

Just then a funny thing happened. Little Billy began to hear somebody whispering in his ear. He knew exactly who it was. It was the Devil. The Devil always started whispering to him when he was especially bored.

"It would be easy," the Devil was whispering, "to climb out through that window. No one would see you. And in a jiffy you would be in the garden, and in another jiffy you would be through the front gate, and in yet another jiffy you would be exploring the marvellous Forest of Sin all by yourself. It is a super place. Do not believe one word of what your mother says about Whangdoodles and Hornswogglers and Snozzwangers and Vermicious Knids and the Terrible Bloodsuckling Toothplucking Stonechuckling Spittler. There are no such things."

"What *is* in there?" Little Billy whispered.

"Wild strawberries," the Devil whispered back. "The whole floor of the forest is carpeted with wild strawberries, every one of them luscious and red and juicy-ripe. Go and see for yourself."

These were the words the Devil whispered softly into Little Billy's ear on that sunny summer afternoon.

The next moment, Little Billy had opened the window and was climbing out.

In a jiffy he had dropped silently onto the flowerbed below.

In another jiffy he was out through the garden gate.

And in yet another jiffy he was standing on the very edge of the great big dark Forest of Sin!

He had made it! He had got there! And now the forest was all his to explore!

Was he nervous?

What?

Who said anything about being nervous?

Hornswogglers? Vermicious Knids? What sort of rubbish was that?

Little Billy hesitated.

"I'm not nervous," he said. "I'm not in the least bit nervous. Not me."

Very very slowly, he walked forward into the great forest. Giant trees were soon surrounding him on all sides and their branches made an almost solid roof high above his head, blotting out the sky. Here and there little shafts of sunlight shone through gaps in the roof. There was not a sound anywhere. It was like being among the dead men in an enormous empty green cathedral.

When he had ventured some distance into the forest, Little Billy stopped and stood quite still, listening. He could hear nothing. Nothing at all. There was absolute silence.

Or was there?

Hold on just one second.

What was that?

Little Billy flicked his head round and stared into the everlasting gloom and doom of the forest.

There it was again! There was no mistaking it this time.

From far away, there came a very faint whoozing whiffing noise, like a small gusty wind blowing through the trees.

Then it grew louder. Every second it was growing louder, and suddenly it was no longer a small wind, it was a fearsome swooshing whooshing whiffing snorting noise that sounded as though some gigantic creature was breathing heavily through its nose as it galloped towards him.

Little Billy turned and ran.

Little Billy ran faster than he had ever run in his life before. But the swooshing whooshing whiffing snorting noise was coming after him. Worse still, it was getting louder. This meant that the *thing*, the maker of the noise, the galloping creature, was getting closer. It was catching him up!

Run, Little Billy! Run run run!

He dodged around massive trees.

He skipped over roots and brambles.

He bent low to flash under boughs and bushes. He had wings on his feet he ran so fast. But still the fearsome swooshing whooshing whiffing snorting noise grew louder and louder as it came closer and closer.

Little Billy glanced back quickly over his shoulder, and now, in the distance, he saw a sight that froze his blood and made icicles in his veins.



The Minpins Part 2 by Roald Dahl

Date: _____

1. Who persuaded Billy to explore the Forest of Sin?

2. What did he say was in the forest to tempt Billy to go in?

3. Does the word 'jiffy' mean quick or slow?

4. When Billy first went into the forest, was it loud or quiet? How do you know?

_____ because _____

5. Using the information from the text, answer true or false.

	True	False
Billy was encouraged to go into the Forest of Sin.		
Billy quickly walked into the forest.		
Billy saw something that frightened him.		

6. Name three sounds the creature made.

7. Circle the word which is the name used to describe sounds.

verb

noun

adjective

onomatopoeia

8. What do you think happened after Billy saw the creature?

Extension activity.

Billy was scared because _____

Billy was being chased by a creature so _____

Billy said he wasn't nervous but _____
