

CHAPTER 1

Through the undergrowth, in the dusky night sky, skulked a fierce nasty beast preparing to pounce on his unsuspecting prey. He believed he owned this territory. All creatures bowed down to his greatness – they cowered in his presence and acted upon his every purr.

Once he had terrorised all creatures great and small, he slithered back to his indulgent castle, scratched his talons upon the plush rug and curled up for his slumber to begin. His castle was like no other...risen high above the Earth suspended in thin air on a cloud. No expense had been spared on the quality of the furnishings, wooden and strong; extensive gardens provided exercise and shelter and the quality of the food was simply exquisite. From this position on the cloud he looked down on all the earthlings fighting for space on the tiny planet below. He basked in the heat of a spherical fire ball and watched the wonders of shooting stars and asteroids for entertainment. High above the sky he felt like the Ruler of the Universe.

What type of creature do you think is being described? Pick out words to help you?

What do think was keeping him warm?

Where is this creature?

In the sky		In the ocean		In his house		In the playground	
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What do you think the word **slithered** means?

What time of day is the story taking place?

In the morning		At dusk		At tea time		In the evening	
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How do you feel about this character so far? Why?

And then he woke up!

Kasper K. Itty was a cat and a fat one at that! A round, ginger fur ball that lived with his master, Old Rufus Rule, in a dusty cottage on the edge of a spooky wood. Daily, lazy Kasper mooched around the house, ignoring the mischievous mice and eating stale misshapen biscuits. Old Rufus rocked in his chair by the open fire watching a square box on the wall. Kasper was Rufus' only friend and he loved him dearly; unfortunately this love was not reciprocated. He allowed Kasper to wander each room of the house, looking for somewhere soft to sleep, which he did for at least ten hours each day.

What is the square box on the wall?

A cupboard		A fridge		A television		A picture	
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Do Kasper and Rufus like each other?

Yes	No
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Can you explain your reasons from the text above?

CHAPTER 3

Kasper stood still at the top of the steep steps leading to the unknown below. He waited for his eyes to become **accustomed** to the blackness around him. Kasper felt frightened - his heart was beating loudly in his chest and his long, orange fur stood on end in fear. Swallowing hard, he knew he had to move fast before Old Rufus caught him and foiled his crafty plan.

Down he went, slowly and for once in his safe life he threw caution to the wind and pounced down the stairs like a tiger; even though he had no idea what would greet him at the bottom of the staircase, but he had spent the last two years waiting and guessing and this was his chance and he was determined to take it! No matter how frightened he was! Suddenly behind him, the door at the top of the steps slammed shut and extinguished the light! Kasper was plunged into pitch blackness and he sat and waited, unable to do anything else.

Finally he heard a rasp and crackle of a struck match and saw Old Rufus' face lit by the slender candle held in his hand, the heavy thud of his feet echoed as he descended the steps. Kasper jumped into the unknown darkness and watched Old Rufus come closer. As he reached the floor, the secret of the hidden room was released to Kasper as the **candlelight bounced around the walls** of the cellar.

Why do you think Kasper had to move fast down the stairs?

Which two words describe how the match was lit in the cellar?

What does the word **accustomed** mean?

Feeling something		Get used to something		Feeling sad		Feeling lonely	
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What does this phrase mean '**candlelight bounced around the walls**'?

As Kasper hid in the darkness at the bottom of the stairs, write in the thought bubble below how he might be feeling? Can you also say your reasons why?

