

The Vacuum Cleaner – Page 1: Questions

Look at paragraph 1, beginning: *Sophie heard a very weird noise...*

- 1) What did Sophie do when she heard the **very weird noise**? (1 mark)
(Tick **one**):

- a) She cried.
- b) She picked her nose.
- c) She ran away.
- d) She stood still.**
- e) She shouted for her mum.

- 2) What had Sophie been doing for most of the last thirty minutes? (Tick **one**): (1 mark)

- a) Her homework.
- b) Sleeping.
- c) Thinking about her dad.
- d) Playing.**
- e) The washing up.

- 3) How do you know that Sophie's ball was a little bit damaged? (1 mark)

It is described as battered.

- 4) Could Sophie see into the kitchen from the hallway where she was standing still? Explain how you can tell. (2 marks)

- i) No she could not.**
- ii) The text says: the closed kitchen door.**

- 5) Find and copy a **short phrase** which tells us that Sophie's ball suddenly *lost all its energy*. (1 mark)

running out of steam

(do not accept 'rolling to a gentle halt' – this is the effect not the cause.)

- 6) What colour was Sophie's ball? (Tick **one**): (1 mark)

- a) blue
- b) red
- c) white
- d) orange** (closest to tangerine)
- e) green

- 7) Find the phrase: ***like a dinosaur egg in a nest***. (1 mark)

This is an example of: (Tick **one**)

- a) Metaphor
- b) Punctuation
- c) Simile**
- d) Rhyme
- e) Apple pie

- 8) From what material was the hall carpet made? (1 mark)

wool

Now look at paragraph 2, beginning: *There it was again!*

- 9) What did the ***odd noise*** sound like to Sophie? (1 mark)

ia) something from the grumbling, greedy belly of a strange creature.

ib) a cross between a hungry grizzly bear cub and a giant food mixer.

10) Why do you think Sophie ***snapped her eyes tightly shut***? (2 marks)

- i) She was frightened by the noise.
- ii) She did not want to see what was making it.

11) What were the ***five pale sausages***? (1 mark)

The fingers of one of her hands.

12) How do you know that Sophie had started to sweat? (1 mark)

Little **beads of salty fear** began to appear on her clammy forehead.

13) Sophie's forehead was ***clammy***. What does this mean? (1 mark)

(Tick **one**)

- a) crusty
- b) green
- c) dry
- d) damp**
- e) rough

14) In the table below, there are **five** pairs of synonyms. (1 mark)

Each of the two synonyms in the pair is in a different column.

Draw a line between the two words in each of the five pairs.

You will need to draw **five** lines.

a) appear	e) course
b) complain	d) tremble
c) cub	a) arrive
d) shake	b) grumble
e) direction	c) baby

Now look at paragraph 3, beginning: *The sound was most peculiar...*

- 15) Find and copy **two** adjectives which describe the noise that Sophie heard. (2 marks)

peculiar, familiar

- 16) Find the phrase: ***something she could not quite put her finger on***. What does this phrase mean? (1 mark)

She could **not identify it exactly** – or **remember what it was**.

- 17) The noise made Sophie experience **two** different feelings. What were they? (2 marks)

Alarm and curiosity

Now look at paragraph 4, beginning: *Then, the memories flooded in...*

- 18) Sophie remembered her dad ***teetering on the stairs***. What does the word **teetering** mean: (Tick **one**) (1 mark)

- a) bouncing
- b) wobbling**
- c) dancing
- d) laughing
- e) cleaning

- 19) What was the ***enormous plastic snake*** that Dad had used? (1 mark)

The hose of his **vacuum cleaner**.

20) Find the phrase: ***the long grey wire which kept it prisoner.*** (1 mark)

The author wrote this just for effect – it's not really true.

This is an example of: (Tick **one**)

- a) Antonym
- b) Doughnut
- c) Simile
- d) Rhythm
- e) Metaphor**

21) Something used to make a howling noise when Dad cleaned. (1 mark)

What do you made this noise?

The vacuum cleaner

22) Sophie was sad because someone was no longer in her life. (1 mark)

Who was this person? (Tick **one**) :

- a) her brother
- b) her father**
- c) her sister
- d) her aunt
- e) her grandfather

Now look at paragraph 6, beginning: *Putting her sadness carefully...*

23) Why did Sophie wonder ***whether or not to open her eyes?*** (1 mark)

She couldn't decide if it was better to see the creature or hide from it.

24) What does the phrase ***concentrate on the moment*** mean? (1 mark)

Think about or concentrate on what is happening right now.

25) One of the following words does **not** describe how Sophie looked at the creature. Which is it? (Tick **one**) : (1 mark)

- a) glimpse
- b) glance
- c) peek
- d) stare**
- e) spy

Now look at paragraph 7, beginning: *Behind the faded green...*

26) At what was the creature behind the curtains looking? (1 mark)

Sophie's bouncy ball

27) Find and copy **one** word that tells you that it was a hunter. (1 mark)

predator

28) Write down two things about the creature's appearance. (2 marks)

- i) large, round predator's eyes**
- ii) long, flexible snout**

29) What noises did the creature make? (2 marks)

- i) growling**
- ii) a mechanical wheezing sound**

Total marks /35