversation

This chapter could be: 'Mrs Barnett Saves the Day'. Does she redeem herself?

Chapter 25

Pages 184–188

Vocabulary

agonising	p. 187
evasive	p. 188

Comprehension

- Mrs Barnett says: 'Oh, I see, Sergeant'. What has the sergeant been trying to tell her?
- How do you think Sergeant McMurtrie regards Aunt Maudie's plea?
- Why does Sergeant McMurtrie say 'no magpies'?

Conversation

Have you ever deliberately withheld (kept to yourself) the truth? Why?

Chapter 26

Pages 189–194

Vocabulary

constitute	p. 189
brainchild	p. 190
intrepid	p. 192
enthralled	p. 193

Comprehension

- Why could Monty be described as modest?
- What happens to Tim just as he's about to give his speech?
- *Has Gramps 'got the hang of it'?* What other explanation is there?

Conversation

Have you ever had to perform or give a speech and failed? How did it make you feel?

Chapter 27 : Postscript

Pages 195–202

Vocabulary

unkempt	p. 195
transfixed	p. 197
grieve	p. 197
modus operandi	p. 198
surveillance	p. 198

Comprehension

- Why is Tim feeling 'a sense of loss'? How does Gramps console him?
- How does Monty's 'task force' bring Elsie Smith to justice?
- Elsie's accomplices 'sang like magpies'. What does this mean?
- How has Mr Barnett's career improved?
- What might have happened to Merle?

Conversation

Have you ever grieved for someone or something you've lost?

After you finish

Find examples of how animals co-operate with humans.

Write a story about someone who remembers his or her earlier life.

Draw a picture of Tim, in the future, talking to Oscar. What would Tim be saying?



Worksheet 7 TR Page 21

Write a review of *The Enchanted Urn*.

In your own words, what is the poem on the urn about? Who is talking, and to whom is she talking?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

What is dementia, and who is likely to suffer from it? Is there a cure?

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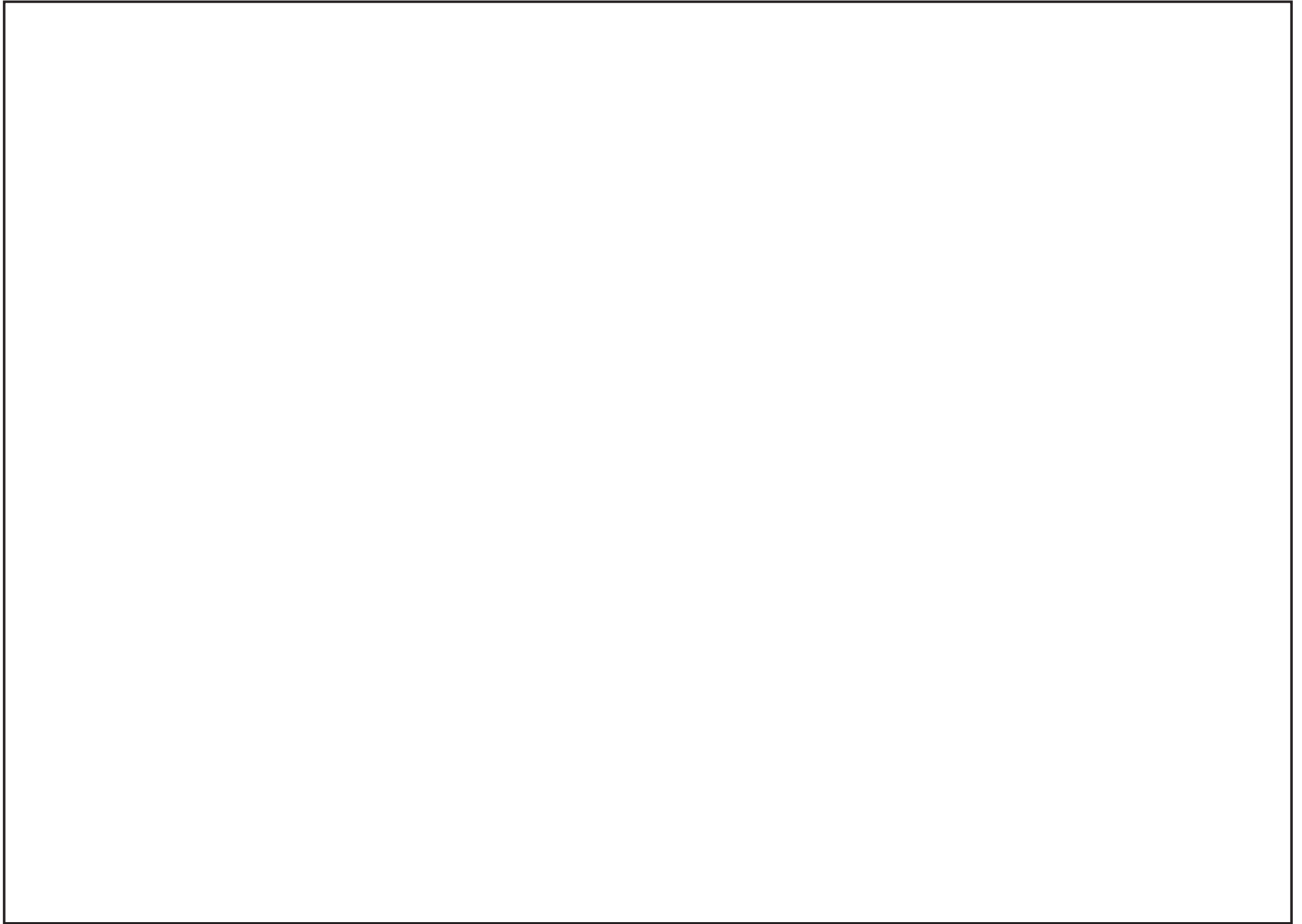
Make a list of surnames that suit certain professions (like Capper for a dentist and Digger for archaeologist).

