

Krindlekrax

Ruskin Splinter has been on the trail of Krindlekrax – a monster that lives under his street. At last he has tracked the beast down.

A claw.

A gleaming, black, sharp claw.

Then another claw.

And another

Until a whole leg came to the surface.

A dark green, scaly leg, dripping with slime.

Then another claw.

A gleaming, black, sharp claw.

Then another.

Until a second dark green, scaly leg came to the surface.

Ruskin was so scared he couldn't move. He felt as if his feet were stuck to the toast. He wondered if the congealed butter had hardened round the soles of his boots, trapping him. Then he realized¹ he couldn't move his knees either, or his arms, or his neck, or even his eyes.

His eyes were wide open and staring at the head of Krindlekrax as it rose from the drain ...

Krindlekrax's mouth was wider than an open car bonnet and full of sharp teeth, each one the size of a new pencil. The teeth had once been white and healthy, but now they were rotten and discoloured, with slime trickling between the gums. Its breath was hot and smelt of toast and there were flies buzzing round its tongue and nostrils. Its eyes were red, as bright as traffic lights, and its nostrils flared and leaked green liquid.

More of Krindlekrax climbed out of the drain. Its belly was fat and dark, its back legs as claw sharp as the front, its tail long and pointed. It was the biggest thing Ruskin had ever seen.

Ruskin thought, It could swallow me whole!

And he wished he was back in bed, tucked up and safe, his lips sticky and warm with marmalade and tea. Krindlekrax started to sniff the toast.

Clack! went the jaws.

1 *realized* is the American spelling of 'realised'



Name: Class: Date:

1 What part of Krindlekrax is described first?
.....

2 Find and copy a word that shows how Ruskin was feeling.
.....

3 What is Krindlekrax climbing out of?
.....

4 Find and copy the phrases that show how big Krindlekrax’s mouth is.
.....
.....

5 Fill in this table to show what colour these parts of Krindlekrax’s body are.

claws	
legs	
eyes	

6 What did Krindlekrax’s breath smell of?
.....

7 What does the author compare Krindlekrax’s eyes to?
.....

8 Why do you think Ruskin wished he was back in bed?
.....

9 Look at the paragraph beginning “*Krindlekrax’s mouth was wider ...*”.
What impression do you get of Krindlekrax?
.....
.....

10 Look at the opening from “*A claw.*” to “*... came to the surface*”. What techniques has the author used to build up tension? Tick **two**.
 description repetition action short sentences