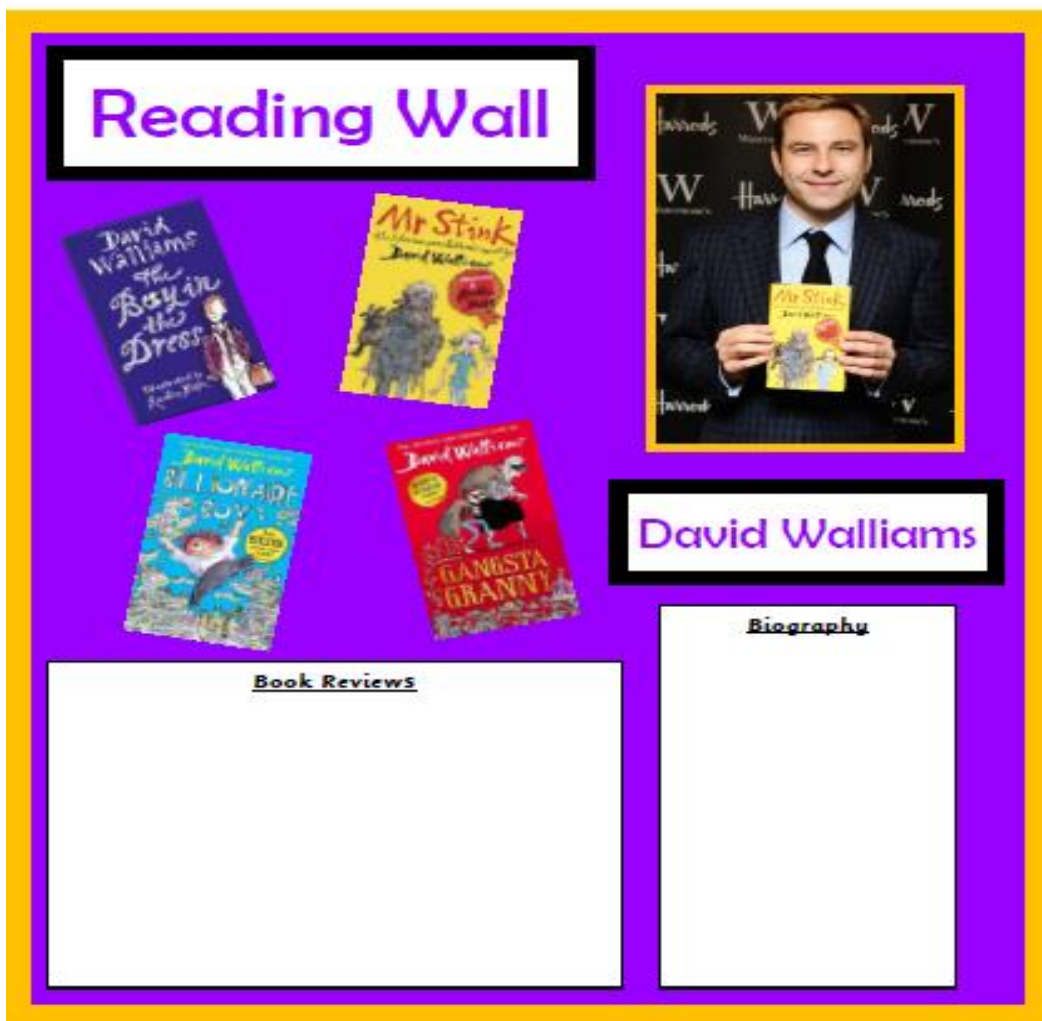


This guide belongs to.....

