

The Tear Thief

The Tear Thief has arrived in town. Who is she and what is she doing there?

Late one evening, the Tear Thief crept into a town. The Tear Thief was invisible and carried a silvery waterproof sack on her back. Only if you happened to look into a puddle as she was passing could you see what the Tear Thief looked like, because a puddle was the one thing that showed her reflection. The Tear Thief had short, spiky white hair and big grey eyes. She wore a handkerchief dress and silk slippers that made no sound as she walked.

The Tear Thief came to a quiet road with a neat row of houses and flew into a tall tree for a good look and a listen. It was the hour between supper and bedtime. All the curtained windows were flushed with light and enticing smells of soup and stew and pasta and onions (the Tear Thief's favourite) and rhubarb crumble were drifting up and away into the deepening dusk. The Tear Thief listened hard with sharp ears.

“Boo-hoo-hoo!”

A child was crying.

The Tear Thief jumped lightly from the top of the tree onto the roof of the first house. She crept along the rooftops, silent as smoke, listening, listening, until she heard the crying again.

“Boo-hoo-hoo!”

Ha! The crying was coming from Number 17. Quick as a blink, the Tear Thief slid down the chimney into the attic and pressed her ear to a floorboard.

“Boo! Boo-hoo! Boo-hoo-hoo!”

Down the stairs, sly as steam, sneaked the Tear Thief, onto the landing and into the bathroom. A boy was sitting in the bath crying his eyes out. His mother was kneeling by the side of the bathtub holding a pink bottle of strawberry shampoo.



Name: Class: Date:

1 What colour are the Tear Thief's eyes?

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2 What is the Tear Thief wearing?

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3 Find and copy a word that shows the Tear Thief cannot be seen.

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4 What is the Tear Thief's favourite food? Explain why you think this.

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5 Look at the paragraph beginning "*The Tear Thief jumped lightly ...*"
Find and copy a phrase that shows the Tear Thief cannot be heard when she moves.

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6 Look at the paragraph beginning "*Ha! The crying ...*"
Find and copy a phrase that suggests the Tear Thief moved quickly.

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7 How does the Tear Thief get into Number 17? Tick **one**.

through the door down the chimney down the stairs

8 Why do you think the Tear Thief wants to find out who is crying?

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9 Why do you think the boy is crying?

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10 "*sly as steam*"
What impression does this phrase give you of the Tear Thief?

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