

Billy and the Minpins – Word Meaning

Match each word to a synonym

entice
authority
ravenous
pursuit
curious
anxious
bulging

influence
chase
worried
tempt
swollen
interested
starving

Which word from the first list fits in each sentence?

Billy raced along the path with the creature in _____.

The stomach of the _____ creature rumbled with hunger.

Turning round, Billy stared with his eyes _____.

“Stop!” the Minpin shouted with _____.

Billy felt _____ and peeped inside the small window.

He put out his hand to _____ the timid bird closer.

Looking into the billowing smoke, Billy felt _____ about what was inside.

“Nobody knows,” Don Mini answered. “He makes so much steam and smoke you can never see him. If you are behind him, you can sometimes catch a glimpse of little bits of him because all the smoke is being blown out in the front. Some Minpins say they have seen his back legs, huge and black and very hairy, shaped like lions’ legs but tens times as big. And it is rumoured that his head is like an enormous crocodile’s head, with rows and rows and rows of sharp pointed teeth. But nobody really knows. mind you, he must have gigantic nose-holes to be able to blow out all that smoke.”

They stayed still, listening, and they could hear the Gruncher pawing the ground at the base of the tree with his giant hooves and snorting with greed.

“He smells you, “ Don Mini said. “He knows you aren’t far away. He’ll wait forever to get you now. He adores humans and he doesn’t catch them very often. Humans are like strawberries and cream to him. You see, for months he’s been living on a diet of Minpins, and a thousand Minpins is not even a snack for him. The brute is ravenous

Now try to answer these questions

1. Why can the rarely see the Gruncher?

2. Find and copy 3 words that describe the Gruncher's legs

3. What does the author say the Gruncher's head looks like?

4. Why do you think the author says there are **rows and rows and rows** of teeth?

5. Why does the author say he must have **gigantic nose holes**?

6. What do the Gruncher's feet look like?

7. What does the author mean when he says the Gruncher '**adores**' humans?

8. 'a thousand Minpins is not even a snack for him' Why is this true?

Now, using all the clues in the text, draw a picture of what you think a Gruncher looks like.