7+ HALLOWEEN COMPREHENSION SPECIAL

It was Halloween night, and the street was quiet. Ben and his sister, Lily, were walking home when they spotted a spooky old house at the end of the road.

The house looked different from all the others. Its windows were boarded up, the garden was full of weeds and a rusty gate hung open. At the top of the house stood a tall clocktower. The clock showed 11:47, but its hands never moved.



“Let’s go,” whispered Ben. “It looks creepy!”

Lily stopped beside the gate. “Look!” she said. A small brass sign was fixed to the gate. Although it was old and rusty, she could still read the words: KEEP TIME RUNNING.

Suddenly, the clocktower chimed. The sound was deep and strange, like a bell ringing underwater. Ben and Lily counted eleven chimes, then heard a twelfth!

A cold wind swept through the garden. The gate creaked open by itself.

“We’d better get home!” cried Ben. The children ran as fast as they could.

When they looked back, the house was dark and silent. The clocktower still showed 11:47.

But Lily was sure she had seen a shadow move behind the upstairs window.

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Section A: Multiple-choice questions

Choose one answer for each question.

1. Why did the house look different from the others?

A. It was brightly painted.

B. It had boarded-up windows and an overgrown garden.

C. It had a car parked outside.

D. It had lots of lights inside.

2. What time did the clocktower show?

A. 10:47

B. 11:47

C. 12:47

D. 11:57

3. How did the clocktower chime sound?

A. Soft and quiet.

B. Deep and strange.

C. Loud and happy.

D. Like a bird singing.

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4. What did the sign on the gate say?

A. KEEP TIME RUNNING.

B. GO AWAY.

C. WELCOME.

D. THIS WAY.

5. What did Ben and Lily do at the end?

A. They went inside the house.

B. They called the police.

C. They ran home.

D. They stayed and waited.

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Section B: Written-response questions

Answer in full sentences.

6. Find two things that make the house seem spooky. Explain how each one creates a spooky feeling.

7. Why do you think Lily stops when Ben wants to keep walking? Use evidence from the story.

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8. How does the writer show that the house is abandoned? Give two examples.

9. Why do you think the writer included the clocktower in the story? What does it add to the mystery?

10. How does the sound of the chimes make the story more exciting or frightening? Explain your answer.

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Answers

Section A: Multiple choice

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. C

Section B: Suggested answers

6. The windows are boarded up, which makes the house look neglected. The garden is full of weeds, suggesting that nobody looks after it. Other answers, such as the rusty gate or the dark windows, are also acceptable.

7. Lily is curious and wants to investigate the house. She notices the sign on the gate and wants to find out more about the strange place.

8. The windows are boarded up and the garden is full of weeds. The rusty gate and the dark house also suggest that nobody lives there.

9. The clocktower adds mystery because its hands never move from 11:47. The strange chimes make the reader wonder whether something unusual has happened in the house.

10. The deep, strange chimes create a frightening atmosphere. The children count twelve chimes instead of eleven, making the reader wonder why the clock is behaving strangely.

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