

R5c. Can use clues from action, dialogue and description to interpret meaning

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Read the text extracts and answer the following questions:

The rats were the final straw. Kadeem discovered their nest underneath one of the loose (and now wet and rotting) floorboards in the bathroom. He yelled for mum, who tried to lure them out with some seriously pongy cheddar. It was an ingenious plan, except that it didn't work. So, my father, in all of his wisdom, decided to nail all of the floorboards down to prevent them from escaping.

That evening, Kadeem and I could not sleep. Kadeem, out of bed at this point, paced the floor restlessly. Something was keeping us awake, but we could not put our finger on it. Then we heard it, the scratching sound.

"Fiza," Kadeem whispered. "Do you hear something?"

I did – and the noise was getting louder. Scratching and scraping filled the air, resonating around the room. It appeared to be coming from beneath us. And then ... pandemonium. The floor started rattling, floorboards started pinging up, nails were flying and wood splintering.

1. How do you know that the decision to nail all of the floorboards down did not solve the problem?

‘You know I hate to criticise,’ said Alex who was, in fact, enjoying every syllable of his rant. ‘You are supposed to be an expert gardener, even if you are technically just an amateur. But just look at these carrots; they’re purple!’

‘They’re supposed to be purple,’ protested Prisha. ‘Apparently, almost all carrots were originally that colour, but growers noticed that some were orange, so they bred them that way.’

‘You call that an explanation! What did they do, cross-breed them with satsumas? Carrots are orange and always have been. You’ll be telling me that tomatoes aren’t really vegetables next!’

2. Look at the first paragraph. How can you tell that Alex is disappointed with Prisha?

There were hidden spaces I had never explored in the ancient caves, which smelt musty and unused, but I had returned to what was familiar to me. Stalactites hung from the extraordinary ceilings, artefacts were strewn across the uneven floor next to rock benches where people from a past time would have sat, maybe wondering how they would escape the caves when the tide came in. I sometimes allowed myself to become consumed by thoughts about those people and their relationship with the caves, but it was the artefacts that held the fascination for me.

3. How do you know that this is not the first time the character has been in the caves?

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Answers:

1.

- The rats came back at night/kept the children awake
- Scratching and scraping filled the air, meaning the rats were still there
- The floor started rattling, floorboards started pinging up, nails were flying and wood splintering (the rats were coming)

2. Alex says:

- 'You know I hate to criticise'
- 'You are supposed to be an expert gardener, even if you are technically just an amateur. But just look at these carrots; they're purple!'

3.

Parts of the text tell us that they have been there before

- there were hidden spaces I had never explored
- I had returned to what was familiar to me
- I sometimes allowed myself to be consumed by thoughts
- It was the artefacts that held the fascination for me