



## **Marvellous Medicine Number Four**

Back in the kitchen once again, George, with Mr Kranky watching him anxiously, tipped half a pint of engine oil and some anti-freeze into the giant saucepan.

‘Boil it up again!’ cried Mr Kranky. ‘Boil it and stir it!’

George boiled it and stirred it.

‘You’ll never get it right,’ said Mrs Kranky. ‘Don’t forget you don’t just have to have the same things but you’ve got to have exactly the same *amounts* of those things. And how can you possibly do that?’

‘You keep out of this!’ cried Mr Kranky. ‘We’re doing fine! We’ve got it this time, you see if we haven’t!’

This was George’s Marvellous Medicine Number Four, and when it had boiled for a couple of minutes, George once again carried a cupful of it out into the yard. Mr Kranky ran after him. Mrs Kranky followed more slowly. ‘You’re going to have some mighty queer chickens around here if you go on like this,’ she said.

‘Dish it out, George!’ cried Mr Kranky. ‘Give a spoonful to that one over there!’ He pointed to a brown hen.

George knelt down and held out the spoon with the new medicine in it. ‘Chick-chick,’ he said. ‘Try

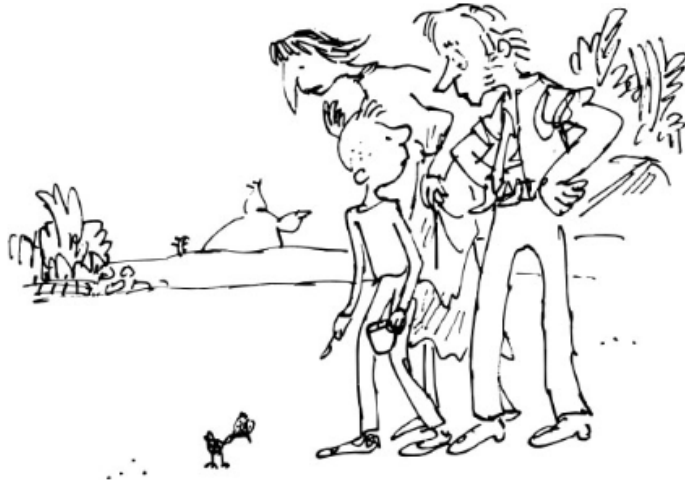
some of this.’

The brown hen walked over and looked at the spoon. Then it went *peck*.

‘*Owch!*’ it said. Then a funny whistling noise came out of its beak.

‘Watch it grow!’ shouted Mr Kranky.

‘Don’t be too sure,’ said Mrs Kranky. ‘Why is it whistling like that?’



hatched chick. It looked ridiculous.

‘Keep quiet, woman!’ cried Mr Kranky. ‘Give it a chance!’

They stood there staring at the brown hen.

‘It’s getting smaller,’ George said. ‘Look at it, Dad. It’s shrinking.’

And indeed it was. In less than a minute, the hen had shrunk so much it was no bigger than a new-

Task – answer the following questions:

1.) Who was making the medicine number four?

2.) Who was watching the making of the medicine?

3.) How did Mrs Kranky feel about George and Mr Kranky making the medicine (choose one option):

- Disappointed
- Excited
- Doubtful that it will work
- Scared

4.) What did they want to happen to the hen that they gave the medicine to, and what actually happened?

What did they want to happen to the hen?	What actually happened to the hen?

5.) Find and copy the phrase that says how the hen looked after the medicine was given.