

THE HORRIFIC TALE OF GREAT UNCLE STILTON

4

"Auld Lang Syne"

Looking at the text

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

Date _____ Name _____

LEARN: you may already know these words.

repetition deliberately repeating a word, a phrase or more. (It can be an effective rhetorical strategy for achieving emphasis.)

synonym a substitute word. It is usually so similar that it means the same as another word e.g. **sad** is a synonym for **unhappy**. You can find synonyms on a PC by right clicking over a word then scrolling down to **synonyms >**. You will find even more if you use a **Thesaurus**.

1. Explain why Sarah tried not to think of anything negative before falling asleep.

2. "Sarah knew then that something was seriously wrong. She quickly made her way downstairs and was asked to sit on the couch."

This is a deliberate use of **repetition**. Where did these words occur before in this story?

3. We are told that, "they watched TV intently". What word is the best **synonym** for, 'intently'?

CIRCLE THE BEST SYNONYM **sheltered** **closely** **privately** **frequently**

4. What caused Sarah to panic when she was watching the news bulletin?

5. What **words and phrases** show how happy Sarah and Gary were?

6. What examples of **alliteration/assonance/onomatopoeia** are there as Sarah meets up with her parents?

7. 'taken aback' means to surprise someone. What surprised Sarah's father as they left the airport?

8. What does Mr Pounder call **Sarah** and **her mother** when he says, "She's all 'growed' up!"

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| Sarah | | Sarah's mother | |
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9. What single word describes the **silence** after Sarah had told her tale? _____

10. Explain why, "They all howled with laughter", when Mrs Knight said, "Say, 'cheese,' everybody!"

11. How would you explain the interaction between Sarah and her father? Why is she critical of him? What has changed since she met the Knights and the family has been reunited? How is their brief discussion resolved?

12. Sarah tells her mother how much she loves her, do you think that is an understandable reaction to what has happened or do you think this section is all a bit too ‘gushing’ and over emotional? Say why.

13. In many cultures **crows** are used to symbolise something – they are often seen as **an omen for death** OR for good fortune. They are used as a kind of **metaphor** here.
Now you’ve read the chapter, what do you think the crows that Sarah and Gary see might represent?

14. One social worker is described as ‘pompous’. What is the best **synonym** for ‘pompous’?

CIRCLE THE BEST SYNONYM **arrogant** **pope-like** **irritating** **unusual**

15. Explain in your own words why the social workers made an, “embarrassed exit”.

16. Mr Pounder uses ‘et cetera’ a Latin phrase meaning ‘and the rest’ Write the short version _____

17. There is an element of **repetition** from Chapter 1 on the last page. What two words are repeated?

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EXTENSION WORK –

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: When they are reunited, Sarah’s father says “Every ‘exit’ is an entrance to somewhere else,” Think about what that could mean. Discuss your ideas with a partner.

WRITING: write a story or a poem using the title, ‘EXITS AND ENTRANCES’

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: Discuss what you and your family might do with £1,000,000. Do you think it would mean you’d never have any more problems? Would you be happier? Etc.

WRITING: Write a story using the title, ‘GUESS WHAT? WE WON!’

RESEARCH: The title of this chapter is the title of a song. The opening line is a **rhetorical question** asking whether it is right to forget the old time. It is often sung at New Year and is about remembering long-standing friendships and family. FIND OUT **a)WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN, b)WHO WROTE IT, c)WHY IT IS WRITTEN USING WORDS MOST OF US CAN’T UNDERSTAND, d)WHAT ELSE THE POET WROTE.** Write your answers down in the form of notes.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: If you have done the **RESEARCH** you could report back to the rest of your group. **Give a PowerPoint presentation** or think of another way to keep people’s interest.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: The chapter ends with a question mark. What do you think might happen?