

# 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.

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',  
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 J.K. Rowling



## Quick Questions

- 1 Find and copy one word from the text that is a synonym of 'shrill'.  
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- 2 Why were the books whispering?  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Compare how you think Harry was feeling at the beginning of the text to how he might be feeling at the end.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Look at the third paragraph of the text.  
 How do the adjectives 'blood-curdling' and 'ear-splitting' help to create atmosphere?  
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## Answers

1 Find and copy one word from the text that is a synonym of 'shrill'.

**piercing**

2 Why were the books whispering?

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

3 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.**