

Charlie Bone and the Time Twister

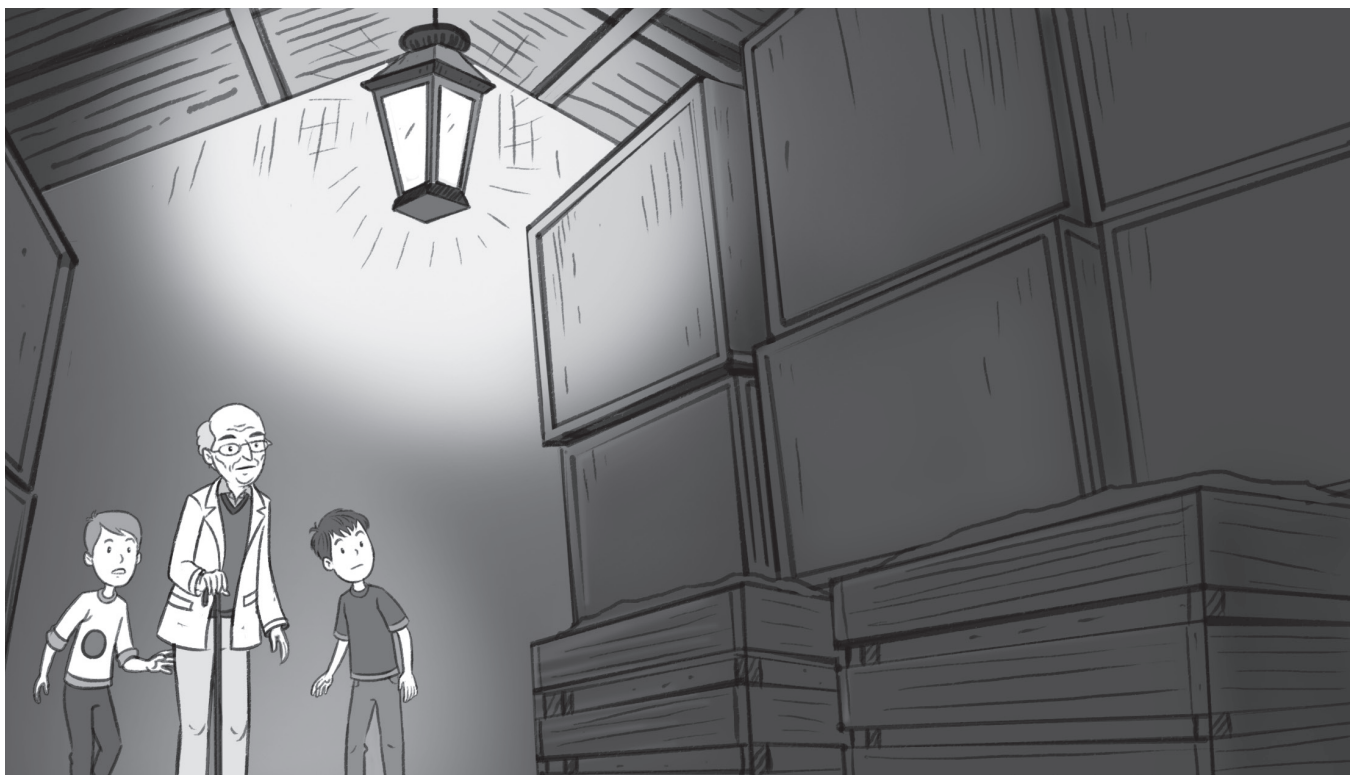
Fidelio and Charlie followed Mr Onimous to the back of the counter. They walked through a tinkling bead screen and into the kitchen.

Mr Onimous showed them to a small door at the back of the kitchen, and then they were in a long passage lined with shelves of disgusting-looking pet food.

“Come along,” urged Mr Onimous as the boys gazed around them.

The shelves came to an end and the passage narrowed. They were now walking on a rough stone floor and this very soon became a path of hard earth. As Mr Onimous scurried along he seemed more and more to take on the appearance of a mole or some other burrowing creature.

Charlie realized¹ that the ceiling was now so low he could rest the flat of his hand on its damp surface. It was getting darker. When the light had almost petered out, they stepped into a small round cavern. It was lit by a single lantern hanging from the ceiling, and all around the walls, huge tea chests stood shoulder to shoulder with plastic sacks and wooden crates. There seemed to be no way out except the way they had come.



1 *realized* is the American spelling of ‘realised’

“Now what?” Fidelio whispered to Charlie.

Mr Onimous had ears as sharp as a rabbit’s. “Aha!” he said, making both boys jump nervously. “You’re wondering where it is, aren’t you? You think Mr Onimous has led you into a nasty trap, don’t you?”

Charlie gulped, “Course not.”

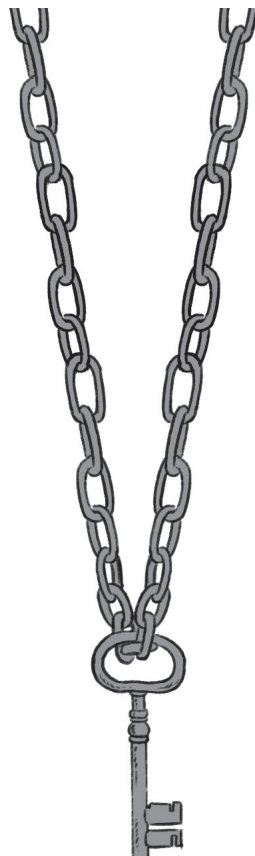
Fidelio asked, “Where what is?”

Mr Onimous beamed and then, with amazing speed, he spun a crate away from the wall. And there it was! A very small and ancient door. The little man’s smile disappeared. His next words were spoken in such a solemn tone, Charlie would never forget them. “Before you go in, I want you boys to swear never to tell a soul about this door.”

“I swear,” said Charlie.

“I swear,” Fidelio repeated gravely.

Mr Onimous nodded. “Good.” He reached inside his woolly shirt and pulled out a small key on a gold chain. Putting a claw-like hand on the door, he fitted the key into the lock and gently turned it. With a light creak, the door swung open.



Name: Class: Date:

1 Who did Fidelio and Charlie follow to the back of the counter?

.....

2 Tick **three** things that you are told about the long passage.

There is a tinkling bead screen.

There are plastic sacks.

It is lined with shelves of pet food.

There is a rough stone floor.

There are huge tea chests.

The floor becomes a path of hard earth.

3 What animal is Mr Onymous compared to as he scurries along the passage?

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4 When they stepped into the small round cavern, what was it lit by?

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5 Read the text starting from “*When the light had almost petered out ...*” to “*... except the way they had come.*”

What impression do you get of the cavern? Write down **two** points.

.....

.....

6 When they were in the cavern, the boys jumped “*nervously*”.

Why do you think they were nervous?

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7 Why do you think Mr Onymous didn’t want the boys to tell anyone about the door?

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8 Why do you think Mr Onymous keeps the key inside his shirt on a gold chain?

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9 Do you like Mr Onymous?

Yes No

Explain your answer giving examples from the story.

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10 How do you think Fidelio and Charlie are feeling as they reach the end of the passage?
Explain fully, using evidence from the text in your answer.

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