

AF 2 Literal

1. How many times does the clock strike in paragraph two?

2. What time is it when this event happens?

3. Where is the grandfather clock standing when it strikes this strange and magical hour?

AF 4 Language

4. Find the word 'sullen' in paragraph one. Do you think this is a positive or a negative word?

5. Find the words 'imprisoned'. Can you spot a familiar word hidden inside? What do you think 'imprisoned' means?

6. Find the word 'proclaimed'. Does this word sound formal or informal to you?

Traditionally a proclamation was an official announcement that came from the royal court. Why do you think Philippa Pearce uses this word after the 13th strike?

7. Find the word 'muddling'. Why do you think Tom uses this word?

AF 3 Infer

8. Where is Tom when the clock strikes 13?

9. How do you know that Tom is becoming tired when the clock strikes nine and ten?

10. What word does Philippa Pearce use in paragraph three to prove that the 13th strike shocks Tom enough to wake his mind with a sharp jolt? Is this a fast or a slow action?

11. Apart from the clock striking, on a scale of 1- 10, how noisy do you think the house is at this time? Why?

11. Re-read the final part of the chapter. What does this suggest to you about Tom's character?

12. Why do you think the writer gives the house itself a voice? Do you like this idea? Why / why not?

AF7 Evaluative

13. Why do you think the clock has struck 13? What do you think Tom will find when he goes down the hall?

14. Where in Philippa Pearce's book do you think these events take place: start, middle or end? Why?

Bonus task:

Write 3 more questions about this text for your partner to answer.
