

## A mysterious story poem

Read this **poem** aloud.

## The Listeners

"Is there anybody there?" said the Traveller, Knocking on the moonlit door; And his horse in the silence champed the grasses Of the forest's ferny floor: And a bird flew up out of the turret, Above the Traveller's head: And he smote upon the door again a second time; "Is there anybody there?" he said. But no one descended to the Traveller: No head from the leaf-fringed sill Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes, Where he stood perplexed and still. But only a host of phantom listeners That dwelt in the lone house then Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight To that voice from the world of men: Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,

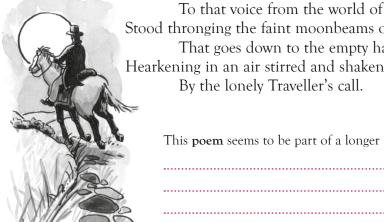
That goes down to the empty hall,

By the lonely Traveller's call.

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And he felt in his heart their strangeness, Their stillness answering his cry, While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf, 'Neath the starred and leafy sky; For he suddenly smote on the door, even Louder, and lifted his head: -"Tell them I came, and no one answered, That I kept my word," he said. Never the least stir made the listeners. Though every word he spake Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house From the one man left awake: Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup, And the sound of iron on stone. And how the silence surged softly backward, When the plunging hoofs were gone.

Walter de la Mare



his <b>poem</b> seems to be part of a longer mystery story.	. Why is it mysterious?

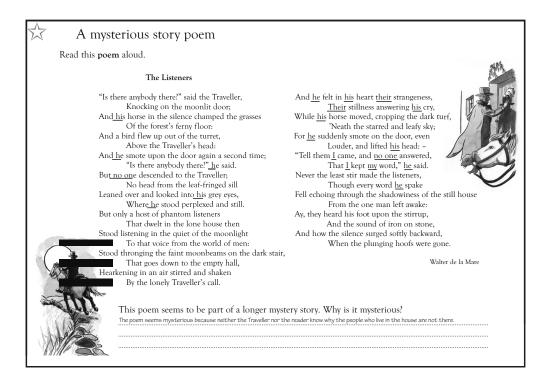




Where does this part of the story happen?  When does it happen (day or night)? Which words tell you this?  Find the meanings of the old-fashioned words in the poem. Then write down why you think the poet chose these words.  Find the meanings of the old-fashioned words in the poem. Then write down why you think the poet chose these words.  Read the poem again, looking at the lines and listening for the rhymes. How would you describe the rhyming pattern?  Count the syllables in the first eight lines – can you find a rhythmic pattern? What is it?  Remember: A syllable is a word or part of a word that is one beat long.  What do you notice about the sounds in the third and fourth lines.  And his horse in the silence champed the grasses  Of the forest's ferny floor and what does this tell you about the horse's behaviour?  Writing practice  Choose a section from the poem and write it here.  Remember: A syllable is a word or part of a word that is one beat long.  Writing practice  Choose a section from the poem and write it here.  Remember: Join your letters carefully and space your words evenly.  Begin new lines in the same places as in the printed poem.	Understanding the poem	Understanding the poem
When does it happen (day or night)? Which words tell you this?  Find the meanings of the old-fashioned words in the poem. Then write down why you think the poet chose these words.  In your opinion, who or what are "The Listeners"?  Read the poem again, looking at the lines and listening for the rhymes. How would you describe the rhyming pattern?  Count the syllables in the first eight lines – can you find a rhythmic pattern? What is it?  Remember: A syllable is a word or part of a word that is one beat long.  What do you notice about the sounds in the third and fourth lines.  And his horse in the silence champed the grasses  Of the forest's femry floor and what does this tell you about the horse's behaviour?  What a list of the adjectives that are used to describe the Traveller.	Answer these questions about the <b>poem</b> called <i>The Listeners</i> .	Answer these questions about the <b>poem</b> called <i>The Listeners</i> .
When does it happen (day or night)? Which words tell you this?  In your opinion, who or what are "The Listeners"?  Read the poem again, looking at the lines and listening for the rhymes. How would you describe the rhyming pattern?  Count the syllables in the first eight lines – can you find a rhythmic pattern? What is it?  Remember: A syllable is a word or part of a word that is one beat long.  What do you notice about the sounds in the third and fourth lines.  And his horse in the silence champed the grasses  Of the forest's fermy floor and what does this tell you about the horse's behaviour?  What a list of the adjectives that are used to describe the Traveller.	Where does this part of the story happen?	What words did the writer use to capture your interest?
In your opinion, who or what are "The Listeners"?  Read the poem again, looking at the lines and listening for the rhymes. How would you describe the rhyming pattern?  Count the syllables in the first eight lines – can you find a rhythmic pattern? What is it?  Remember: A syllable is a word or part of a word that is one beat long.  What do you notice about the sounds in the third and fourth lines, Of the forest's ferny floor and what does this tell you about the horse's behaviour?  Witting practice  Choose a section from the poem and write it here. Remember: Join your letters carefully and space your words evenly. Begin new lines in the same places as in the printed poem.	When does it happen (day or night)? Which words tell you this?	This the meanings of the old-fashioned words in the poem. Then write
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And his horse in the silence champed the grasses Of the forest's ferny floor and what does this tell you about the horse's behaviour?  Make a list of the adjectives that are used to describe the Traveller.  Choose a section from the poem and write it here.  Remember: Join your letters carefully and space your words evenly.  Begin new lines in the same places as in the printed poem.		pattern? What is it?
		Choose a section from the <b>poem</b> and write it here.  Remember: Join your letters carefully and space your words evenly.
	Make a list of the <b>adjectives</b> that are used to describe the Traveller. <b>Remember</b> : An <b>adjective</b> is a describing word.	*
		English Const

