



Bumps in the Night

It was the night before Christmas and Tim could not sleep. He was so excited to see what Father Christmas was going to bring. Would he get the racing bike he had seen in the shop last week? Or would he get the sticky, gooey alien that he begged Granny for? He could not wait to find out.

Q1: Write the missing word.

It was the night before Christmas and Tim could not _____.

Q2: What did Tim want for Christmas?

Tick **two**.

a racing bike

lots of sweets

a new game

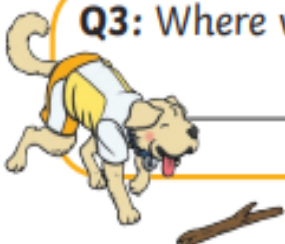
a sticky alien



Tim tossed and turned in his bed. He could not stop thinking about the amazing surprises in store for him. As he lay wide awake, he heard a strange noise coming from outside. The odd sound was coming from the roof.

Tim listened carefully. He could hear bells tinkling and heavy footsteps stomping along the roof. Tim held his breath. "Is that who I think it is?" he wondered.

Q3: Where were the noises coming from?



Q4: Find and copy **two** words which describe the noises Tim could hear.



As quietly as a mouse, Tim tiptoed out of his bedroom and half way down the stairs. He could hear crunching noises coming from the living room. "Who could be eating at this time of night?" thought Tim.

He rubbed his eyes and peered around the living room door. A tall man with a red suit and a bushy, white beard was standing in front of the Christmas tree, munching on a mince pie.

Q5: Who do you think the man is that Tim saw?

Why do you think that?



Q6: What do you think Tim did next?





Bumps in the Night Answers

Q1: Write the missing word.

It was the night before Christmas and Tim could not **sleep**.

Q2: What did Tim want for Christmas?

Tick **two**.

a racing bike

lots of sweets

a new game

a sticky alien

Q3: Where were the noises coming from?

Accept the answer 'the roof' only.

Q4: Find and copy **two** words which describe the noises Tim could hear.

Accept the answers 'strange' and 'odd' only.

Q5: Who do you think the man is that Tim saw?

Accept the answer 'Father Christmas' or any alternative name for him, e.g. Santa.

Why do you think that?

Accept any of the following pieces of evidence from the text used as a justification or any reasonable explanation, such as:

- **Because he was wearing a red suit.**
- **Because he had a white, bushy beard.**
- **Because it was Christmas Eve and that is when Father Christmas visits.**
- **Because the mince pie was left out for Santa and it was him eating it.**

Q6: What do you think Tim did next?

Accept any reasonable prediction based on the events of the text, such as:

- **I think that Tim sneaked back upstairs and pretended to be asleep.**
- **Tim might have gone to meet Father Christmas.**
- **Tim might have woken up his parents and said that Father Christmas was downstairs.**
- **Tim might have asked Father Christmas what his presents were.**

Ethel's Winter Wonderland



I was looking for somewhere good to hide from my brother and that's when I saw the run-down, eerie shed in Uncle Jack's overgrown garden. I slowly opened the door and stepped into the dimly lit space. My footsteps crunched in the thick layer of dust on the ground. There was only one thing in the shed and it was hidden beneath a large cloth. As I walked closer, I wondered if I should I peek beneath it or if I should turn around and find somewhere else to hide.

Q1: Tick **two** statements that are true.

- Ethel was playing hide and seek.
- Ethel went into her bedroom.
- There was lots of furniture in the shed.
- Ethel's footsteps made a crunching sound.

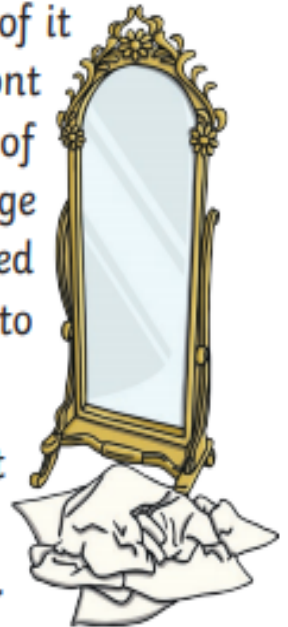


Q2: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Q3: Why do you think that Ethel was scared to peek beneath the cloth?



