

The Knitting Grannies and the rule breakers

A slight pause in the story.....

Dear readers,

I must just pause the story there for one moment. Some of you who have listened to my stories at school will know all about Mrs Parker, but to all the new readers she is, as yet, an unknown character and they will need filling in!

Quite simply, Mrs Parker is a bad one! She is nasty and can be scary but for all that, she became quite a favourite at story time! Why? Because she NEVER EVER WINS! That is important to remember!

So, let me tell you about her. Mrs Parker is a mean, sour thin beanpole of a woman! She is tall with big feet and bony claw like hands. Her hair is black and straggly, never combed (or washed I suspect!), no piece of hair wants to go in the same direction as another. A bird's nest of a mess.....rather like Boris Johnson's only think black, not blonde!

Two small beady brown eyes, so dark they look almost black; her eyesight isn't that good, she is short-sighted. Her mouth is small and tight, turned down at the corners with disapproval and I don't think her lips have ever let a kind word, giggle or laugh escape! And then there is her nose! To call it a nose well, quite honestly, I'm not sure if it isn't really a beak for that is exactly what it resembles! Given that Mrs Parker usually dresses in black, having a hatred for anything colourful, her clothes and her beaky nose, twiggy legs with big feet plonked on the end and snatchy hands make her look like a very large crow!

All this is important to know so that you will recognize her should you meet her, (which you most probably won't, well only in a story). She is a supply school caretaker, that is, she goes into schools where their own caretaker has gone off sick or strangely gone missing. She always brings her own cleaning equipment with her and never leaves it unattended. She always has it by her side, with her hand on the hose. Let me explain, for this is the crux of the things.

Her "cleaning equipment" isn't. That's right, it doesn't clean a thing but rather, it has a nastier function. Looking like a bigger version of a Henry hoover (do you know those ones?) it is black just like her clothes. She has had several versions of this machine but this is the new and improved updated one. This machine is a sucking up machine! What does it suck up you say? Well, here is the thing, it sucks up naughty children! Yes, you read it right! Mrs Parker loves naughty children and that is why she works in schools. It doesn't have to be anything really naughty, just running in the corridor or talking when the teacher is talking will do it! She finds a gloomy corner and waits. She doesn't have to wait too long normally (especially at break and dinner times) and then her nose starts sniffing. Sniff, sniff, sniff.....it can smell a naughty child coming..... and along comes a child who is running, she points the hose with the very large nozzle on it at them and presses a button and SLUUUUURP! there the child isgone! Just a bulge in the hose as it goes down and gets collected into the machine! When she has enough children collected (she has been known to accidentally suck up the odd teacher or two in the process) she goes home, down into her basement and reverses the machine from suck to blow and whoosh, the contents of her machine fill the enormous glass jars she has there. She then keeps them in the jars, feeding them on worms, cabbage and out of date yoghurt with a few slugs thrown in as a treat!

Now, please, DON'T worry! Remember what I said at the beginning? She never ever wins! The children ALWAYS manage to escape from the jars and get away (often with the help of the sucked-up teacher!) As for children who always follow the rules, they are quite, quite safe. She is allergic to them, brings her out in red itchy spots!!

This then, is the person who is going to help the Grannies! I hope they don't find THEMSELVES eating worms, cabbage and out of date yoghurt! What could go wrong?

Right, so now, you all know about Mrs Parker, let's get back to the story.....