

Name: _____

The Closet Creature

by Kelly Hashway

Bump! Bump! Scratch!

Adam opened his eyes and pulled the covers up to his chin. He stared around his room, searching the darkness for the thing that was making those scary sounds.

The closet door moved as something banged on it from the inside.

“Who’s there?” Adam asked in a shaky voice.

The closet slowly began to open. Adam jumped out of bed and ran to the closet door, slamming it shut with his palms. He grabbed his desk chair and propped it against the door handle. Then he ran out of his room and down the hall. His brother’s door was wide open, and Adam jumped onto David’s bed.

“Adam?” David asked in a groggy voice. “What are you doing in here?”

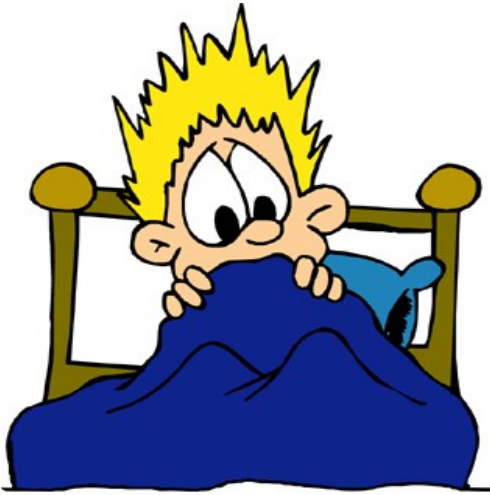
Adam tugged on David’s arm. “There’s something in my closet!”

“You probably had a bad dream. Go back to bed.”

Adam yanked the blankets off the bed. “It wasn’t a dream. I was awake, and the closet door started opening by itself!”

David sighed. “Fine. But when we don’t find anything, you have to promise to leave me alone for the rest of the night.”





Adam nodded. David reached into his desk drawer and pulled out a flashlight. Then they headed to Adam's room. Adam stopped in the doorway. He could hear something scratching his closet door.

"Do you hear that?" Adam asked.

David nodded. He walked over to Adam's bed and pulled the case off one of the pillows. He opened the pillowcase.

"You open the door very slowly, and I'll grab whatever it is."

Adam slid the chair to the side and pulled the closet door open a crack. Something banged against the door, trying to force it open. Adam took a deep breath and opened the door a few more inches. A small furry creature ran right into the pillowcase.

"I got it!" David said, closing the pillowcase and holding it in the air.

"What is it?" Adam moved closer as David peeked inside.

David put the pillowcase on the bed and an orange cat climbed out.

Adam scooped the cat up. "Apricot? How did you get trapped in my closet?"

David laughed. "The poor cat. If I was locked in your closet with your stinky shoes, I'd be banging on the door to get out, too!"

"Poor, Apricot," Adam said. "You were probably more scared than I was."

About the the Author

Kelly Hashway

Kelly Hashway is a children's book author. You may enjoy reading her latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, which will be available in Spring 2011.

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1. What happened right after David went into Adam's room?
- a. Adam jumped into David's bed.
 - b. David grabbed a flashlight from his desk drawer.
 - c. Adam awoke to strange sounds coming from his bedroom closet.
 - d. David heard the noise coming from Adam's closet.

2. What did David plan to do with the pillowcase?
- a. keep the creature from coming out of the closet
 - b. scare the creature in the closet
 - c. catch the creature in the closet
 - d. hit the creature in the closet