I touched the cloth carefully at first, before pulling the rest of it down onto the floor. A glorious, golden mirror stood in front of me. It had been carefully carved with beautiful patterns of trees and flowers. I don't know why but I suddenly had an urge to reach out and touch the glass. To my surprise, when I tried to touch it, my hand passed straight through the glass and into a mysterious space beyond.



"This is the perfect place to hide from my brother," I thought to myself as I stepped forwards into the mirror. The space seemed to go deeper and deeper as I stepped into the emptiness.

Q4: What did Ethel find beneath the cloth? **Circle** your answer.

a big cupboard

lots of tools

a wooden shed

a gold mirror



Q5: Find and copy **two** words from the text which describe the mirror.



Q6: How do you think Ethel felt as she first stepped through the mirror?

Explain your answer.



Ethel's Winter Wonderland **Answers**



Q1: Tick **two** statements that are true.

- Ethel was playing hide and seek.**
- Ethel went into her bedroom.
- There was lots of furniture in the shed.
- Ethel's footsteps made a crunching sound.**

Q2: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Accept any answer which says that Ethel could see one thing hidden beneath a large, dirty cloth, e.g.

- **She could only see something big hidden beneath a cloth.**

Q3: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Accept answers which infer that Ethel may have been scared to look beneath the cloth because she did not know what was under it and it could have been something unpleasant, e.g.

- **Ethel was scared because she didn't know what she might find and it could have been something she didn't like.**

Q4: What did Ethel find beneath the cloth? **Circle** your answer.

a big cupboard

lots of tools

a wooden shed

a gold mirror

Q5: Find and copy **two** words from the text which describe the mirror.

Accept the adjectives 'glorious' and 'golden' only.

Q6: How do you think Ethel felt as she first stepped through the mirror?
Explain your answer.

Accept answers which infer that Ethel felt excited that she had found such a good hiding spot, sneaky as she was hiding from her brother or nervous because you cannot normally step through a mirror, e.g.

- **I think Ethel felt excited because she knew that she had found a good place to hide and her brother would not find her in there.**



Forgetful Father Christmas

A large man in a red coat trudged through the snow. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" he laughed through his white beard, as he pulled himself onto the sleigh. "OK, Mrs Christmas! I'm off! See you on Christmas Day!"

"OK, dear, have fun!" a voice called back from a cosy looking cottage in the snow. "Did you remember to give Rudolph lots of carrots?"

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" the man laughed to himself. "Of course I gave Rudolph lots of ca... Oh, crackers. I forgot to give him lots of carrots!"

The large man walked over to his best reindeer. He was lying in the stables looking very weak.

Q1: Which of these statements is **not** true?

Tick **one**.

- The large man laughed.
- The large man had a red coat.
- The large man wore black boots.
- The large man had a white beard.



Q2: What did the man forget to do?

Q3: Why do you think that Rudolph was looking very weak?





The large man fed Rudolph lots of the finest carrots he could find. Soon, the reindeer was feeling better again.

"OK, Mrs Christmas!" the large man shouted again. "Here I go!"

"Go?" the voice called back from the cosy looking cottage. "I thought you had already gone!"

"Erm, yes," the large man shouted. "Well, I'm going now!"

"I see. Well, be careful and make sure you've got your keys," the voice called.

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" the large man laughed to himself. "Of course I've got my k... Oh, sugar plums. I've forgotten my keys."

Q4: What did the large man forget this time?

Circle **one** answer.

the cottage

some carrots

Mrs Christmas

his keys



Q5: Find and copy **one** adjective from the text which describes the carrots that the man gave to Rudolph.



Q6: Why did Mrs Christmas think that the man had already left?



