

'The Graveyard Book' Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

💡 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. Look at the quote below:

'Wisps of night-time mist slithered and twined into the house...'

Which technique has the author used to describe the mist? Circle one:

Metaphor

Hyperbole

Personification

💡 2. Look at the various descriptions of Jack on p3-4. What impression do you get of his personality? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Appropriate answers, e.g. I think Jack is a man who takes pride in his work and in his appearance. The text suggests this by describing how his shoes were shiny in appearance and how he wouldn't let himself smile until the job was done.

3. What is the purpose of the ellipses towards the end of p.4?

It emphasises what the man Jack is about to do and it increases the suspense as you think you're going to read about a murder.

4. Which sense does Jack rely on to follow the baby?

His sense of smell

5. What is a 'sheath' (p.5)?

Something that you keep a knife/sword in as it protects the blade from becoming damaged and stops you hurting yourself on the blade

6. According to the text, why had the young boy been both his mother's delight and despair?

The text says that the boy was always wandering, climbing up things and getting into and out of things.

💡 7. Why do you think the child was hesitant as he stepped out of the house?

Appropriate answers, e.g. He would be hesitant because it is probably the first time he has gone anywhere without his parents. It is dark and cold and the fog might have worried him at first because he couldn't see clearly.



8. Give an example of something you might see as you looked towards the graveyard?

Choices from the text, e.g: Abandoned funeral chapel; iron doors padlocked; ivy growing up the spire; stones, tombs and vaults etc...

9. How does Mr Owen's opinion of the baby differ to that of Mrs Owens?

Mr Owens is not too keen on looking after the baby because he knows it is not from their world. He is anxious about what to do with it. Mrs Owens, on the other hand, is keen to look after him especially when he smiles at her and giggles.

10. How does the man Jack try to encourage the baby to make a noise in the graveyard?

He is calling out, "hello."

💡11. How does the caretaker manage to defeat Jack and get him to leave the graveyard? What does this tell you about his personality?

He manages to convince Jack that it must have been an animal that he heard making a similar noise to a baby. He leads him to the gates and tells him that he won't even remember the conversation they have had. This shows me that he is a quick-thinker and can easily detect if someone is lying/up to no good.

💡12. Why are the other members of the graveyard reluctant for Mr and Mrs Owens to keep the baby? What do you think they should do?

Appropriate answers (with relevant examples from the text): The others are concerned about how to feed the baby and where he would live. They struggle to see how he would manage to live in their world.

Part B - pupil's own opinion of the situation - with explanation.