## David Walliams's Biography Webquest

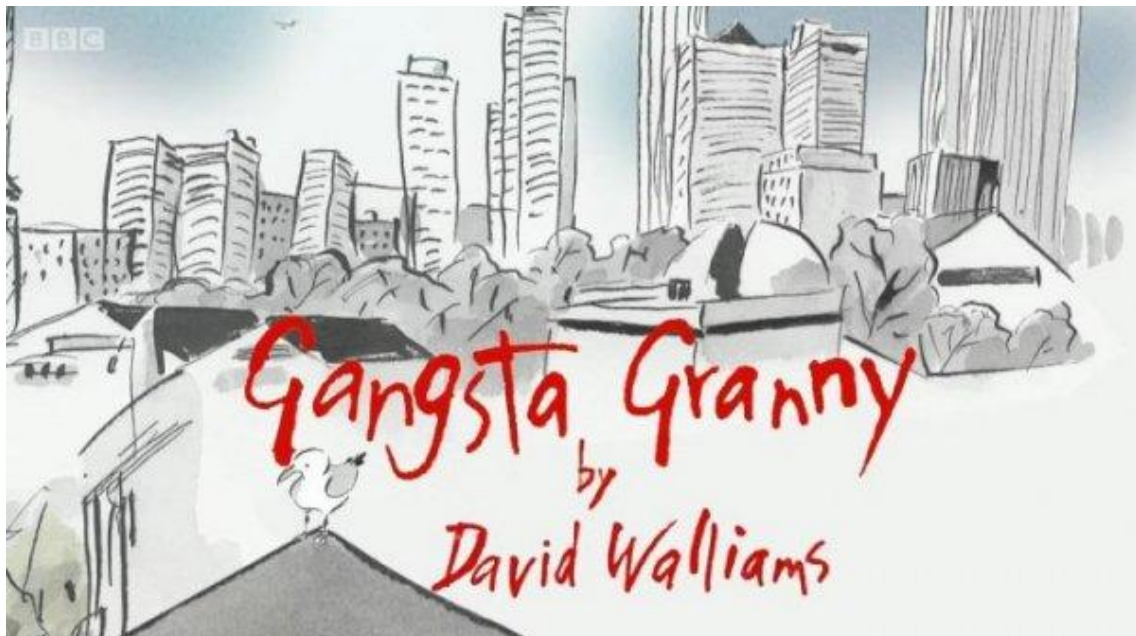
Find information on the internet about David Walliams, the author of *Gangsta Granny*. Then, prepare a poster similar to the following author display chart to put up in your classroom. In your biography, you must include the answers to the following questions:

1. Where was he born?
2. When was he born?
3. What are his jobs (apart from being a writer)?
4. What did he study at university?
5. What university did he study at?
6. What kind of books does he publish?
7. Which was his first novel? When was it released?
8. When was *Gangsta Granny* published?
9. What is the story about? **DO NOT REVEAL THE END!!!**





You can begin to read chapters 1 and 2. Whilst reading chapter one, they can compare their drawing or description to the sketch Ben does of his granny. See below.



1

**Cabbagey Water**

1. Why does Ben dislike his Gran? .....
2. When and where does the story begin? .....
3. What was the name of the TV show that Ben’s parents never missed? Which word in the show title was changed? .....
4. What is Ben’s ambition? .....
5. What simile describes Ben’s mum’s appearance after having applied her make-up in the car? .....
6. Which hyperbole explains Ben’s dislike of the *Strictly* CD playing in the car? .....
7. Which simile describes the feeling of listening to it? .....
8. What personification describes Granny’s home and its location? .....
9. How old is Ben? .....

***Vocabulary***

**Porcelain** means a) fine China b) find China c) fine tuna

**Faulty** means a) bracken b) Brecon c) broken

**Loath** means a) a kind of hat b) hate c) love

**Acknowledge** means a) reignite b) recognise c) wreck

**Lurid** means a) shocking b) sharking c) shaking

2

## A Duck Quacking

1. Which hyperbole describes the amount of poppadums Ben's parents would eat when visiting the 'Taj Mahal'?

.....

2. Of the ten reasons Ben cites for hating his Granny, which do you think is the worst and why?

.....

3. Granny lived alone, she rarely went out and her TV was broken, but she loved to read. There were piles of books everywhere. What type of book did Granny read?

.....

4. Describe lunch and its presentation

.....

.....

.....

4. According to Ben what do 'Gangstas' not do?

- .....
- .....
- .....



5. How did Ben get rid of his soup?

.....

### ***Vocabulary***

**Publication** means a) old text b) bold text c) sold text

**Beguile** means a) food b) fool c) fuel

**Cram** means a) staff b) stiff c) stuff

**Ecstatic** means a) hippy b) happy c) hopping-mad

**Avail** means a) use b) juice c) Canada goose

**Shrouded** means a) ridden b) hidden c) Battle of Britain

**Encrusted** means a) coasted b) coated c) cote de boeuf

**Entice** means a) tent b) temp c) tempt

3

**Plumbing Weekly**

1. Why do Ben's parents want him to be a ballroom dancer?

.....

2. What simile describes how Ben would watch a plumber? What does it mean?

.....

3. Who was the magazine 'Plumbing Weekly' aimed at? Why did Ben enjoy reading it?

.....

4. Describe Raj's 'special offer'. Why is he making it?

.....

.....

5. What does Ben want to do?

.....

