From *Boy* by Roald Dahl

Her name was Mrs. Pratchett. She was a small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry. She never smiled. She never welcomes us when we went in, and the only times she spoke were when she said things like, ‘I’m watchin’ you so keep yer thievin’ fingers off them chocolates!’ Or ‘I don’t want you in ‘ere just to look around! Either you forks out or you gets out!’

But the most loathsome thing about Mrs. Pratchett was the filth that clung around her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked like they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day. And do not forget please that it was these very hands and fingers that she plunged into the sweet-jars when we asked for a pennyworth of Treacle Toffee or Wine Gums or Nut Clusters or whatever. There were precious few health laws in those days, and nobody, least of all Mrs. Pratchett, ever thought of using a little shovel for getting out the sweets as they do today.

The mere sight of her grimy right hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of a jar would have caused a starving tramp to go running from the shop. But not us. Sweets were our life-blood. We would have put up with far worse than that to get them. So we simply stood and watched in silence while this disgusting old woman stirred around inside the jars with her foul fingers.

1. Highlight all of the **words** and **phrases** that describe Mrs. Pratchett.
2. Find and copy **one word** that suggests the narrator hated Mrs. Pratchett.
3. Which **words** make us **think** that Mrs Pratchett **might not be clean**?
4. **What does** “she never welcomed us” **say** about her?
5. What **ideas** are we given about her **personality**?
6. How do we **feel** about **Mrs Pratchett**?
7. What **sort of a shopkeeper** would you expect her to be and **why**?
8. **Use the text** to draw a picture of Mrs. Pratchett. Label the picture, quoting from the text.