

'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. What is the man Jack wiping from the knife with his handkerchief?

Blood

2. How do we know that Jack has skills that are extraordinary?

The text says that the light wasn't important as he had 'other skills' and he is using his sense of smell to try to find the child, rather than his eyesight.

3. Where did Jack look for the child before leaving the house?

He went downstairs and looked in the bathroom, the kitchen, the airing cupboard and the downstairs hall.

4. What had the baby learnt about crying and how did it save his life?

The baby had learnt that if you cried when you came out of the cot, someone would come and put you back in. This had saved the baby's life tonight because he didn't cry when he landed on the floor and could escape silently.

5. How does the woman in the graveyard disguise herself from people looking in?

If people looked carefully they would only see moonlight, mist and shadow.

6. How do we know that Mrs Owens is tempted to keep the baby?

She comments on his smile and is happy to hear his giggling. When she sees the ghost of the baby's mother, it asks her to take care of the baby and she feels like it is her duty.

7. How is the ghost of the baby's mother different to the other ghosts that Mrs Owens usually sees?

The author describes it as a raw, flickering, startling shape, the grey colour of television static and full of emotion.

8. How did the man Jack show his frustration when the baby seemed to vanish?

He growled in the back of his throat, like a beast of prey, angry and frustrated.



9. What was Jack planning to do to the caretaker?

He had the knife out ready to kill him.

10. Why does Josiah Worthington think that Mrs Owens' idea is ridiculous?

He is uncertain how they would look after the baby as he is living and they are dead. He worries about how he will be fed etc. Josiah believes that Mrs Owens has a duty to the graveyard and not to the child.

💡 11. What do you think 'The Freedom of the Graveyard' is?

Appropriate answers, e.g. I think this means that the baby will be able to come and go as he pleases and that all the ghosts in the graveyard will become his family.

12. How does Silas offer to help?

He offers to be the baby's guardian.

