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After all, he wasn't very frightening. She had never seen anyone so thin or so anxious.

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He glanced over quickly at the door, and she saw his eyes, dark and wary, lit by a slant of lamplight from outside. 'Did you hear that?'

She stared at him. 'Hear what?'



'That... *Listen!*'

She listened. She heard the wind. The tick of the clock. And maybe a distant drift of sound, like a far-off cry.

The effect on the man was astonishing. He jumped up in panic. 'It's Them! I'm sure it's Them. Do you think we can lock the door?' He hurried over to it. But there was no key, so he opened it a slit and peered out. 'I can't see anything. It's so dark!'

He came back. Too agitated to sit, he paced up and down.

Such a tall man. Seren watched him, fascinated. His hands, clutching the parcel, were long and fine, like the hands of a prince in one of her books. Whatever he had in there must be precious; he held it so tight against himself the newspaper crackled.

No one came in. Only the wind whispered at the door. Seren wished the big red-faced stationmaster would come back but there was no sign of him.

Then, quite clearly, she heard it again. Nearer now. A strange cry, cold and sharp and angry. As if some arctic bird circled high in the frosty night.

**MONDAY**

# WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT...?

Train waiting rooms



Being polite



Feeling worried



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# VOCABULARY

**Restless – unable to settle because of being concerned.**



**Anxious – worried.**



**Wary- suspicious or untrusting.**



**Agitated- upset by something.**



**Precious- very important or special.**



**What other words were unfamiliar?**

**Let's use a dictionary or thesaurus to define them.**

**Can you see any clues within the word to help us work out what they mean?**

# **SUMMARISE**

**Can you summarise what happened in this extract in five sentences?**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**TUESDAY**

# DO NOW

Choose the correct word for each sentence:

**wary, anxious, precious**

She had never seen anyone so thin or so \_\_\_\_\_.

Whatever he had in there must be \_\_\_\_\_.

She saw his eyes, dark and \_\_\_\_\_ , lit by a slant of lamplight from outside.



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# **RETRIEVAL QUESTIONS**

**WHAT DO THESE MEAN AGAIN?**

**HOW CAN WE ANSWER THEM?**

## **Stage 1**

1. Why did Seren say hello to the man?
2. What was the man holding?
3. What was burning in the fire?
4. What did the man's hands remind Seren of?
5. Why couldn't they lock the door?
6. What did the station master look like?
7. What did Seren think the cry sounded like?



### **Challenge:**

**What was Seren doing that shows that she was scared of the man at first?**

**WEDNESDAY**

# **DO NOW**

- 1. Find and copy one word in the third paragraph which means to speak very quietly.**
- 2. Find and copy one word in the eighth paragraph that means surprising.**
- 3. Find and copy a phrase in the ninth paragraph that means moving around impatiently.**

**Challenge: Write your own Find and Copy questions.**

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## **INFERENCE QUESTIONS**

**WHAT DO THESE MEAN AGAIN?**

**HOW CAN WE ANSWER THEM?**

### **Stage 1**

1. "It's Them!" Why is them written with a capital T?
2. Why does Seren think the parcel has something precious inside?
3. Why is Seren scared of the man at first?
4. Do you think the story is set in the past, present or future? Explain your answer.



### **Challenge:**

**Why does Seren compare the man's hands to a prince?**

**THURSDAY**

# **DO NOW**

**Write these events in the order in which they happen.**

- 1.The man tries to lock the door.**
- 2.The man begins to panic.**
- 3.Seren realises she is not alone in the waiting room.**
- 4.Seren hears a cry like an Arctic bird.**
- 5.The man thinks his train is late.**

**Challenge:**

**Write your own retrieval questions.**



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# **THE BIG QUESTION**

## **QUESTION**

**Is it sensible to be scared of something that you can hear but cannot see?**

**FRIDAY**

# **DO NOW**

**Think carefully about what you have read and make a prediction about the following:..**

**How do you think the man got into the waiting room?  
Explain your answer.**

**Challenge – How would you end the story? Write an ending in no more than 50 words.**

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# REVIEW

Was there anything you liked about this text?

Was there anything you disliked about this text?

Was there anything that puzzled you?

Were there any patterns or connections that you noticed?