

A Quick Escape

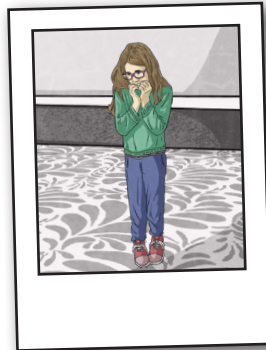
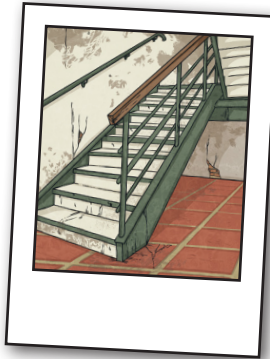
7 With a last glance behind her, Maya
13 tiptoed down the decaying staircase. Her
20 breathing was short and fast. A shrill
24 scratching sound — like fingernails
31 on a chalkboard — stopped her in her
38 tracks. Her amber eyes strained into the
45 darkness but she saw nothing. Her heart
50 thundered: she was so close.

.....

60 She tried to move but it was as if she
67 had been frozen. Maya shook her head
76 as if trying to shake out all doubt. She
84 had to move. Her hands curled into fists;
90 she forced her legs to move.

.....

97 Now in the hallway, her head darted
105 from side to side. A scream. Her blood
112 ran cold. Maya ran, faster and faster –
120 out of the house and into the night.



Questions



1. Which word is closest in meaning to 'shrill'?
Tick one.

- ☐ piercing
☐ low
☐ quiet



2. What word is best used to summarise the way that Maya feels in the text?



3. Find and copy the simile. What effect does this have on the reader?



4. Where do you think the text is set? Justify your answer using evidence from the text.

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Answers



1. Which word is closest in meaning to 'shrill'?
Tick one.

☒ **piercing**
☐ low
☐ quiet



2. What word is best used to summarise the way that Maya feels in the text?

Accept any of: frightened; terrified; scared; fearful; petrified.



3. Find and copy the simile. What effect does this have on the reader?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The simile 'like fingernails on a chalkboard' reinforces that the sound is unpleasant and unbearable.



4. Where do you think the text is set? Justify your answer using evidence from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the text is set in a haunted house because the staircase is decaying and Maya is scared of something she can hear but not see.