

# TRACTION MAN IS HERE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

**Context** - *Traction Man* was written by Mini Grey in 2005.

## Mini Grey

-Mini Grey is an author (writer) and illustrator (drawer) of children's books.



-She is British and was born in Newport, Wales in a Mini car – that is how she got her name!

-She has won lots of awards for her writing, for example the Kate Greenaway Medal for the best children's book, in 2006.

-She has written three *Traction Man* stories.

## Writing the Story

-Mini Grey wrote the story based on something that happened when she was teacher.



-A boy called Midge came up to her at playtime with his Action Man toy.

-He had dressed it in a green baby-suit, knitted by his grandma!

-She felt a bit sorry for the Action Man, and so she thought she would write a story about the adventures of an action hero toy!

## Summary - SPOILER ALERT!



The Traction Man toy is opened. He wears combat boots, battle pants, and a warfare shirt. He flies in a trainer towards the 'Planet Duvet.' The farm animals are being held captive by the 'Evil Pillows!' He jumps on the pillows wearing his rocket boots!



Traction Man is guarding some toast. He volunteers for a 'special mission.' He goes washing up! He dives into the foamy water of the sink. The 'Poisonous Dishcloth' tries to suffocate him, but he is saved by the 'Brave Scrubbing Brush.' He thanks the scrubbing brush.



Traction Man is out in the overgrown shrubbery (the garden). He is dressed in a bandana and camouflage vest. 'The Wicked Professor Spade' has buried the dollies up to their waist in mud! Traction Man ties up Professor Spade and saves the dolls.



Traction Man and his sidekick, Scrubbing Brush are at the 'Bottom of the Bath', when 'The Toes' appear and grab Scrubbing Brush. Traction Man tickles the foot to make The Toes let go of Scrubbing Brush. Traction Man then takes some photographs of the mysterious toes!



Traction Man and Scrubbing Brush are in the 'Intergalactic People Mover' (the car). They go to Granny's house. Everyone gets a present. Granny gets Traction Man a knitted green babysuit. When he tries to save 'Cupcake' from 'Doctor Sock', the villain laughs at Traction Man's suit.



The Spoons have crashed, and The Scrubbing Brush is about to get them. Traction Man unravels his suit to make rope, so Scrubbing Brush can be lowered down to save them. The Spoons give them medals (Hula Hoops).



Now Traction Man's green baby suit has become a pair of green trunks. He and Scrubbing Brush are wearing their medals whilst sunbathing. They know that they are ready for anything!

## Main Characters

### Traction Man

-Traction Man is the hero of the story! Throughout the story, Traction Man saves people and things from lots of evil villains.

-The reader knows that Traction Man is a toy - it is his owner who uses his imagination to think up the different stories that Traction Man is the hero of.



-Traction Man wears lots of interesting and macho costumes throughout the story. However, he must wear a green baby-suit after his owner's granny knits it for him!

### Scrubbing Brush

-Scrubbing Brush is Traction Man's loyal sidekick. He saves Traction Man from the 'Poisonous Dishcloth' at the beginning of the story.



### The Villains

-There are lots of different villains that Traction Man must defeat throughout the story. The boy uses his imagination to turn everyday objects into evil villains, including the 'Evil Pillows', the 'Scrubbing Brush' and the 'Wicked Professor Spade.'



**Themes** - A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

**Heroes** - A hero is someone who puts others before themselves. They often show tremendous courage and bravery. Traction Man is a hero because he often helps people and things from evil villains!



**Imagination** - Imagination is when we use our minds to think up new ideas - including stories and games. In this story, the boy uses his imagination to create new sidekicks, villains and problems, so that Traction Man can save the day!



## Writing Techniques

### Adjectives

'Special Mission'  
'Overgrown Shrubbbery'  
'Wicked Professor Spade'

### Exclamations

Ha Ha Ha!  
My Goodness!  
Oh No!

## Important Vocabulary

Hero	Bravery	Combat
Sidekick	Costume	Imagination
Villain	Toy	Inferring