4. What was making the strange sounds in Adam's closet?

4. Write three adjectives that describe David. Tell why you chose each word.

_____ because _____

_____ because _____

_____ because _____

5. What type of story is this?

- a. tall tale
- b. non-fiction
- c. mystery
- d. fable

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ ___ o ___ ___ y

clue: sleepy

1. _____

2. ___ l ___ ___

clue: past tense of slide

2. _____

3. ___ ___ ___ m s

clue: inner surfaces of the hands

3. _____

4. ___ i ___ ___ ___ ___ a ___ ___

clue: soft bag for keeping a pillow clean

4. _____

5. ___ e ___ ___ e d

clue: went towards

5. _____

6. ___ ___ ___ i ___ o ___

clue: orange fruit

6. _____

7. ___ ___ e ___ e d

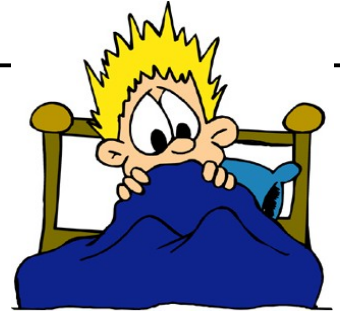
clue: took a quick look

7. _____

Name: _____

The Closet Creature

Parts of a Story



Characters: List the main characters and briefly describe them.

Setting: Tell where and when the story takes place. Be specific.

Problem: Describe the main character's problem.

Solution: Tell how the problem was solved, and how the story ended.

Personal Opinion: Tell whether or not you liked the story, and justify your opinion.

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Retell "The Closet Creature" from the cat's point-of-view.
Then, on a separate sheet of white paper, draw a picture to accompany your story.

ANSWER KEY

The Closet Creature

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1. What happened right after David went into Adam's room? **d**
- a. Adam jumped into David's bed.
 - b. David grabbed a flashlight from his desk drawer.
 - c. Adam awoke to strange sounds coming from his bedroom closet.
 - d. **David heard the noise coming from Adam's closet.**

2. What did David plan to do with the pillowcase? **c**
- a. keep the creature from coming out of the closet
 - b. scare the creature in the closet
 - c. **catch the creature in the closet**
 - d. hit the creature in the closet

4. What was making the strange sounds in Adam's closet?

They boys' cat, Apricot, was trapped in the closet.

4. Write three adjectives that describe David. Tell why you chose each word.

Answers will vary. Sample answers given.

brave because **he was willing to catch the creature in the closet**

annoyed because **he didn't like his brother waking him up in the middle of the night**

tired because **he spoke in a groggy voice and told his brother to go back to bed**

5. What type of story is this? **c**
- a. tall tale
 - b. non-fiction
 - c. **mystery**
 - d. fable

ANSWER KEY

The Closet Creature

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. g r o g g y

clue: sleepy

1. groggy

2. s l i d

clue: past tense of slide

2. slid

3. p a l m s

clue: inner surfaces of the hands

3. palms

4. p i l l o w c a s e

clue: soft bag for keeping a pillow clean

4. pillowcase

5. h e a d e d

clue: went towards

5. headed

6. a p r i c o t

clue: orange fruit

6. apricot

7. p e e k e d

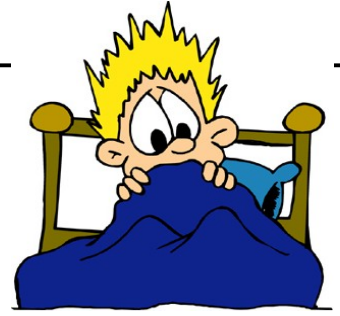
clue: took a quick look

7. peeked

ANSWER KEY

The Closet Creature

Parts of a Story



Characters: List the main characters and briefly describe them.

Adam - brother of David; scared of sounds in the night

David - brother of Adam; sleepy in this story; Brave

Setting: Tell where and when the story takes place. Be specific.

The story takes place at night, in David and Adam's bedrooms.

Problem: Describe the main character's problem.

Adam hears sounds coming from his closet. He sees the closet door opening and is afraid.

Solution: Tell how the problem was solved, and how the story ended.

David came into the room with a flashlight, he took Adam's pillowcase and used it to catch the creature. It turned out to be the family cat.

Personal Opinion: Tell whether or not you liked the story, and justify your opinion.

Answers will vary.