

# THE HORRIFIC TALE OF GREAT UNCLE STILTON

4

## The Thirty-Nine Steps

## Looking at the text

To help you there is one question for each page of text

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

**LEARN:** you may already know some of these techniques that writers use.

**alliteration** repeating the **same sounds** at the beginning of words: We **found Fred's funny photos**.

**assonance** repeating similar vowel sounds e.g. the **sound resounded throughout the house**.

**rhetorical questions** questions for which no answer is required: "Do you think I'm stupid?"

**onomatopoeia** words that sound like the thing they describe: thud, plop, crash, bang, clatter

1. What did the swirling shapes that were left on her plate remind Sarah of?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where had Sarah probably heard the phrase, "Know Your Enemy"?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did Sarah feel she had to check every angle?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you think the writer puts the words, 'Gallery of Paintings' in inverted commas?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What reasons could you give for Gary rehearsing what he was going to say to Stilton?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Copy the **rhetorical question** after Gary decides not to say, "Prepare to die punk".

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Sarah wrote a concise message. Which word do you think is the best synonym for concise?

**saucy**

**short**

**selfish**

**succinct**

**spellbinding**

**stupid**

8. ' "Put the box in there and wait," Stilton said. He mumbled something about money and set off, with his stick, in the opposite direction.' **We have read this in another chapter.**

Why do you think the writer uses this exact repetition?

**A** To remind the reader that this has happened before.

**B** To suggest Stilton always does the same thing.

**C** To confirm Sarah's suspicions that Stilton is a creature of habit.

**D** To remind us that Stilton has a stick.

Circle the letter/s you think provide the best answers. **A B C D**

9. Gary struggles when talking to Stilton about his father. What do you think he should he have done or said?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the intended effect of the change in font - “Bloody delivery boys – come round here...”?
- 
11. After the description of Gary pedalling away there is an example of alliteration. Copy it accurately.
- 
12. Find the rhetorical question that Gary asks, shortly after he had run off. Copy it accurately.
- 
13. Sarah recalled the phrase, “Know Your Enemy” from school. What did Gary remember?
- 
- 
14. What simile is used to describe Sarah’s fear as Stilton ascends the steps? Copy it accurately.
- 
15. What happens to the sentences as Stilton reaches steps thirty eight and thirty nine? Why?
- 
- 
16. “He was thinking clearly now.” What did Gary do that suggested this was true? Why did he do it?
- 
- 
17. What single word tells us that Gary had begun to climb the stairs? \_\_\_\_\_
18. After Gary swears at Stilton there is an example of assonance. Copy the phrase, not the whole sentence.
- 

There is also an example of onomatopoeia on the same page. Copy the 3 onomatopoeic words

--	--	--

19. Gary decides to phone 999 because he considers the possible consequences of his actions. Find one word that is used instead of ‘future significance’ or ‘possible consequences’ \_\_\_\_\_
20. Why do you think Sarah laughed for the first time in ages?
- 
- 
21. In the sections belonging to Sarah you *might* have read that, ‘she telephoned her mother’. How is the same information expressed in the Gary ♥ Sarah section? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Why do you think Gary’s mother says, “Ee this is a bit sudden Gary.”
- 
- 

### EXTENSION WORK

**WRITING:** Remind yourself of alliteration, assonance, rhetorical questions and onomatopoeia. Make up some examples of your own. (4 or 5 each should help you to remember them)

**SPEAKING AND LISTENING:** Consider the following in pairs or groups of three.

- Is it ever ok to use ‘bad language? Was it ok for Gary to swear at Stilton? Give your reasons.
- Who was responsible for Stilton’s death? What punishments should be given?

Either discuss your ideas with the rest of your class group or write your conclusions.