

Abandoned

It was a dark, cold and eerie night. In the distance, the moon hid behind the misty, slate-grey clouds which cast strange shadows on the pavements below. As the wind brushed the trees, the fog gently rose to meet the night sky. Sam shivered as he slowly continued his walk towards the bottom of the lane. He was just passing Mr Horley's crooked, old house when he noticed a faint light flickering in the window. All of a sudden, he froze.

- 1) Which word means strange and ghostly? **eerie**
- 2) How was Sam feeling as he slowly walked towards the bottom of the lane?

The text states that Sam 'shivered' which suggests he was cold but could also suggest he was feeling nervous as the author describes the setting as 'cold and eerie'

Sam knew that no one had lived in the house for years. No one had lived there since Mr Horley went missing. No one had been back inside since that day. He had walked past the abandoned house every week for at least two years and there had never been anybody there before. Cautiously, he crouched down and pulled Toby closer to him so that he could get a better look. He could only see the light. It was some sort of lantern and someone inside was waving it back and forth as if they were signalling something. Unexpectedly, the lantern went out and he heard the loud sound of breaking glass ...

- 3) Why does the author use the ellipses (...) at the end of this paragraph? **To build suspense**
- 4) Why was the house abandoned? **Because Mr Horley went missing and no one had been back in there since that day.**

He ran faster than he ever had before. Sprinting and spluttering, Sam eventually found his way back to the comfort and safety of his home. As he turned around to catch his breath, his heart sank and his mouth dropped wide open. Where was Toby? "Toby! Where are you?" he screamed while his bulging eyes scanned the darkness

surrounding him. Sam fell to his knees and immediately threw his face into his hands. Tears streamed down his face. "I have to find him," he wept, "I have to get him back." The minutes felt like hours; the hours felt like days. Around him, everything whirled past but it was like his world had stopped moving. Through the misty skies everything seemed more upsetting. Sam couldn't stop worrying at the thought of Toby. Where could he be hiding?

- 5) How did Sam feel when he realised that Toby was missing? **'his heart sank'**
'Tears streamed down his face' and **'he wept'** suggest that Sam was really upset about losing Toby.
- 6) What made everything seem more upsetting? **The misty skies**

After searching all day but not having any luck, Sam retreated back home for dinner. Later that evening, he tiptoed out of his home, crept down the lane and back up to the derelict house. As he approached the dark, decrepit dwelling, he heard a crack and a snuffle. Nervously, Sam directed his torch over the shaking shrubs. He couldn't believe his eyes! Before he knew it, Toby excitedly galloped towards him, knocked him to the floor, and lovingly licked his face. "Oh Toby!" Sam said with sheer delight, "I am so pleased to have finally found you!"

- 7) Using the description in the text, what type of animal is Toby? How do you know? **A dog because the text says 'Toby excitedly galloped towards him, knocked him to the floor, and lovingly licked his face.'**

The pair gleefully galloped back home, eager to share the news with Sam's mother. Sam had never been so terrified, losing his very best friend was his ultimate nightmare. He had to keep reminding himself that they were reunited. With a sigh of relief, both Sam and Toby collapsed into bed and wrapped themselves in blankets. Smiling towards each other, they made a silent promise to never leave one another again.

- 8) What was Sam's ultimate nightmare? **losing his very best friend.**