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## Answers:



Listen to your child read the poem, helping where necessary with any difficult words. Encourage him or her to reread the poem, this time thinking about its meaning. Accept any answer that can be justified by some aspect of the poem.

₹\ 	Understanding the poem
Aı	nswer these questions about the <b>poem</b> called <i>The Listeners</i> on page 11.
W	here does this part of the story happen?
.Thi	is part of the story happens by a house in a forest.
W	hen does it happen (day or night)? Which words tell you this?
lt.	nappens at night. The word moonlit, moonlight, moonbeams, dark,
st	arred shadowiness and left awake tell me so.
In	your opinion, who or what are "The Listeners"?
.Th	e Listeners are ghosts.
	Answers may vary
	ne Traveller speaks in this <b>poem</b> . What are his words? there <i>anybody</i> there?"
Te	ell them I came, and no one answered, That I kept my word".
Н	ow does the first line of the <b>poem</b> make you feel?
The	e first line makes me feel curious to know if anybody is there
	Answers may vary
W	hat do you notice about the sounds in the third and fourth lines, And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
	Of the forest's ferry floor d what does this tell you about the horse's behaviour?
	ere are a lot of 's' and 'f' sounds in the third and fourth lines. The horse's eating
	ide soft sounds in the quiet night.
	ake a list of the adjectives that are used to describe the Traveller.
	emember: An adjective is a describing word.  2y(eyes), perplexed, still, lonely.
21.5	

The questions on this page encourage your child to look at the words of the poem carefully and help him or her to develop comprehension skills. Some answers require a subjective response and are acceptable as long as they can be justified.

## Understanding the poem Answer these further questions about the poem on page 11. What words did the writer use to capture your interest? Find the meanings of the old-fashioned words in the poem. Then write down why you think the poet chose these words. D smote – hit; dwelt – lived; hearking – listening; 'neath – beneath; spake – spoke; ay - always. The poet chose these words because they give the poem a sense of something happening long ago. Answers may vary Read the poem again, looking at the lines and listening for the rhymes. How would you describe the rhyming pattern? The poem has a regular pattern of rhyming pairs. Every second line rhymes Answers may vary Count the syllables in the first eight lines - can you find a rhythmic pattern? Remember: A syllable is a word or part of a word that is one beat long. The poem follows a rhythmic pattern of a long line followed by a shorter line. Choose a section from the poem and write it here. Remember: Join your letters carefully and space your words evenly. Begin new lines in the same places as in the printed poem.

Defining old words can help improve dictionary skills. Looking at the rhyme and rhythm reveals the poem's structure. Check that your child has copied a section correctly, and check his or her handwriting.

