

# THE HORRIFIC TALE OF GREAT UNCLE STILTON

4

## Christmas at the Knights Looking at the text

### ANSWERS IN RED

**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?

**The tea and biscuits were not touched because everyone was too busy listening to Sarah and Gary’s story.**

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

We know that Wayne overheard Sarah whispering to Gary **because he responds, “It’s cos you’re posh!”**

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?

**“Singing Praises” would probably be a religious programme.**

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

**ACCEPT anything that does not incriminate Gary or Sarah and includes Stilton falling down the steep staircase that led to the tower at Grubberly Hall and Stilton living alone.**

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

**sadness**

**relief**

7. What two things helped Sarah feel positive?

The two things that helped Sarah feel positive were, **she had been welcomed by a very loving, warm family. She had her first real boyfriend** and he seemed just right for her.

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?

What usually happens in stories when things seem this happy is **something bad happens.**  
**Positive moves to negative** and vice versa

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

Sarah might have guessed that some presents were intended for Mrs Knight **because of the types of perfume and bubble baths. It is unlikely that they would have had the time to buy something just for Sarah.**

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

**Gary is having a joke at his mother’s expense by repeating, “Ee” the word she uses so often.**

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

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?

**The reasons given for Gary and Sarah's enjoyment of the film was strange, deep and personal: neither of them could express it. The reader might guess that they could identify with it.**

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

**ACCEPT ANY ANSWER** that includes

- it taking skill and courage to cross the bridge
- the women never crossing the bridge/the men all being expected to
- The boy and girl crossing the bridge and being honoured in the village.

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

**ACCEPT ANY ANSWER** that includes references to

- the two main characters in the film representing Gary and Sarah
- the bridge suggesting the challenges they have to overcome
- the expectations of the villagers regarding sexual stereotyping
- how they had to prove themselves
- references to a rite of passage and/or growing up into young adulthood
- how their tasks were difficult but finally attainable

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

<b>monotonous</b>	<b>nasal</b>	<b>twang</b>
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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** **ACCEPT ANY** answers that develop ideas thoughtfully, demonstrate an understanding of significant ideas that appear to be 'in character', using inference and deduction and writing that is lively, thoughtful and adventurous and words that are used for effect.

18. How long was Sarah going to be staying with the professional foster family? **about eight weeks**

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

**Sarah was thinking about Gary's family and wondering why Gary or his mum, or any of the family hadn't bothered to come and say goodbye.**

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

<b>ACCEPT ANY 2 OF THESE:</b>	<b>ALSO ACCEPT ANY 2 (FROM PREVIOUS PAGE):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• neck was so loose it didn't seem to want to hold his head in place properly</li><li>• blood running down his face</li><li>• laughing through his smashed up teeth</li><li>• a voice kept whispering in her ear</li><li>• Come on my princess, my princess my darling.</li><li>• Your mother and father can make those eyes dry</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• silvery-green hair</li><li>• in the throes of her own worst nightmare</li><li>• she had never heard him laugh</li></ul>

### **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.' **ASSESS, IF BRIEF IS MET, USING CRITERIA FOR WRITING**

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

**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.

**ASSESS, IF BRIEF IS MET, USING CRITERIA FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING**