

Lucy's Nightmare

In Lucy's attic bedroom it was still pitch black. But if she had been awake, she would have heard a strange sound – a skylark singing high in the darkness above the house. And if she had been standing in the garden, and looking up into the dark sky through binoculars, she might have seen the glowing, flickering body of the lark, far up there, catching the first rays of the sun, that peered at the bird from behind the world.

The lark's song showered down over the dark, dewy fields, over the roofs of the houses, and over the still, wet gardens. But in Lucy's bedroom it mingled with an even stranger sound, a strange, gasping whimper.

Lucy was having a nightmare. In her nightmare, somebody was climbing the creaky attic stairs towards her. Then, a hand tried the latch. It was a stiff latch. To open the door, you had to pull the door towards you before you pressed the latch. If you didn't know the trick, it was almost impossible to open the door. The hand in Lucy's nightmare did not seem to know the trick. The latch on the door clicked and rattled but stayed shut.

Then the latch gave a loud clack, and the door swung wide. On her pillow, Lucy became silent. She seemed to have stopped breathing.

For long seconds the bedroom was very dark, and completely silent, except for the faint singing of the skylark.

Then, in her dream, a hand was laid on Lucy's shoulder. She twisted her head and there, in her dream, saw a dreadful thing bending over her. At first, she thought it was a seal, staring at her with black, shining eyes. But how could it be a seal? It looked like a seal covered with black, shiny oil. A seal that had swum through an oil slick and climbed into her attic bedroom and now held her shoulder with its flipper.

But then she saw, on her shoulder, not a flipper but a human hand. And the hand, too, was slimed with black oil. Then Lucy suddenly knew this was not a seal but a girl, like herself, maybe a little bit younger. And the hand began to shake her, and the girl's face began to cry: 'Wake up! Oh, wake up! Oh, please wake up!'

She cried those words so loud it was almost a scream, and Lucy did wake up.

She sat up in bed, panting. What a horrible, peculiar dream. She pulled the bedclothes around her, and stared into the darkness towards the door. Was it open? She knew the door had been closed, as every night. But if the door was now open...

- 1 Read these statements about Lucy.

Tick (✓) **two** boxes that we know are **TRUE** from the passage.

She had a bedroom in the attic.

☐

She slept peacefully in her bed.

☐

She thought she saw a seal.

☐

She was lying awake in bed.

☐

She went into the garden.

☐

2 What made the girl in Lucy's nightmare look so dreadful?

..... [1]

3 How did Lucy know that the 'dreaded thing' was not a seal?

..... [1]

4 Why was it 'almost impossible' to open Lucy's bedroom door?

..... [1]

5 Was Lucy frightened when she woke up?
Tick (✓) **one** box.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Give a reason from the passage to support your answer.

..... [1]

6 What was it that stopped Lucy whimpering?

..... [1]

7 Do you feel sorry for the girl in Lucy's dream?
Tick (✓) **one** box:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Explain your answer in your own words. [2]

Words and phrases from the passage to support your explanation:

.....
..... [2]

8 Why would Lucy have needed binoculars to see the lark?

.....
..... [1]

- 9 The writer builds suspense by telling you what Lucy hears, sees and feels. Which do you think is the most important?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

Hearing ☐ Seeing ☐ Feeling (being touched) ☐

Explain your answer in your own words.

Explanation:

.....

Words and phrases from the passage to support your explanation:

..... [2]

- 10 Who is the point of view character in this story?

.....

Explain how you know.

..... [2]

- 11 The extract below describes part of the setting at the beginning of the story.

Look at the underlined words.

...the lark, far up there, catching the first rays of the sun, that peered at the bird from behind the world.

(a) Tick (✓) **two** boxes to show what techniques are being used here.

alliteration ☐

imagery ☐

metaphor ☐

simile ☐

personification ☐

[1]

(b) Explain what ideas you think are being described by the underlined words.

.....

.....

..... [2]

Q1. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences below.[4]

- a. My mum argued/insisted on lending me the money.
- b. She recommended/persuaded on taking the first flight home.
- c. I could finally encourage/persuade Megan to not it.
- d. He warned argued us to be careful.
- e. The doctor asked/recommended me to stop drinking coffee.
- f. I told/warned them to come with us.
- g. I encouraged/offered my boss to not leave the project.
- h. He denied/told that he was involved in the accident.