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Name: _____

Draw the urn and write a list

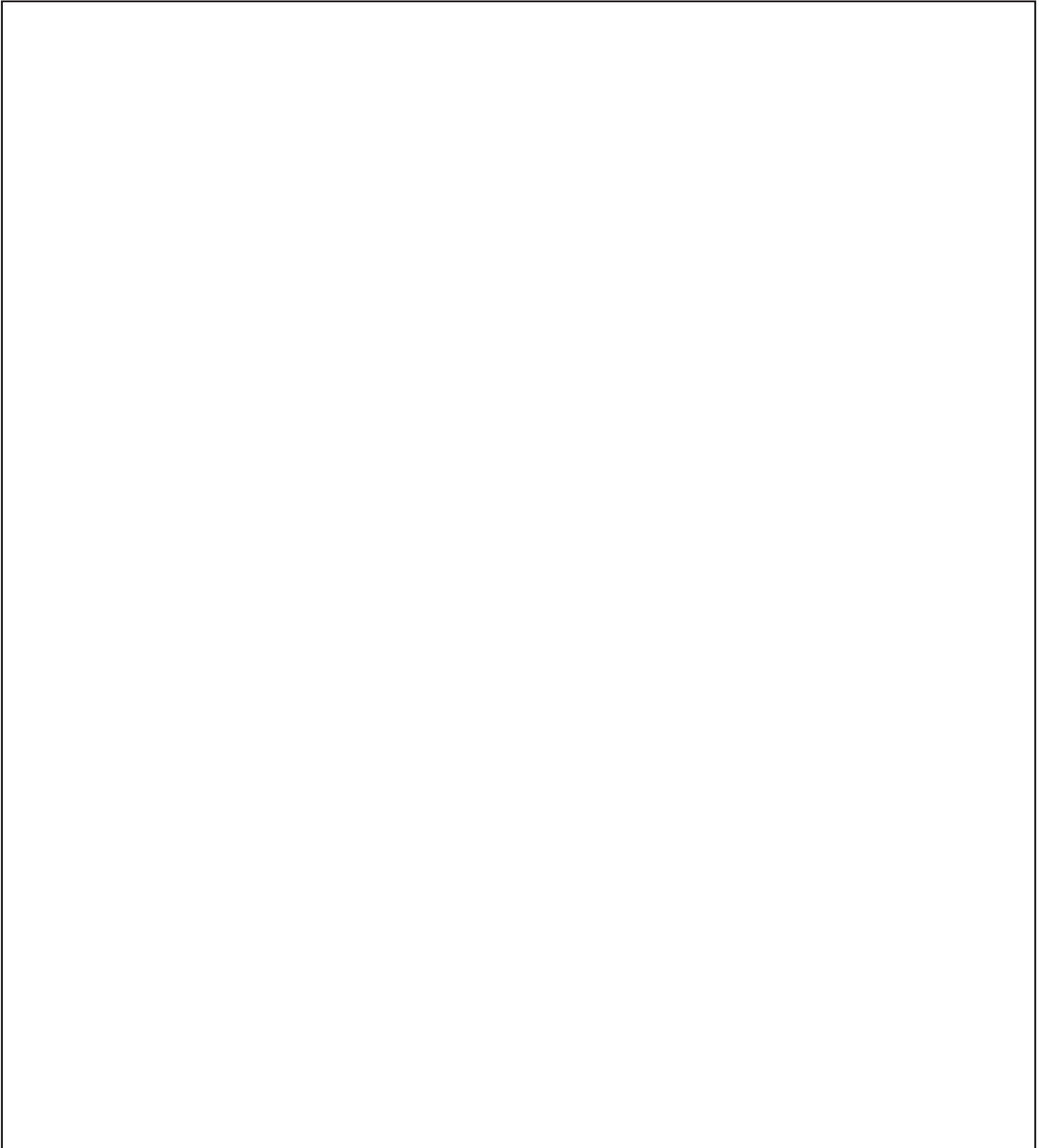
Draw a picture of the urn, and list the names of those characters who want it.



Name: _____

Draw Gramps

Draw a picture of Gramps in one of his outfits.



Write a story in which your hero adopts a disguise.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____

Book review

Write a book review of *The Enchanted Urn*.

Story type: *Was this story a mystery, an adventure, fantasy fiction, realistic fiction, non-fiction . . . ?*

Plot outline: *What happens in the beginning, middle and end of this book?*

Characters: *Describe the appearance and personality of two of the main characters.*

Opinion: *What was your favourite part and why? Did the story have a moral? What was it?*

My rating: 