

Fair's Fair

There was a candle burning on a table in the hall and a smell of onions, gravy and roast beef.

"Anybody home?" called Jackson, up a grand staircase that lost itself in shadows.

"Home" came down an echo "Home - home - home!"

"I brung back your dog!"

"Dog - dog - dog!"

"I've got to be going now!"

"Now - now - now!"

"Well," said Jackson. "Somebody must be about. Somebody must have lit the candle. Maybe they've fallen asleep."

He began to look, first in one room, then in another, then in another. They were all dark and nobody answered when he called. He went upstairs, and the dog followed after, growling and whining all the way. There was a glimmer of light coming from under a door. Jackson knocked. No answer. He called. No answer. He turned the handle and went inside.

What a room! As long as a street, nearly, and tall and wide to match! Candles in silver candlesticks, pictures in gold frames, china plates on a shining table, roast beef on a sideboard and a roaring fire in the grate!

What a room! And there in a chair big enough for six, at the head of the table, with knife, fork and munching mouth, sat a small, thin, dirty, tattered, angry little girl!

"I brung back your dog," said Jackson, "miss."

She finished up what she was eating and put down her knife and fork.

"Not my dog," said she. "Too big, too black and too hungry for me."

"He had your key," said Jackson, eyeing the roast beef and watching the gravy. "Under his collar, miss."

"Not my key," said she. "Key of the house, that's all."

"Not your house then? How did you come here?"

"How did you come here?" Jackson told her.

"Same like me," she said. "Day before yesterday, just after dark."

"And you're still here?"

- 1 Why do you think the author describes the smell in the house?

1

2 marks

- 2 Use three of your own adjectives, or adjectival phrases, to describe the house that Jackson enters.

2

2 marks

- 3 What does the echo tell the reader about the house and how is personification used to develop this idea?

3

2 marks

- 4 What do these descriptions lead the reader to believe about the house?

4

2 marks

5

a) Why does the writer use short sentences?

Handwriting lines for question 5a.

b) In your opinion does this work? (refer to the text)

Handwriting lines for question 5b.

6

What does the description of the room tell us about the owner of the house?

Handwriting lines for question 6.

7

Why might the little girl be angry?

Handwriting lines for question 7.

8

What can you infer about the little girl's personality by the way she responds to Jackson's arrival? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Handwriting lines for question 8.

9

Find three examples of colloquial speech in this extract. Why is colloquial speech used?

Handwriting lines for question 9.

10

Why do Jackson and the little girl speak to each other in short sentences during this exchange? What does this tell us about their characters?

Handwriting lines for question 10.

Total marks

Box for total marks.

3 marks

Box for 3 marks.

10

2 marks

Box for 2 marks.

9

3 marks

Box for 3 marks.

8

2 marks

Box for 2 marks.

7

2 marks

Box for 2 marks.

6

2 marks

Box for 2 marks.

5b

1 mark

Box for 1 mark.

5a