

The Bottom of the Stairs

Catherine had never been afraid of the dark. To her, the dark night was where adventures happened, where ogres fought each other in the forest, and where dragons flew through the blackened sky. She had never been afraid of the dark before, so why should she start being afraid now?



Catherine trod carefully, the air was becoming warm and wet as she descended into the basement. She arrived at the bottom of the stairs and a long, tiled corridor stretched out before her. At the end of the corridor was a door with a deep red glow shining through. “The dragon,” she said to herself, and crept towards the door.

Questions

1. What two adjectives describe the night and sky?

2. Describe the corridor in front of Catherine?

3. What was at the end of the corridor?

4. What are synonyms for the word 'crept'? Make a list of words you could use in this sentence in the text: "The dragon," she said to herself, and crept towards the door.

5. Find the question the writer asks in the story?

6. Why was there a deep red glow shining through the door?

7. Do you think the writer tells us Catherine is not afraid of the dark for a reason?

8. Choose two descriptions below to describe what this text type is.

website

romance

fiction

adventure story

information text

non-fiction

Answers

1. What two adjectives describe the night and sky?

Dark and blackened.

2. Describe the corridor in front of Catherine?

The corridor was long and tiled, stretching out before her.

3. What was at the end of the corridor?

A door with a deep, red glow shining through.

4. What are synonyms for the word 'crept'? Make a list of words you could use in this sentence in the text: "The dragon," she said to herself, and crept towards the door.

(The answers will vary depending on what the student finds in the thesaurus).

5. Find the question the writer asks in the story?

She had never been afraid of the dark before, so why should she start being afraid now?

6. Why was there a deep red glow shining through the door?

There was a fire behind the door. / There was a dragon behind the door breathing fire.

7. Do you think the writer tells us Catherine is not afraid of the dark for a reason?

Yes, so that we know she is usually brave./Yes, so we know she isn't usually afraid of things, so it must be really scary.

8. Choose two descriptions below to describe what this text type is.

Adventure/mystery/fiction

Questions

1. What two adjectives describe the air?

2. What did Catherine say to herself in the corridor?

3. How might Catherine have felt going down the stairs?

4. Why would Catherine need to creep towards the open door?

5. What question does the writer ask in the story?

6. Why might the writer have described a deep red glow shining through the door?

7. Do you think the writer tells us that Catherine is not afraid of the dark for a reason?

8. How would you describe this text type? Choose two descriptions.

website

romance

fiction

adventure story

information text

non-fiction

Answers

1. What two adjectives describe the air?

Warm and wet.

2. What did Catherine say to herself in the corridor?

The dragon.

3. How might Catherine have felt going down the stairs?

Nervous, afraid, scared.

4. Why would Catherine need to creep towards the open door?

She was worried/ nervous/ did not know what she might find.

5. What question does the writer ask in the story?

Why should she start being afraid of the dark now?

6. Why might the writer have described a deep red glow shining through the door?

To make the reader wonder what was on the other side of the door/ to make the reader want to read more.

7. Do you think the writer tells us that Catherine is not afraid of the dark for a reason?

Yes, so that we know she is usually brave/ Yes, so we know she isn't usually afraid of things, so it must be scary.

8. How would you describe this text type? Choose two descriptions.

Adventure/ mystery/ fiction

Questions

1. What does Catherine imagine happens in the dark?

2. Why might Catherine have been too hot in the basement?

3. How would you have felt going down the stairs into the basement?

4. Why would Catherine need to creep towards the open door?

5. In what part of the text does Catherine's journey begin?

6. Why might the writer have described a deep red glow shining through the door?

7. What do you think the writer wants us to understand about Catherine?

8. Do the dragons and ogres in this story make a link to any other type of story?

Answers

1. What does Catherine imagine happens in the dark?
She imagines that that is where adventures happen, where ogres fight in a forest and where dragons fly through the blackened sky.
2. Why might Catherine have been too hot in the basement?
There are no windows/ Basements are underground so it is stuffy.
3. How would you have felt going down the stairs into the basement?
Scared, fearful, apprehensive, anxious.
4. Why would Catherine need to creep towards the open door?
In case someone was there and heard her coming down the corridor.
5. In what part of the text does Catherine's journey begin?
At the end.
6. Why might the writer have described a deep red glow shining through the door?
To suggest there is something frightening there/ To make the reader wonder what it is.
7. What do you think the writer wants us to understand about Catherine?
That Catherine is brave and courageous.
8. Do the dragons and ogres in this story make a link to any other type of story?
Links with fairy tales and adventure stories.