The Curse of Cogston House

Reading Questions and Story Discussion Prompts

Answers

Note that some answers are provided as suggestions only. Some questions are designed to stimulate or invite pupils' discussion, predictions and opinions.

Slide 2
Pupils' responses may include reference to Jack appearing confident, using examples of words like 'strode', 'relishing', 'effortless' and 'eagerly' from the text.

Slide 3
Based on the description from the text, we would assume that Jack is the boy on the right as he is smiling and looking confident. Luca is the boy on the left who looks hesitant and unsure.

Slide 4
'...the watery evening sun above was being muscled out of position by ever-darkening shades of grey, layering over each other in the sky **like a collage**.'

Slide 5
'Undeterred' means to carry on despite encountering problems or setbacks.

Slide 6
Pupils may suggest that Jack is feeling pleased and excited about finding the house as it says he 'stood triumphantly' and 'his eyes swept the building as if they belonged to an ancient explorer who had just discovered a long-forgotten corner of the world.'

Slide 7
Pupils' impressions of the house may include that it looks old, abandoned and run-down due to the boarded-up windows and door. They may say it looks unsafe to enter, spooky or creepy.

Slide 8
Pupils may suggest that the words are written in italics as they are Luca's thoughts. He is also being sarcastic as, earlier in the text, it says 'No doubt, Jack would know some story about the place, and if he didn't, he'd be making one up anyway.'

Slide 9
crack and snap(ping)

Slide 10
Pupils' responses should make reference to the fact that Luca is feeling scared and anxious but feels that he has no choice but to follow Jack. Evidence for this includes the following: 'Inside Luca's head, a slow drumbeat was gathering momentum and a voice was screaming at him to turn around, yet his dry mouth barely let out a murmur in protest.'

Slide 11
Pupils' responses could include that the house was old/no one lived there anymore/it was abandoned and run-down.

Slide 12
decrepit

Slide 13
Pupils' own responses.

Slide 14
It is an adverb and helps to add to the personification of the chair, giving an impression of the chair as a skeleton and increasing the spooky atmosphere.

Slide 15
Saying that the portraits were 'watching' adds to the spooky atmosphere by making them seem as if they were alive.

Slide 16
Pupils' responses may vary.

Slide 17
'Traipsed' means to walk slowly or reluctantly.

Slide 18
Pupils' may suggest that it draws attention to the words and makes it seem more dramatic.

Slide 19
'thick blankets of dust clung to every item of furniture'

Slide 20
It is 10:31 which is also the time that Luca's watch stopped working.

Slide 21
huddled, stooped, bent, bowed, curved, humped, crouched

Slide 22
'With a sudden shiver', 'Despite no other signs of life'

Slide 23
An asterisk can be used to show a jump in time or something that is happening elsewhere at the same time.

Slide 24
'Eliza's face contorted from confusion into panic'

'Her arms appeared frozen by her sides but her hands began to visibly shake.'

'she whispered meekly'

'Whipping her body around from side to side, she spoke again, this time louder and more urgently.'

'She dived in and out of the nearest rooms'

'Frantically, Eliza screamed Alice's name again'

'fat tears forming in her eyes'

Slide 25
We are viewing the numbers from inside the clock.

Slide 26
It adds a pause and makes what happens next even more astonishing.

Slide 27
'A cramped feeling began to smother her **like a mass of vines and leaves wrapping around a tree trunk**.' Pupils' own ideas will vary.

Slide 28
The five short sentences help to break up the description and add tension and suspense to the story.

Slide 29
It draws out the sentence and helps to create a vivid description for the reader.

Slide 30
Pupils' responses will vary but may reference that she is stuck inside or has become part of the clock.

Slide 31
Pupils' own responses.

Slide 32
The details and description from the story matches what he can see inside the house.

Slide 33
Differences may include that Jack is confident and seems brave whereas Luca is hesitant and seems scared. Jack wants to continue exploring but Luca wants to leave.

Slide 34
Short sentences, one-line paragraphs, italics and capitals for emphasis, rhetorical question.

Slide 35
'While Luca stood listening'

Slide 36
'Trepidation' means fear or anxiety about what might happen so, here, Luca is feeling less scared as he's told himself that the story probably isn't true.

Slide 37
It breaks up the action of the story and adds to the tension and suspense.

Slide 38
That is the time that his watch stopped working and also the time that the clock stopped in the story.

Slide 39
A rhetorical question is a question that does not require a direct answer.

Slide 40
Pupils' responses will vary.

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