Forgetful Father Christmas Answers



Q1: Which of these statements is **not** true? Tick one.

- The large man laughed.
- The large man had a red coat.
- The large man wore black boots.**
- The large man had a white beard.

Q2: What did the man forget to do?

Accept the answer 'give Rudolph lots of carrots' or any rewording thereof.

Q3: Why do you think that Rudolph was looking very weak?

Accept answers which discuss the fact that Rudolph was weak as the man had not given him any food for a while, such as:

- **He looked weak because the man had forgotten to feed him.**
- **He was weak because he had not had his carrots.**

Q4: What did the large man forget this time? Circle **one** answer.

the cottage

some carrots

Mrs Christmas

his keys

Q5: Find and copy **one** adjective from the text which describes the carrots that the man gave to Rudolph.

Accept the answer 'finest' only.

Q6: Why did Mrs Christmas think that the man had already left?

Accept answers that discuss the fact that the man was supposed to have left once before and did not tell her otherwise but needed to do something he had forgotten first, e.g.

- **She thought that he had left already because he had already said bye once.**
- **She didn't know that he was feeding Rudolph and hadn't left because she thought that he had already done it.**



The Clouds Are Falling Down

Henry was sitting in his classroom looking out of the window. School was so boring. He knew all of his numbers and how to add them up. He knew how to read books and he read them every day. Henry knew everything so he spent his days looking out of the classroom window.

Q1: Tick **one** word to finish off this sentence: Henry thought that school was...

fun

boring

exciting

cool



Q2: Circle **three** things that Henry already knew about.

playing

numbers

spelling

adding

reading

windows

Suddenly, Henry noticed something strange coming from the sky. First one speck, then two and then, more than he could count. The small, white flakes were falling from the sky and started covering up the playground floor.



"Mr Dull!" Henry shouted. "You need to look at this. I think the clouds are falling down!"

"Don't be so silly, Henry," replied Mr Dull.

Q3: What was Henry's teacher called?



Q4: Find and copy **two** words which describe the flakes falling from the sky.



“No, really,” insisted Henry. “The clouds are falling down. The playground is covered with them!” he said.

Mr Dull finally looked out of the window to see what Henry was talking about. The playground floor was covered smooth, white slush.

Mr Dull walked over to the classroom door. “Right, children,” he shouted. “Come with me. Let’s go and see if we can find out what is really on the playground floor.”



Q5: What do you think was really falling from the sky? Give a reason.



Q6: Number the sentences below to show the order they happen in.

The first one has been done for you.

- Mr Dull walked over to the classroom door.
- Henry noticed something strange coming from the sky.
- Mr Dull said “Don’t be so silly, Henry.”
- 1 Henry was sat in the classroom looking out of the window.
- Mr Dull finally looked out of the window.



The Clouds Are Falling Down **Answers**



Q1: Tick **one** word to finish off this sentence: Henry thought that school was...

fun

boring

exciting

cool

Q2: Circle **three** things that Henry already knew about.

playing

numbers

spelling

adding

reading

windows

Q3: What was Henry's teacher called?

Accept the answer 'Mr Dull' only.

Q4: Find and copy **two** words which describe the flakes falling from the sky.

Accept any two of the following:

• **strange**

• **small**

• **white**

Q5: What do you think was really falling from the sky? Give a reason.

Accept answers which infer that snow was falling from the sky, provided that a relevant justification from the text is provided in support, such as:

• **I think that snow was falling from the sky because the specks were small and white like snow.**

• **I think that it was snow because it said that the floor was covered in slush and that is what melting snow is sometimes described as.**

Q6: Number the sentences below to show the order they happen in.

The first one has been done for you.

⑤ Mr Dull walked over to the classroom door.

② Henry noticed something strange coming from the sky.

③ Mr Dull said "Don't be so silly, Henry."

① Henry was sat in the classroom looking out of the window.

④ Mr Dull finally looked out of the window.