

Leather

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What do you think this story will be about?

For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.

Vocabulary

1. What does 'sinister' mean?
2. Give a synonym for 'lame' that fits this context.
3. Suggest a more formal way of expressing 'shushing'.
4. Define 'faltered'.
5. Suggest a synonym for 'resonated'.
6. What is an undertaker?
7. Define 'stalked'.
8. What does 'seethed' mean?
9. Suggest two synonyms for 'hurled'.
10. What is a noose?
11. What does 'inclined' mean, as in 'she inclined her head'?
12. Explain what 'perplexed' means.

Inference

1. Why doesn't Charlie tell his parents the truth about Miss Burrows?
2. Why do the children giggle when the doors start slamming?
3. Why do you think the young librarian called Lizzie came to work in the children's library in December and why has she now left?
4. What is the 'leather' mentioned in the title? Give evidence from the story for your answer.

Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'She could make a ghost story genuinely frightening!'*
What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the section ending, 'He bowed and ushered them out.'*
What do you think is going to happen at the end of the story?

Explain

1. What is the library event like, and why has it been arranged in this way? Pick out evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Why has Charlie given up coming to the library? Find the parts of the story that explain this.
3. Why does John want to hurt Eliza when he thinks he loves her?
4. Who else might have been responsible for Eliza's death?
5. What is the connection between the story told to the children and the end of this story?

Retrieval

1. What competition did the library run?
2. What is the name of the librarian Charlie hates?
3. What four things does the librarian accuse Charlie of doing to the books?
4. What is the senior librarian wearing?
5. What is the winning story in the competition about?
6. Who are the two people in the true story told to the children?
7. What does the boy in the story do which injures the girl?
8. What happens to the boy after he is hanged?
9. What is the name of the book the mysterious storyteller is carrying?
10. Who is the young lady being sought by the police?

Summarise

- Describe Miss Burrows in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.