

THE HORRIFIC TALE OF GREAT UNCLE STILTON

4

Grubberly Hall Looking at the text

ANSWERS IN RED

1. What two things made the entrance hall to the solicitors seem grand?

The beautiful tiles and marble columns, made the entrance hall seem grand.

PERHAPS ACCEPT The banister and the steps, (wrought-iron highly-polished wood AND little tiles)

2. In what ways had Sarah lost her appetite?

She had lost her appetite in three ways: for food, for conversation, for life in general.

3. How did Sarah try to reassure herself once she was in the solicitor's office? She tried to reassure herself by repeating what Lisa had told her, 'Everything will turn out for the best'

4. In your opinion, why didn't Major Cridling-Stilton open the letter he received straightaway?

THIS REQUIRES THE STUDENTS OPINION. ANSWERS THAT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

He usually received only bills. He was not used to receiving letters. He had no friends. He did not want another invite after what had happened ten years ago.

He was anxious, worried, apprehensive, nervous about who might want to contact him.

He was so shocked, surprised, amazed that he had received a letter.

5. Read the two pages of Major Cridling-Stilton's letter, then answer these questions

a) Who was he writing to? Garfield, Scribbler and Garfield / The solicitors

b) What date did he write it? 15th November.

c) How did he feel about Sarah's parent's accident? To some extent he was saddened by the accident but he thought they should have considered the risks they were taking.

d) Why had the solicitors written to him? Because he was her guardian and only living relative.
ACCEPT to inform him that he had to look after Sarah

e) What was the main point of his letter? To inform the solicitors that he would not look after Sarah. He had *no recollection of/denied* signing a form that would make him Sarah's guardian in the event of his nephew's death/his wife's death. He hated children – particularly girls.

6. How did Sarah feel about what the Solicitor told her?

She was sure Great Uncle Stilton would be a kind person but she didn't know him and didn't want to go and live miles away in the countryside, have to start a new school and be even lonelier than she was already. She thought the money he could provide her with and the care and love he would give her would never make up for the loss of her parents.

7. What colloquial word is used to describe the condition of Gary's bike? **good 'nick'**

8. What does Mr Moore mean by, 'a weekly grocery run.'?

Mr Moore offered Gary a job delivering groceries. He describes them as, "some basic provisions, tinned stuff mainly, porridge, that sort of thing."

9. "He followed the rapidly disappearing patterns..." Explain why they were *disappearing*.

The patterns, made by the tyres cars disappeared as **more snow fell and covered them.**

10. What were the first words that Stilton said to Sarah? **"GET UP GIRL!"**

ACCEPT "GET UP GIRL! No time to waste – earn your keep – long as you're here – things to be done. Start in the kitchen!"

11. What words and phrases suggest that Stilton either has very little money or is extremely miserly?

**no carpet on the floors, not even a threadbare rug walls were stark and bare.
one or two rectangular patches, where pictures had previously hung,
some kind of wallpaper. dark, dusty door. tarnished brass handle**

12. On the page beginning, "When I give an order," what words are used **instead of** the word, 'said'?

yelled menacing whisper uttered demanded
ACCEPT commands/speak/spoken

What is the effect of these words? **They create the impression that Stilton is loud, overbearing, threatening, forceful, imposing, powerful, nasty, horrible foul. The only word used to describe Sarah's speech is, uttered. ACCEPT out of order.**

13. In the last section Stilton demands something. What exactly did he want and why?

He demands that she call him, 'sir'. He probably wants this because he was used to being called 'sir' in the army. He thinks Sarah is less important than him and he wants to make that clear.

ACCEPT ALSO He wanted her to clean the kitchen.

EXTENSION WORK.

Imagine you were Sarah trying to make contact with Kelvin and Lisa Sharpe.

Write a letter explaining in detail what has happened to you. Say how you feel and what you would like them you do about it.

LOOK FOR writing that is lively and thoughtful and ideas that are often sustained and developed for the purpose of the alleged readers – Kelvin and Lisa Sharpe.

Are vocabulary choices adventurous and are words used for effect?

Or

Write it as a **short play**. It may just have 'one voice', being left on an answer phone or it might be a 'two-way conversation' between Sarah and Lisa and Kevin.

LOOK FOR writing that is lively and thoughtful and ideas that are often sustained and developed for the purpose of the alleged listeners – Kelvin and Lisa Sharpe. Are vocabulary choices adventurous and are words used for effect? Is the conversation adapted to the purpose? Does it develop ideas thoughtfully? Does it describe the events from this chapter? The text should convey 'Sarah's opinions clearly.