

The World's Strongest Grandma

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Illustrator: Rukiye Ulasan

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Comprehension Questions

Picture Book Suitable for:

Ages 4 - 8

Book Summary:

Grandma Betty enters the World's Strongest Human contest. Her training goes hilariously wrong, but her unstoppable spirit carries her across continents. From kangaroos to sumo wrestlers, elephants to icebergs, she hoists the impossible with grit, giggles and granny power galore. Is there anything Grandma Betty can't lift?

This story explores strength in all its forms, highlighting resilience, perseverance, and the importance of asking for help, wrapped in a humorous global adventure.

This picture book supports K-2 learning in English (comprehension, vocabulary, retell), Geography (awareness of places and culture), Health and PE (movement, wellbeing and healthy habits) and Social-Emotional Learning (resilience, perseverance and asking for help).

About this Resource

This resource includes over 80 questions (pre read / literal / inferential and more).

STRICT NOTE: This resource was not designed to ask students to sit and answer 80+ questions, that would certainly take the joy out of reading! It has been designed as a resource to assist adults. Pick and choose a small selection of questions that would be suitable to gain an understanding of your child/ren / student/s comprehension.

PRE READ QUESTIONS	
Cover / Title Discussion	
1	What do you think this story might be about?
2	What clues can you find on the cover that make you think that?
3	What does the title <i>The World's Strongest Grandma</i> make you wonder?
4	What do you think Grandma Betty might be strong enough to lift?
5	Do you think being strong only means having big muscles? Why or why not?
Personal Connections	
6	What does it mean to be strong?
7	Who is someone you think is strong? What makes them strong?
8	Have you ever tried something that was difficult at first but kept practising?
9	What are some things people can be strong at besides lifting heavy things?
Prediction	
10	Where do you think Grandma Betty might travel?
11	What challenges do you think she might face?
12	What do you think could go wrong on her journey?
LITERAL QUESTIONS	
Beginning / Training	
1	What competition is Grandma Betty entering?
2	What does Grandma Betty do to prepare for the competition?
3	What unusual ingredients are in Grandma Betty's smoothie?

4	What objects does Grandma Betty practise lifting?
5	What went wrong when Grandma Betty was training?
6	What happened to Grandpa when Grandma Betty was training?
Middle / Around the World	
7	Name one/some/all of the places Grandma Betty visited.
8	What does Grandma Betty lift in (choose one or more of the places)?
9	What happens with the sumo wrestlers?
10	What famous landmark does Grandma Betty straighten up in Italy?
11	Who is following along on Grandma Betty's journey?
End	
12	Did Grandma Betty win the competition?
13	What prize/s did Grandma Betty receive?
14	What happened when Grandma Betty tried to lift the trophy?
15	Who helped Grandma Betty?
16	What happened after everyone worked together?
Illustration-based Questions	
17	How do you know Grandma Betty is at the airport?
18	What animals can you find in the pictures?
19	What details can you see on the globes/maps?
20	What are the judges carrying?

21	What is the dog doing on different pages?
INFERENTIAL QUESTIONS	
Character	
1	Explain how Grandma might be feeling before the competition. How do you know?
2	What clues show that Grandma Betty is determined?
3	Why do you think Grandma Betty keeps trying even when things are difficult?
4	What makes Grandma Betty a hero?
5	How do the pictures help us understand Grandma Betty's feelings?
6	Why do you think Grandma Betty looks happy while doing such difficult things?
Humour	
7	Why do you think the author chose such unusual things for Grandma Betty to lift?
8	How did the illustrator help make parts of the story funny?
9	Why do you think laughing makes stories more enjoyable?
Predictions and Patterns	
10	What clues helped you guess where Grandma Betty was going next? (e.g. the cardigan-somewhere cold/Antarctica).
11	Why do you think the story follows a pattern of new place, new challenge?
12	How did the author keep surprising us even though we could predict some things?
13	Was the ending a surprise? Why / why not?

14	Why do you think the final challenge was different? (the trophy lift) And why was it so heavy?
Illustrations	
15	What extra details did the illustrator add that were not in the words? (e.g. facial expressions, items falling out of the fridge, Grandpa still on the couch when Grandma lifted it, falling into the trophy, the judges on every page taking notes, and even the dog's nervous paw in Australia ... What was the dog worried about? Being eaten by the hungry croc perhaps!).
16	What do the expressions on the other characters tell us?
17	Why do you think the illustrator included the dog throughout the story?
18	What details would you miss if you only looked quickly? / If you look closely, can you find something you didn't notice before?
Vocabulary Questions	
19	What do the following words mean? Use the text/images to help you: heave-ho, barbell, hoisted, warm-up, triumphant, flex, continent, conquer and arena.
HIGHER ORDER / OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS	
Strength and Identity	
1	Grandma Betty is physically strong, but what other types of strength does she show?
2	What does being strong mean to you?
3	Explain how someone can be strong even if they cannot lift heavy things?
4	What are some ways people can show strength? / At school?
5	Explain how asking for help can be a sign of strength?
6	Why can asking for help sometimes be hard?

7	What do you think Grandma Betty would say to someone who thinks they are not strong?
Trying New Things	
8	Grandma Betty tries something unusual. Why is it important to try things even when they are challenging?
9	How do you feel when something is hard but you keep practising?
10	Why do mistakes help us learn?
11	Is there something you can do that you couldn't do when you were younger because you kept practising?
Challenging Assumptions	
12	What ideas did you have about what a strong person looks like before reading this book?
13	Did Grandma Betty change your ideas about who can be a hero?
14	Can anyone become a hero? What makes someone heroic?
15	How does the ending change what you think 'strength' means?
Kindness & Community	
16	Grandma Betty has many people cheering her on. Why do you think support from others matters?
17	How can we help someone who is trying something difficult?
18	Why is it important to celebrate other people's achievements?
19	What does the ending teach us about teamwork?
20	How can helping someone make both people feel good?

Culture & the Wider World	
21	What did you learn about places around the world during Grandma Betty's journey?
22	Why do you think authors include different countries and cultures in stories?
23	How are people / places around the world different? How are they similar?
24	In Australia Grandma Betty said 'Crikey, that was hard yakka', what did she mean?
25	In Italy the crowd sang out, 'Mamma Mia', what did they mean?
26	If you could send Grandma Betty somewhere new, where would she go and what would she lift?
WRITING / AUTHOR CRAFT QUESTIONS	
1	Why do you think the author chose a grandma as the main character (the truth - lots of people expect that grandmas are not strong, but, the author saw some very strong grandmas from around the world. Of course in real life, they couldn't lift cars, elephants or anything like that, but they were stronger than most people because they practised).
2	What words helped you imagine the actions? (look for verbs on pages e.g. shuffled, slithered, huffed, puffed, swayed like a seesaw).
3	How did the author or illustrator surprise readers?
4	Why do you think the author chose to end the story this way instead of having Grandma Betty lift the trophy by herself?
CREATIVE EXTENSION	
1	Design Grandma Betty's next challenge? What would she lift?

2	What would Grandma Betty pack in her suitcase?
3	Invent a new training exercise for Grandma Betty.
4	Write a newspaper headline about Grandma Betty winning.
5	Draw what happens after the final page.