

# Evil penguin spotted in new trailer

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*Sinister*: The new Wallace & Gromit film, featuring evil penguin Feathers McGraw (above), centres around a crime wave of stolen garden goods, in which Wallace and his pre-programmed smart gnome, Norbot, are the main suspects.

**Do we love villains more than heroes? The internet has gone wild over the reappearance of a beloved animated baddy. Perhaps we see ourselves in nefarious evil-doers.**

## What's happening?

It was the day *Wallace & Gromit* fans had been waiting for. The teaser for the animated duo's new feature film *Vengeance Most Fowl* features explosive action and talking gnomes.

But one character in particular has excited fans: the evil penguin Feathers McGraw.

McGraw first appeared 31 years ago in the 1993 short film *The Wrong Trousers*. He has since become a firm favourite with fans. One X user called him "the greatest TV/movie villain of all time".

McGraw is a nasty piece of work. Yet fans are thrilled by his return.

## Find out more

Villains rank among the most popular characters in fiction. In recent years, famous film and comic book baddies such as Cruella de Vil, the Joker and Loki have been given their

## Some people say

"Nobody is a villain in their own story. We're all the heroes of our own stories."

**George R. R. Martin (1948 – ), American fantasy novelist**

*What do you think?*

## Six steps to discovery

### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Watch the clip from *The Wrong Trousers* below. Did you enjoy it?

### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: How is *Wallace and Gromit* animated? Who are the most popular villains from culture?

### 3. Investigate

own films and TV series.

Research has found that we tend to like characters that we can relate to. As science writer Jocelyn Solis-Moreira says: "fictional villains can allow us to privately explore a darker version of ourselves".

Yet for all our love of villains, we still tend to cheer on the heroes — and want their enemies to lose in the end. In most films, the hero gets the biggest billing.

## Do we love villains more than heroes?

### Some say

Yes! We know how the hero will act. But villains are unpredictable and leave us guessing about what comes next.

### Others think

No! Heroes can be richly complicated and sympathetic characters too.

**What are the facts?** - What is the frame rate for stop-motion animation? Choose a Wallace & Gromit film, find out its length, and based on this, work out how many frames were used to make the film.

**4. Construct**

**What is your point of view?** - You have stopped Feathers McGraw committing a crime. How would you punish him?

**5. Express**

**What do others believe?** - In groups, discuss what makes an interesting villain.

**6. Reflect**

**What might happen next?** - Design a labelled poster of your own super-villain, explaining their powers and characteristics.