6. What does he have to do?

.....

7. Why does he feel 'instantly ashamed'?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Musty** means a) staffie b) stuffy c) stiff

**Detest** means a) hay b) hate c) hey nonny-nonny

**Decade** means a) ten minutes b) ten hours c) ten years

**Tedium** means a) dullness b) annoying c) happiness

**Protest** means a) explain b) complain c) project

4

**Mystery and Wonder**

1. What does Ben wish for that Friday night?

.....

2. What does this involve?

.....

3. Ben stared at his letters, before scanning the board. Your task is to find the words he had made hiding in this word search.

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

4. Find out what might happen to your teeth if you only pretended to brush them as Ben does in the story.

.....

.....



***Vocabulary***

**Guiltily** means a) ashamed b) amazed c) a sheep

**Typical** means a) useful b) usual c) used car dealer

**Hectic** means a) bus b) busy c) funny

**Eventually** means a) at first b) at last c) atlas

**5**

**A Little Broken**

1. What *sound* did Granny's telephone do when you dialled a number?

.....

2. Which *metaphors* are used to describe Granny and what it's like to spend time with her?

.....

3. How does Ben's mum describe Granny?

.....

4. If his Granny did hear what Ben said, how do you think she felt? Write some words to describe her emotions.

.....

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Spectacular** means a) amazon b) amazing c) a maze

**Cheerily** means a) sadly b) happily c) not bothered

**Unconvinced** means a) assure b) unsure c) usurp

**Delicacy** means a) tree b) treat c) Treasure Island

6

**Cold Wet Egg**

1. What *metaphor* is used to describe how many soldiers Ben has hidden behind the radiator?

.....

2. What *simile* describes the feeling Ben had which prompted him to help himself to a biscuit? .....

3. Where do you think the jewellery came from?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Astonish** means a) amazon b) amaze c) a maze

**Irritate** means a) ahoy! b) annoy c) a noisy neighbour

**Miffed** means a) put in b) put out c) shake it all about

7

**Bags of Manure**

1. Describe the last time Gran left her bungalow.

.....

2. Ben asked if he could stay at Granny's again that night, but Dad said she was going out. Where do you think Granny might be going?

.....

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Scale** means a) climb b) clear c) tide

**Necessary** means a) kneaded b) needed c) kneed

**Unrivalled** means a) no batter b) none better c) unusual

**Memorabilia** means a) keep sake b) record c) sake

8

**A Small Wig in a Jar**

1. What *hyperbole* describes the contents of Granny's biscuit tin?

.....

2. What *simile* describes Granny's appearance?

.....

3. What *simile* describes the way Granny steered her scooter?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Intensity** means a) strain b) strength c) stress fracture

**Obvious** means a) clean b) clear c) forget

**Startle** means a) smock b) shock c) begin

**Balaclava** means a) skirt b) type of helmet c) balalaika

9

**The Black Cat**

1. Which simile describes how Granny's eyes narrowed and darkened?

.....

2. What pseudonym and job description did Granny have previously?

.....

3. In one sentence, could you explain what a Venn diagram is? (Use the Internet if you need to, or ask your maths teacher)

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Colossal** means a) hug b) huge c) a Roman theatre

**Oath** means a) promise b) objection c) oatmeal

**Handy** means a) hanger b) hunger c) helpful

10

**Everything**

1. What did Gran steal? .....
2. From whom? .....
3. When did she steal it? .....
4. Why did she steal it? .....

**Vocabulary**

**Destiny** means a) faint b) fete c) fate

**Scornful** means a) shearing b) sneering c) smearing

**Conceal** means a) hid b) hide c) show

**Irritate** means a) amuse b) annoy c) imagine

11

**Cheesy beans and Sausage**

1. Which simile describes how Ben was sweating?  
.....
2. When Ben's mum heard Ben didn't like Ballroom Dancing, it felt like what simile?  
.....  
.....
3. At the start of the chapter, Ben "sped home on his bike". What problems does this cause?  
.....  
.....



***Vocabulary***

**Hideous** means a) hurried b) horrid c) Harrods

**Befuddle** means a) infuse b) confuse c) fusilli

**Illuminate** means a) light up b) lie down c) illusion

**Flogged** means a) flipped b) dipped c) whipped

**12**

**The Love Bomb**

1. Which dance outfit is your favourite and why?

.....

2. Can you think of another silly dance outfit for Ben? Describe it.

.....

.....

.....

3. Which simile describes how Ben thought of girls?

.....