Q2. Choose the correct option for each gap below.[5]

promise admit advise regret suggest threaten agree
apologise deny refuse remind

- 1. "I will help you; I promise.", John _____ me.
- 2. "Shall we go to the concert?", Elvira _____ to the concert.
- 3. "I didn't break the window.", George _____ the window.
- 4. "I wish I hadn't got married.", Sam _____ married.
- 5. "I'll kill you!" A gangster _____ me.
- 6. "You should go to the doctor." She _____ to the doctor.
- 7. "I won't help you." He _____ me.
- 8. "I'm sorry that I was late." He _____ late.
- 9. "Jack, remember to set the alarm before you leave." Peter _____ the alarm before he left.
- 10. "I broke the window.", Rachel _____ the window.

Q3. Identify the simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, Onomatopoeia, Hyperbole.[12]

The morning sun yawned lazily as it stretched its golden arms across the sleepy town. The old oak tree stood like a vigilant guardian, its branches whispering secrets to the wind. A stubborn rooster crowed "cock-a-doodle-doo" loud enough to wake the heavens, shaking the quiet with its sharp, echoing call. The river, a silver ribbon of dreams, danced merrily under the sun's gaze, giggling as its waves kissed the rocks. Time seemed to crawl slower than a snail in the humid warmth, and the distant mountains wore cloaks of mist, as if hiding their mysteries. Children's laughter rang out, light and bubbly, as if the world itself was laughing with them. The streets bustled with life, a symphony of honks, chatter, and laughter blending into a chaotic harmony. The town, alive with sounds and sights, seemed to hold its breath in anticipation of another vibrant day.

Q4. Join the below sentences using conjunctions.[4]

1. She wanted to go to the beach. It started raining heavily.

2. He studied hard for the exam. He felt confident about the results.

3. I enjoy hiking in the mountains. I also love camping under the stars.

4. He didn't feel well this morning. He decided to go to work anyway.

Q5. Identify the sentence types below.[10]

1. I studied all night, yet I still didn't pass the test.

2. She went to the store after she finished her homework.

3. When the bell rings, we will start the meeting.
4. The sun sets in the evening.
5. The cat stretched lazily in the warm sun, its tail flicking back and forth as it rested on the windowsill.
6. He finished his work, and then he went home.
7. If you finish your meal, you can have dessert.
8. I wanted to go to the party, but I had too much homework.
9. I enjoy reading books.
10. Although I was tired, I stayed up late to finish the project.

Q6. Spot the use of informal language in the below paragraph.[10]

The event will take place on Friday at 10 AM in the conference room. Please be punctual and ensure that all necessary materials are prepared beforehand. We will discuss important topics related to the upcoming project, so it's crucial that everyone is well-prepared. By the way, did you hear about the new changes to the schedule? Some of us might have to adjust our plans. I'm sure it's going to be a bit chaotic at first, but we'll figure it out! Let me know if you have any questions. Also, if you need any help, just ask!

Q7.[6]

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. I am – | g. We have – |
| b. You are – | h. I would - |
| c. He is – | i. Would not - |
| d. We are – | j. Do not - |
| e. I have – | k. Cannot - |
| f. You would - | l. is not – |

13 Read this introduction to a story.

With one hand, I clasped hold of Daniel's small hand, and with the other, I used the large, brass knocker to announce our arrival. The sound echoed through the house and then there was silence again. We waited anxiously, with nervous anticipation. We had been sent to this large, craggy, old house, miles away from home, to stay for the weekend with our great-grandfather. We had never met the old man before but we had heard plenty of stories about him, and his strange house, from our mother. After what seemed an extraordinarily long time, the door slowly opened and there stood an old man.

Continue the story to describe **what happens** and **what is strange about the house**.

Ideas to help you:

Characters	There are at least 3 characters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel • the great-grandfather • the narrator, and...maybe others?
Setting	The great-grandfather's old house. Do the events happen anywhere else?
Plot	What adventures do the children have? Are they happy or sad at the end of the weekend when they have to go home?

Remember to include as much detail as you can in your story. It can be any genre that you like.

Content	[5]	Punctuation	[4]
Purpose and audience	[4]	Vocabulary	[3]
Text structure	[5]	Spelling	[4]
Sentence structure	[5]		