

THE HORRIFIC TALE OF GREAT UNCLE STILTON

4

Sarah's Dream (The Octagonal Room) Looking at the poem

ANSWERS IN RED

1. After we hear about Gary's dream the narrative suddenly changes to poetry. Why do you think this is?

It changes to poetry to give the impression that something different is happening.
To make it seem more surreal/dreamlike.

2. What word in the first verse of the poem suggests that Gary and Sarah could be dreaming similar things? Use speech marks to quote. " "

The first line, "Lost and deep in a cave made of wet weeds" is similar to Gary's dream of a beautiful girl floating "midway on the waves between a fountain and some caves."

3. Whose voice is calling, "Come on my princess..." in verse two? It is probably Sarah's father's voice

4. Why is the weeping girl singing in the third stanza? Use speech marks to quote.

She, is singing, "to feel braver and sings to feel stronger"

5. In the fourth verse, why do you think the girl/Sarah hears a tropical bird? THINK BACK TO CHAPTER ONE

She probably hears a tropical bird because she is thinking of her parents who crashed into the Amazon jungle.

6. What do you think is happening in the dream, in the fifth stanza when a, "warm hand" enfolds her" and "takes her" somewhere?

This image suggests that she imagines one of her parents is reaching out to her, looking after her, caring for her and taking her back to happier times when they were all together.

7. In verse 6 who do you think the three people might be?

Sarah	Sarah's mother	Sarah's father
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8. Try reading the poem aloud. You could read it in pairs or as a group of three. You could read it all together or read different sections each. Or just read it to yourself .SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE RHYTHM.

Now you should be able to answer this - **What happens to the poem in the last verse?**

The rhythm collapses/changes/alters at the end where, " night-eyes and bat-wings and the sheer horror that had become Sarah's life" come back to her. The writing here turns back to prose. It lets us know that Sarah's dream has ended abruptly and unpleasantly as the reality of her situation comes back to her.

9. What does, "It was 7:59" tell us?

It tells us that in one minute Stilton will be at the door/with breakfast.

This is an activity intended for those who prefer to express their ideas this way and perhaps want a break from reading/writing.

Write a poem that tells Gary's Dream.

It could be about a beautiful girl who he meets up with, who then disappears. It could be about his father's tragic death. It could be about Stilton. It could be a mixture of all three.

Write a letter Email or long text. Do you believe dreams have meanings? Some people do. Imagine Sarah is a friend of yours. Write a letter to her explaining what you think each part of her dream is about.

Write a story that involves two people having the same dream.

This can be assessed using usual criteria for Writing/Response to Reading.