4. What metaphor describes the torches?

.....

5. How did Ben's Granny escape?

.....

6. Where did Granny finally hide the ring she had stolen from the Davenports?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Duress** means a) press b) pressure c) Prestatyn

**Precocious** means a) chalky b) cheeky c) elderly

**Ferocious** means a) while b) wild c) a kind of wolf

**Excruciating** means a) painter b) painful c) easy

13

**A Lifetime of Crime**

1. List four locations of thefts that Granny describes when narrating her crimes:

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

2. In chapter 5, Ben described staying with Granny as a torture. What do you think is Ben's attitude towards Granny now?

.....  
.....

3. Which of Granny's thefts had required the most elaborate plan?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Flummoxed** means a) puddled b) pummelled c) puzzled

**Menace** means a) past b) pest c) meaning

**Repeat** means a) again b) against c) Agincourt

**Surreptitious** means a) fly b) sly c) spy

14

**Nosy Neighbour**

1. Which *simile* describes Mr. Parker's eyes? .....

2. How does Mr. Parker describe Ben?.....

3. Why did Ben tell Mr. Parker his Gran was doing 'naked yoga'?

.....

4. What crime did Ben accuse the nosy neighbour of?

.....  
.....

***Vocabulary***

**Abet** means a) help b) kelp c) whelk

**Insistent** means a) cushy b) pushy c) important

**Glare** means a) smile b) stare angrily c) glad

**15**

**Reckless and Thrilling**

1. Ben made up stories to tell his classmates, about what? And why?

.....  
.....

2. Of all the gory punishments that were used in the olden days, which one was Ben's absolute favourite?

.....

3. When were the Crown Jewels used, according to history records?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Frantic** means a) panicky b) pernickety c) picnicking

**Enthusiast** means a) fan b) teased c) arrogant

**Prying** means a) nasty b) nosy c) spy

**Reckless** means a) irresponsible b) careful c) prudent

**Gory** means a) charming b) horrendous c) gothic

**Myriad** means a) money b) many c) few

**'No' 'O' Spells No**

1. What were Ben's parents doing while he was at his Gran's?

.....

2. What plan did he come up with to enter the Tower of London?

.....

3. What did Ben's mum think that he was hiding under his bed?

.....



***Vocabulary***

**Convince** means a) purse b) persuade c) tell off

**Memorise** means a) member b) remember c) December

**Situated** means a) seated b) sited c) cited

**Miniature** means a) tie b) tin c) tiny

**Downcast** means a) sad b) complicated c) delirious

**Despondent** means a) sad b) said c) disciplined

**Ominous** means a) wearing b) wearying c) worrying

**Discreet** a) tackle b) tactful c) careless

**Heist** means a) deft b) theft c) harbour



17

**Planning the Heist**

1. What stood between Ben and the heist?

.....

2. Give a couple of examples of how Ben used his week at school wisely.

.....

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Hesitant** means a) casual b) causal c) cautious

**Anguish** means a) suffering b) suffrage c) surrender

**Determined** means a) dog end b) dog leg c) dogged

**Previous** means a) one before b) two by four c) ten to four

**Impregnable** means a) secular b) secure c) sectioned

**Penetrate** means a) enter b) mentor c) inventor

18

**Visiting Hours**

1. Granny had had an accident at home and she was now in hospital. How do you think Ben felt when he heard the news?

.....

2. What is the hospital like?

.....

3. What does Granny look like?

.....

4. What tells us Ben's mum didn't like his Gran much?

.....

**Vocabulary**

**Tentative** means a) carful b) careful c) calm

**Intrigued** means a) internal b) interested c) important

**Ingenuity** means a) cleaver b) clever c) clover

**Intimately** means a) cosset b) closet c) closely

**Reluctant** means a) ready b) enthusiastic c)opposed

19

**A Small Explosive Device**

1. How does Granny describe herself?

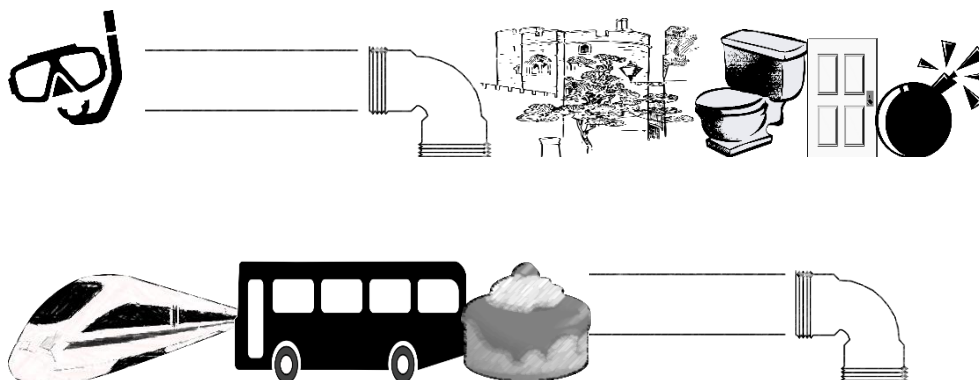
.....  
.....  
.....



