

Charlie Bumpers vs. the Really Nice Gnome

We've put together a list of vocabulary words – some for definition, some for spelling, some because they raise interesting questions – to go along with reading the book. Feel free to use all or some of our suggestions. (page numbers reflect the hardcover version)

Vocabulary:

P1 thespian

P3 squirmed

P3 obstacle course

P4 sorcerer

P4 script

P4 jiggling

P4 tingling

P5 assignment

P6 gnome

P7 ruined

P7 pudgy

P7 squishy

P7 bandage

P8 opposite

P8 practiced

P8 horrible

P9 trade (what it means; what it means in context)

P10 accident

P11 nightmare

P12 miniature

P13 scenes

P15 tubby

P17 special

P17 straightening

P18 stomped

P18 plopped

P18 Andromeda

P19 electrons (what it means; what it means in context)

P20 nebula

P21 destroying

P21 guilty

P22 argue

P22 leash

P23 whirled

P24 snuffled

P25 pretend
P26 squirrels
P26 gremlins
P26 opponents
P30 trotted

P34 squirming
P34 awesome (what it means; what it means in context)
P34 figured
P35 explained
P35 remind
P37 absolutely

P38 persistent
P39 peered
P40 quiver
P40 kingdom
P41 potion
P41 rescued
P41 pestering
P42 supposed
P43 appropriately

P45 responsible
P45 regarding
P45 assembling
P45 ignore
P46 imagine
P46 arresting
P46 set (what it means; what it means in context)
P46 props (what it means; what it means in context)
P46 offered
P47 all of a sudden
P48 experience

P51 grumpy
P51 crummy
P51 complain
P52 genius
P53 gulped
P53 straining
P54 whistled (what it means; what it means in context)

P57 wrinkled
P57 recited

P57 thrilling
P58 leafed
P59 decent
P61 session
P61 expression (what it means; what it means in context)
P62 suffers

P63 reached
P66 cracked (what it means; what it means in context)
P66 shirttail

P68 education
P70 patient
P71 hurtling
P71 whooshing
P71 clutched
P71 spotted
P72 brightened
P72 yelping
P72 howling
P73 underneath
P73 fortress
P73 bronco
P74 sailed (what it means; what it means in context)
P74 struggled
P74 screeched
P74 scampered
P74 scrambled
P75 bounded
P75 scurried
P76 disappeared
P77 complicated
P78 cooed

P80 propped
P80 recover
P80 interrupted
P81 desert
P81 managed
P82 official
P82 appreciated

P86 unfortunately
P87 cackled
P88 guffawed
P88 spoiling (what it means; what it means in context)

P90 control
P90 decided

P92 continents
P92 costumes
P93 starving
P94 scowls
P95 exactly
P95 barging
P97 fantastic
P97 followed
P98 apologize
P101 desperate

P103 magical
P103 questions
P103 complaints
P103 smoothly
P104 disgusted
P105 honestly
P107 motioned
P107 disappointed
P107 mumbled

P112 twisted
P113 zigzagged
P114 often
P116 sniffing
P116 wailed
P117 whimpered
P118 nuzzled
P120 lecture
P121 responsibility

P123 mesh
P123 chimed (what it means; what it means in context)
P124 drooped
P125 strict
P126 squinched
P127 electric
P127 terrorize
P128 radioactive
P128 paralyzes
P131 outfits

P133 break a leg

P134 container
P135 positions
P136 somersault

P141 applauded
P144 reattached

Random Questions:

Have you ever participated in play? What play did you do? Did you have a part or were you a stage hand like Charlie's friend Alex? If your class did "The Sorcerer's Castle" what part would you like to play? (The Sorcerer's Castle is not a real play, so you can't actually put it on unless you write the play yourself. And if you do, please send us a copy!)

In this book, Charlie and his brother Matt and sister Mabel get jobs at home. Do you have a job or jobs at your house? What do you have to do? Do your brother(s) or sister(s) have jobs? Do they have better jobs than you do?

In Chapter 4 Charlie tries to find someone to trade parts with. Did you think he did a good job? What else could he have done to find another part? Do you think anything he tried would have worked? Why or why not?

In Chapter 15 Charlie lets Mabel aka the Squid walk Ginger. Do you think this was a good idea? If you had been Charlie would you have let Mabel walk the dog? Why or why not?

In Chapter 16 Charlie gets some help from Matt and Mabel in support of his role of the Nice Gnome. What did you think when Matt gave Charlie the shoes and the gold spray paint? Did you know that Mabel was going to stand up and tell everyone that Charlie was the nice gnome? What would you have done if your little sister had done that? (If you don't have a little sister, pretend you do and imagine how you'd feel)

On the night of the play, Charlie does some pretty nice things (helping Dashawn, finding the rabbit, helping others with lines). Do you think Mrs. Burke knew this when she cast Charlie as the Nice Gnome? Why or why not?