

THE HORRIFIC TALE OF GREAT UNCLE STILTON

4



Christmas at the Knights

Looking at the text

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

Date _____ Name _____

LEARN: you may already know this technique that writers, artists and film-makers use.

metaphor *can be* a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is literally not in order to suggest a resemblance. If this sounds hard look at these examples:

‘The boxer had **fists of iron**’ – He wouldn’t be allowed to fight of that was true would he?

‘Her mum had a heart of gold’ – If her mum literally had a heart of gold she wouldn’t be alive!

metaphor *can also be* something used to represent something else. Think back to the rats in the Octagonal Room. **The large rat represented Stilton** (nasty and vicious). **The smaller rat could have been, ‘Sarah’** (seemingly beaten but managing to win by being clever). There’s a long metaphor in this chapter. A metaphor that is developed further is usually called an **Extended Metaphor**.

Extended Metaphors are sometimes referred to as **allegories**. (Modern allegories include the films *like The Lord of the Flies* and *Avatar* where the whole story is an extended metaphor.)

1. Why do you think the tea and biscuits were not touched?

2. How do we know that Wayne overheard Sarah whispering to Gary?

3. Do you think Clinton meant to say, “I like posh girls”? CIRCLE THE RIGHT ANSWER **YES** **NO**

4. What sort of a programme do you think, “Singing Praises” would be?

5. Stilton clearly wasn’t dead when the paramedics got to him. What story do you think he told them?

6. What two words describe Sarah’s mixed emotions?

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7. What two things helped Sarah feel positive?

8. There is a wonderful meal, some laughs and plenty of great presents. Everything seems cheerful. What usually happens in stories when things seem this happy?

9. How might Sarah have guessed that the presents had been originally intended for Mrs Knight?

10. Why do you think Gary says, “Ee, it is!?”

11. What does Sarah’s **mind** do that the **snow** might have done? _____

12. What do you think, 'skeleton staff' means?

CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER

minimum number of workers **bony workers** **maximum number of workers** **usual workers**

13. What reasons are given for Gary and Sarah's enjoyment of the film?

14. 'The Bridge' is an **extended metaphor**. Explain briefly what happens in the film.

15. How do you think this metaphor relates to the story? (re-read the definition at the top of the first worksheet)

16. What three words describe the social worker's voice?

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17. What do you think Gary was going to say when he spat out the words, "Why don't you..."

"Why don't you _____"

18. How long was Sarah going to be staying with the professional foster family? _____

19. What was Sarah thinking about when she was bundled into the back of a large, blue car?

20. Copy two phrases that suggest Sarah's experiences in the car with Stilton were not real.

EXTENSION WORK

WRITING: Have you ever felt mixed emotions like your answers to question 6? **Write a short story** with yourself as the main character. End it with, 'I was left with mixed emotions; sadness and relief.'

OR **Write a short dream sequence** without stating, "then I woke up and it was all a dream"

OR **Make up a list** of simple metaphors or find as many you can by looking on the internet.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: In Pairs - Have you or anyone you know ever 'Crossed a Bridge' – something that has changed your life in any way? If it isn't too personal **share your story** with someone.

In a Group - **tell the story** you were told as if it happened to you. Don't worry if the detail is not exact.