2. Why do you think the doctor said "I'm sorry" to Ben?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. Ben was very happy to hear from his Granny that she was going to get better and, with great excitement, he unveiled his plan. It involved the following things, can you name them?



4. How will Ben and his Gran negotiate the guards and the glass?

.....  
.....

***Vocabulary***

**Flustered** means a) calm b) nervous c) flattered

**Daft** means a) daily b) sensible c) stupid

**Privy** means a) private b) lavatory c) prize

**20**

**Boom, Boom, Boom**

1. Why does Gran not want to steal the jewels?

.....

2. What kind of transport does the Queen use?

.....

3. Granny called for Matron, who threw Mr Parker out of the ward. What did he yell before rushing out of the hospital?

.....

4. What does Matron think of Mr. Parker?

.....

5. Ben had planned a most daring heist, but he had forgotten one important thing. What was it?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Immortality** means live a) never b) forever c) quick

**Anxiously** means a) nurse b) nervous c) quietly

**Suffice** means a) Enoch b) enough c) too much

**Mastermind** means a) genius b) masterpiece c) mastiff

**21**

### A Tap Shoe

1. What are the dancing competitors like?

.....

2. What simile describes Flavio's outfit?

.....

3. What hyperbole describes Flavio's teeth?

.....

4. What was Ben's score? Why did he perform so poorly?

.....

.....

#### ***Vocabulary***

**Contempt** means a) score b) hate c) love

**Heartthrob** means a) heart attack b) idol c) heartburn

**Garish** means a) loud b) proud c) chimney

### 22

#### Lycra Lynch Mob

1. How did Granny get into Ben's bedroom?

.....

2. What does Granny think of Ben's dancing outfit (page 204)?

.....

3. In what situations do you think that a kiss-of-life must be given?

.....

#### ***Vocabulary***

**Wrenching** means a) pulling b) paling c) shake

**Prohibit** means a) ban b) bun c) vanish

**Patronise** means a) belittle b) Bejam c) father

**Merge** means a) gin b) join c) joint

**Rehearse** means a) reject b) rehabilitate c) practise

**Admonish** means a) tell on b) tell off c) telephone

**23**

**Caught by the Fuzz**

1. How do they intend to travel to London?

.....

2. What happened to them?

.....

3. What other modes of transport are not permitted on motorways?

.....

.....

4. What excuse did they give to Captain Fudge?

.....

5. What did Captain Fudge do at the end?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Illustrious** means a) important b) impotent c) imposter

**Exhilarating** means a) tilling b) trilling c) thrilling

**The fuzz** means a) the police b) fuss c) fusion

**Dismiss** means a) send up b) send out c) send away

**Baffle** means a) con b) confluence c) confuse

24

**Dark Waters**

1. What adjectives help to create the atmosphere?

.....  
.....

2. Why was Ben scared at a certain moment when he was swimming across the Thames?

.....  
.....

3. What did Granny do to encourage Ben to jump into the water?

.....  
.....

4. How did Granny say she felt when Ben checked that she was okay?

.....



***Vocabulary***

**Execute** means a) krill b) kill c) save

**Immaculate** means a) purple b) perfect c) important

**Eerie** means a) spooky b) normal c) erase

**Reverberating** means a) echoing b) sending c) selling

25

**Haunted by Ghosts**

1. What did Granny say after the rat landed on top of her head?

.....  
.....

2. Granny unwrapped the cling film that she had used to waterproof her handbag. What did she take out of it?

.....  
.....

3. Which ghosts are claimed by guards to live in The Tower?

.....  
.....

***Vocabulary***

**Slime** means a) slice b) slim c) yuck

**Gaze** means a) stare b) gate c) gasp

**Crinkle** means a) croak b) cripple c) wrinkle

26

**A Figure in the Dark**

1. Why did Gran have only one bag for the jewellery?

.....

2. Why did their plan fail?

.....

