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# Before Reading

1 Look at the pictures in the book. What kind of story is it?

- a  fantasy                      c  romance  
b  horror                         d  science fiction

2 Match the pictures with the words.

- a witch    b wizard    c goblin    d dwarf    e vampire    f giant



3 Can you see any of these characters in this book?  
Look at the pictures.

4  In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- Do you like fantasy books?
- What is your favourite fantasy book?
- Who is your favourite fantasy character?
- In what books can you find the characters in Exercise 2?

**5 Match the characters from the story with their descriptions.**



- 1  Hi! My name's Sarah. I've got red hair and I'm wearing a stripey jumper. Everybody is sad here but I'm not. I'm happy.
- 2  I'm the Lord of Tears. I'm tall and thin and I always wear black. I'm very unhappy and I want everybody to be unhappy, too. I hate laughter and happiness.
- 3  Hello. I'm Hilda and I'm a witch. But don't worry! I'm a good witch. I've got red hair. I'm wearing colourful clothes. And I've got a broom.
- 4  Hi, I'm Ben. I'm Sarah's best friend. I've got dark brown hair and I'm wearing a red T-shirt. I love playing my flute.

**6 Look at the pictures in the book and guess the answers to the questions.**

- a Who is the villain of the story?
- b What is the problem?
- c What must Sarah and Ben do to solve the problem?

2 ‘Mum,’ Sarah said to her mother. ‘Why does everybody look so sad? You and dad never smile. And when Ben and I laugh about something at school, Mr Hewitt gets angry and tells us to stop. Ben says that Mr Hewitt is grumpy’. That’s why he never laughs or smiles. But what about you and dad? Why do you never smile?’

Mrs Kent sighed. Why was Sarah always so happy and cheerful? She said: ‘Maybe there is nothing to smile about. Your father and I work very hard. We have no time for silly laughter. And why should Mr Hewitt smile? With thirty kids like you in class who talk all the time?’

Now Sarah sighed, too. She went to see her dad. ‘Dad,’ she said. ‘Why are you always so sad?’

‘I’m not sad, I’m just tired,’ he said.

‘But you never smile!’

‘What is there to smile about?’ he asked her.

And again Sarah sighed. Now she was starting to feel sad, too. ‘I’ll go and see Ben, he’ll cheer me up,’ she thought. Ben was her best friend. And he always made her smile.

## GLOSSARY

- **cheer me up:** make me happy
- **cheerful:** happy
- **grumpy:** cross and irritable
- **laughter:** laughing
- **sighed:** breathed out loudly because she was sad or cross

The next morning Sarah was walking to school when she saw Ben. 'Ben,' she shouted. 'I had a really strange dream last night.' 'Me too,' said Ben. 'But tell me your dream first.' 'Well,' said Sarah, 'it was a bit scary. There was a horrible man. He was dressed in black, and his head was like a skull. And he had huge empty eyes.' 'And big black tears were running out of his eyes and down his skull,' Ben added. 'And the skull was – hey...' Sarah shouted. 'How do you know that? How do you know what happened in my dream?' 'Because I had the same dream,' said Ben. 'Then the man said: "I am the Lord of Tears, and soon I will be the master of the world. Soon there will be no more laughter and no more smiles. Soon there will only be tears." And then I woke up.'



#### GLOSSARY

- **a bit:** (here) a little
- **scary:** frightening; that made her feel afraid
- **skull:** bones of the head



'I woke up when he said that, too,' said Sarah.

'But I also had another dream,' said Ben.

'And in that dream I heard a lovely voice. And it said:

