

## From **Red Eyes at Night**

At that same moment, we hear this strange unearthly voice, and it's coming from the inside of the shed.

'Come in. Come in. Is anyone out there? Come in. Come in.' Then there's something scratching at the door, trying to claw its way out, and it's shrieking and howling. The blood goes cold in my veins. Geraldine screams. I scream. We're both clutching each other and screaming blue murder, but the scratching goes on and the howling and that dreadful voice telling us to come in. 'I know you're out there. Come in. I know you're out there.' And then the owl's hooting again.

Still the ghost keeps calling us and howling piteously and still he claws at the door, and the door's shaking and rattling in its frame. I want to get up and run but I can't. I can't move. I'm frozen where I am. All I can do is scream like Geraldine, only louder, louder, so I don't have to hear the ghost's deathly voice, and his blood-curdling shrieks.

Suddenly the lights in the house go on, then every light in the street. Then Mum and Gran are running towards us across the garden, dressing gowns flying.

'The red-eyed ghost!' Geraldine sobs. 'He's in there, in the shack. I've seen him. I've *heard* him.'

They look at us as if we're mad. 'It's true,' I tell them. 'The Ghost, he's coming to get us. He's clawing his way out.' And I'm sobbing too. I can't stop myself.

Then Gran's cuddling us close, while Mum walks over to Dad's shack and peers in through the window. 'Come in.' The same voice again, but louder. 'Come in. This is Rubber Duck, Rubber Duck, calling Armadillo. Are you there, Armadillo? Are you there? Come in please. This is Rubber Duck, Rubber Duck.'



**Michael Morpurgo**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Read the text, then answer the questions.

- 1.** In the first sentence, how does the writer make the reader believe there is something unusual going on?

---

---

- 2.** What effect does the use of the first person and present tense verbs have?

---

---

---

- 3.** What effect does the sentence 'The blood goes cold in my veins' have on the reader?

---

---

- 4.** The writer uses some short sentences (e.g. 'Geraldine screams. I scream.') and then longer sentences. Why does he do this?

---

---

- 5.** Do you think the author wants readers to feel frightened by the 'ghost'? Give examples from the text to support your opinion.

---

---

---

- 6.** How does the phrase 'Mum walks over to Dad's shack' affect the tension in the text?

---

---

- 7.** How do you think the author wants you to feel when he introduces 'Rubber Duck' and 'Armadillo' at the end of the text?

---

---