



## Lonely Hearts



**Name:** Professor Grumpus

**Occupation:** Evil villain

**Age:** 55 years old

**Profile:**

Hi, where do I start? I suppose I should tell you about myself. I've known I was evil ever since I could walk. My first steps were towards my mother's ray-gun. I didn't get there, of course, but from that point, I was destined for greatness. Let's just say, the family cat didn't stick around once I could run!

One summer, I decided I'd had enough of my parents. It was only a matter of time before they found out my evil schemes, so I hatched a plan to destroy them. When I think back to the hours I spent in my hidden lair, under my cot, plotting their doom, I always smile. On some level, I suppose my mother must have known. She was always cleaning and tidying and saying what a little monster I was. My father even called me his partner-in-crime. The clues were there when I think about it.

I didn't destroy them in the end. They still live happily in a small cottage in Norfolk. I pop in whenever work allows. They are rather harmless in their old age, and my mother makes a cream tea as devilish as any of my schemes!

I really started my campaign to bring misery to the world in 2010 when I cancelled pancake day. Well, I say cancel. My arch-nemesis Captain Flabbypants was there to save the day, just like he always was. It was a close-run thing for a while. Those were the days.

Over the years, I've attempted many more fiendish campaigns. Each one has been designed to cause unhappiness around the world. Or to get rich. That's always good. Ever since Captain Flabbypants retired last year, things haven't been the same.

Maybe I'm jealous? He gets to spend his days sitting on the beach in Cornwall while I'm here trying to run an evil empire. Perhaps I just miss the chaos we would cause as we rampaged through the streets on one of our epic battles. It didn't matter that he won every time.

So, this is where you come in. I need somebody to step in and fill the Captain Flabbypants shaped void. Are you a virtuous, caring soul who'd sooner do the right thing than have fun? Do you know how to operate a standard-issue Light-Blast FreezeRay 3000? Can you fit into a size 60 cape (or do you know a good tailor)?

If you think you are worthy enough to take on one of the greatest criminal masterminds of all time (me), then get in touch. I can't wait to defeat you!

## VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. What does the word virtuous mean?
2. What does the word fiendish tell you about Professor Grumpus's plans?
3. Complete the sentence: Void is another word for \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Find a word that has a meaning closest to "moved without control"
5. Which word tells you that Professor Grumpus came up with a plan?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

- I** Why did the cat run away?
- S** What was the first evil thing he tried to do?
- R** How old is Professor Grumpus?
- S** Why can't he fight Captain Flabbypants any more?
- I** Why might they need a tailor?

Answers:

1. Good/honourable/does the right thing
2. They were evil/unimaginable
3. Hole/empty space
4. Rampaged
5. Hatched

I: It was scared of Professor Grumpus's pants

S: Grab his mother's ray-gun

R: 55 years old

S: Captain Flabbypants has retired

I: To alter the cape to fit themselves