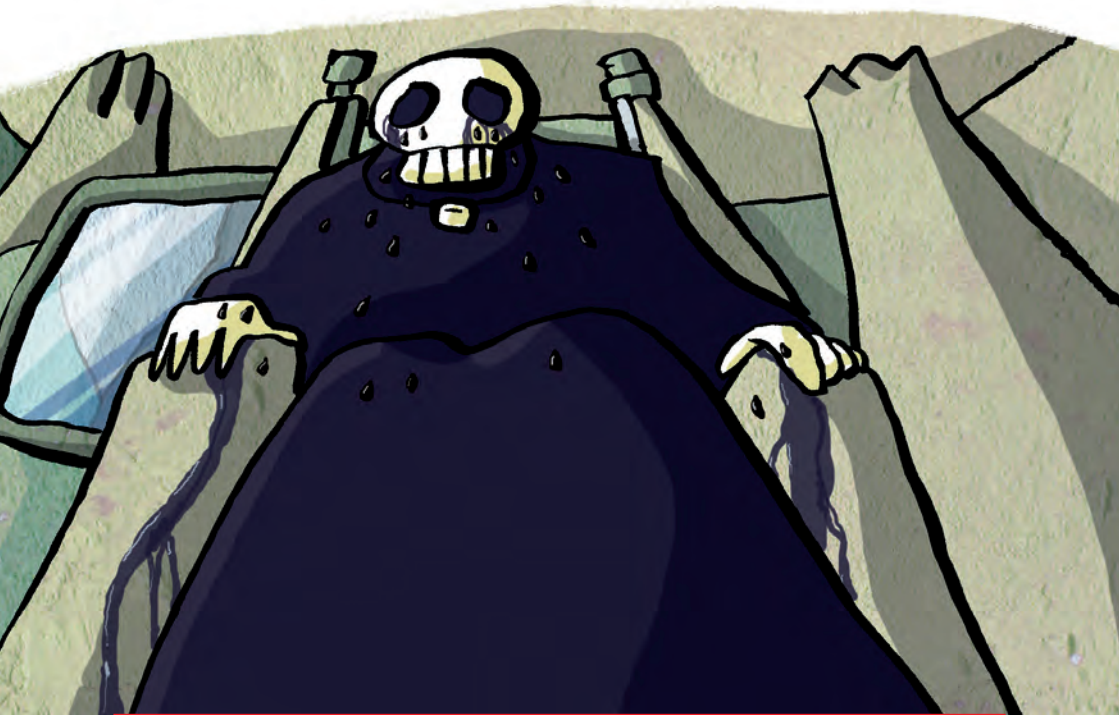
"Go and find the Lord of Tears. And take away the Mirror of Smiles."'

'I had that dream, too,' Sarah shouted.

'"Follow the setting sun. Bring back laughter and fun!"'

'The dream told us to go together and find the Lord of Tears,' Ben said.

'Yes, let's leave this evening, when the sun is setting,' said Sarah.



- **bring back:** make return
- **follow:** go after

- **setting:** (here) that is going down (in the evening)

Sarah and Ben packed some food, a warm jumper each and their flutes to play along the way. They walked and walked towards the setting sun. The sun went down and they walked on.

'I'm cold and hungry and I don't like this place,' said Ben.

'Let's stop and have something to eat,' said Sarah. 'And then I'll play you a tune on my flute to cheer you up.'

A little while later Sarah was playing her flute and Ben looked happy.

'Hey,' he said. 'Did you hear that?'

Sarah stopped playing. 'Hear what?' she asked.

'Someone is humming. But I can't see anyone. Keep playing and listen.'

And sure enough they could hear someone humming.

'Can you see who it is?' Ben asked Sarah.

'Hey, I'm up here. Look up, you two!'

The children looked up and saw a woman on a broom, flying over their heads.

'Hi,' she said, 'nice music. Oh, I'm Hilda, by the way.'

'Are you a witch?' asked Ben.

'Of course I'm a witch. Did you think I was a broom saleswoman?'

'Oh no, a witch!' said Sarah. She was frightened now.

'Don't worry, I'm a good witch,' explained Hilda.

'Maybe you can help us then,' said Sarah.

'We are looking for the Lord of Tears.'

## GLOSSARY

- **broom:** brush witches use to fly on (see illustration)
- **flutes:** long musical instruments (see illustration)
- **humming:** making a 'hum' sound to music
- **packed:** put in a bag
- **tune:** song

# After Reading

## 1 Complete the sentences with the correct names.

Tim Hilda Ben and Sarah (x2)  
The Lord of Tears Bill and Jill (x2)

- a ..... had a really strange dream.
- b ..... have to take the Mirror of Smiles.
- c ..... took Ben and Sarah on her broom to see the head witch.
- d ..... took Ben's flute.
- e ..... gave Ben and Sarah their boat to sail across the Sea of Sadness.
- f ..... took them to the Fortress of Fear.
- g ..... laughed until his skull broke.

## 2 Complete the sentences about the Lord of Tears with the adjectives below.

horrible empty frightened dark dangerous

- a Sarah and Ben dreamt about a ..... man. His name was the Lord of Tears.
- b The Lord of the Tears was very .....
- c He lived in a ..... stone fortress.
- d He had huge ..... eyes.
- e Everybody was ..... of the Lord of Tears.

## 3 Now make sentences about the story with the adjectives and nouns below.

Example: *Sarah's father is very tired because he works hard.*



<b>Adjectives</b>	good	tired	grumpy	pesky	lovely
<b>Nouns</b>	father	music	goblins	witch	voice