3. Granny hugged Ben and told him that he had made her extremely happy. How do you think Ben felt about his Granny?

.....  
.....

***Vocabulary***

**Chauffeur** means a) dry b) drier c) driver

**Imperious** means a) bossy b) mossy c) posse

**Squeak** means a) squabble b) screech c) squirm

**27**

**An Audience with the Queen**

1. Why is Ben disappointed?

.....

2. The Queen was wearing the Coronation crown. List all you have discovered about it (p. 240).

.....

.....

.....

3. Granny apologised to the Queen and confessed to Ben all the lies she had told. List all the reasons Granny gave for telling her lies.

.....

.....

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Interject** means a) but in b) but out c) water but

**Haughtily** means a) prowl b) proud c) sweetly

**Telling-off** means a) telltale b) reprimand c) telling apart



### Hung, Drawn and Quartered

1. Who do they meet at the Jewells's Chamber?

.....

2. Why is she there?

.....

3. What was the name of the last person who attempted to steal the Crown Jewels?

Where was he from? And who was the King at that time?

.....

.....

.....

4. Why does the Queen let Ben and Granny go?

.....



#### ***Vocabulary***

**Stunned** means a) amazed b) stupid c) studious

**Abide** means a) able b) obey c) tolerate

**Grovel** means a) bag b) beg c) big d) bog e) bug

### Armed Police

1. What happened when the Gangsta pair finally arrived home?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Captive** means a) prism b) pristine c) prisoner

**Superior** means a) batter b) better c) bitter d) butter

**Villain** means a) crimson b) criminal c) innocent

**Hastily** means a) quickly b) slowly c) goalie

**Fleet** means a) squadron b) flesh c) float

**Pin** means a) pick b) pinch c) immobilize

**30**

**A Packet of Sugar**

1. Who provided Ben and Gran's alibis?

.....

2. The policeman that recognised Ben and Granny said that they were merging with whom?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Fragile** means a) deli b) delicious c) delicate

**Reassuring** means a) comforting b) repeat

**Sheepish** means a) shepherd b) sheet c) ashamed

**31**

**Golden Light**

1. Describe two ways the women in this chapter are similar and two ways in which they are different.

.....

.....

2. Granny told Ben that the doctors had said that she was sick and would not live to see Christmas. Ben told her that she would be forever in his heart. Write all the things that Ben loved about Granny.

.....  
.....  
.....

***Vocabulary***

**Clamber** means a) climb b) close c) think

**Wretched** means a) miss b) miser c) miserable

**Probable** means a) lately b) likely c) luckily

**32**

**A Family Sandwich**

1. What *metaphor* describes the family hug?

.....

2. Why didn't Ben try in the dance competition?

.....

3. What joke does his mum play?

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Receive** means a) get b) gut c) guttersnipe

**Famished** means a) hungry b) angry c) hundreds

**Ghastly** means a) horrible b) horror film c) glad

**33**

**Silence**

1. What *idiom* does Raj quote as the price of the tissues? What does it mean?

.....

2. What does Gran think of hospital food?

.....

3. What were the last words Granny and Ben said to each other?

.....

.....

4. Raj told Ben that he had a Christmas present for him. What was it?

.....

5. At first, this present does not seem very special, but it's something that Ben will always treasure. Why?

.....

.....

***Vocabulary***

**Bizarre** means a) strained b) strange c) strayed

**Extremely** a) vary b) very c) verisimilitude

**Raspy** means a) croaky b) crazy c) croissant

**Momentous** means a) bag b) beg c) big d) bog c) bug

**Cluttered** means a) massive b) messy c) mossy

**34**

**Zimmer Frame**

1. What food was available at Ben's house?

.....

2. Why were the Christmas decorations 'weird'?

.....  
.....

3. Who was the old lady that sat down next to Ben on the sofa? What did Granny and this old lady do together when they were Ben's age?

.....  
.....

4. Why was this old lady put into an old folk's home? What did Granny do when she visited her?

.....  
.....

5. What will Ben miss about his Gran?

.....  
.....

***Vocabulary***

**Dreary** means a) dill b) doll c) dull

**Descend** a) fall b) full c) dance

**Tedious** means a) dill b) doll c) dull

**35**

**Postscript**

Write a review of D. Walliams' 'Gangsta Granny'. Some examples:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15240515>

<http://housewithnoname.blogspot.co.uk/2011/11/friday-book-review-gangsta-granny-by.html>

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/7108/Gangsta-Granny-by-David-Walliams.html>