

# The Shrieking Book



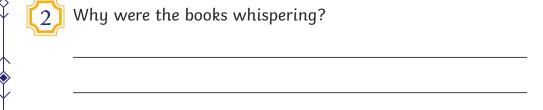
- 20 faint whispering was coming from the books, as though
- 28 they knew someone was there who shouldn't be.
- 38 He had to start somewhere. Setting the lamp down carefully
- 49 on the floor, he looked along the bottom shelf for an
- 57 interesting-looking book. A large black and silver volume
- 67 caught his eye. He pulled it out with difficulty, because
- 79 it was very heavy, and, balancing it on his knee, let it
- 81 fall open.
- 89 A piercing, blood-curdling shriek split the silence the
- 99 book was screaming! Harry snapped it shut, but the shriek
- 108 went on and on, one high, unbroken, ear-splitting note.

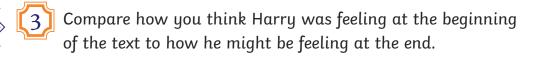
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, 'The Mirror of Erised', Copyright © 1997 J.K. Rowling



### Quick Questions







Look at the third paragraph of the text.

How do the adjectives 'blood-curdling' and 'ear-splitting' help to create atmosphere?









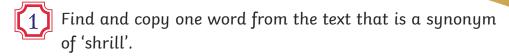
# The Shrieking Book

- 11 Maybe he was imagining it, maybe not, but he thought a
- 20 faint whispering was coming from the books, as though
- 28 they knew someone was there who shouldn't be.
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- 49 on the floor, he looked along the bottom shelf for an
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#### Answers



#### piercing

2 Why were the books whispering?

The books were whispering because they knew someone was there who shouldn't be.

Compare how you think Harry was feeling at the beginning of the text to how he might be feeling at the end.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Harry was likely feeling a bit nervous at the beginning because he shouldn't have been there but terrified at the end when the book screamed, as it was unexpected.

4 Look at the third paragraph of the text.

How do the adjectives 'blood-curdling' and 'ear-splitting' help to create atmosphere?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The adjectives 'blood-curdling' and 'ear-splitting' create a tense atmosphere to make you worry for Harry because they are descriptive words associated with horror.





