

Adventure and mystery

Extract from *Go Ahead, Secret Seven* by Enid Blyton

The man came along. He was a tall, stooping fellow, wearing a hat, and carrying a bag. Good! Suppose there were stolen jewels in that bag! George would trail him right to his home, and he would then know where this supposed robber lived!

It seemed very real somehow, not pretence. The night was dark, the man came along without guessing that a boy was pressing himself into the shadows of a bush, and George suddenly found his heart beginning to thump. The man passed.

Now to follow him without being seen. If he spotted George, then George had failed. But George was certain he could shadow the man right back to his house without once being seen.

He came out from the bush and began to follow the man, keeping well into the darkness of the trees that lined the road. Down the road to the corner. Round the corner. Be careful now, *creep* round the corner, in case the man knows he is being followed!

George crept cautiously, his rubber truncheon in his hand, pretending to himself that there might be great danger from a fierce thief!

He heaved a sigh of relief. There was the man, half-way down the road. George trotted on after him. Look behind you, George, as well as in front. Quick, George, look behind you!

But George didn't look behind him. He only looked in front, and followed the man steadily. Once, when he stopped to tie his shoelace, George darted into a nearby gate, afraid that the man might turn and see him.

He crept out after half a minute, and saw the man walking on again, swinging his bag. After him went George, deciding to get a little nearer, so that he could see exactly where the man lived when he went into his house.

Task

Read the story, then answer the questions.

1. How do you think George is feeling at the beginning of this story? How do you know that?

2. Why is this story set at night?

3. What story did George make up about the tall man? Why did he do this?

4. George had a toy truncheon with him. Why do you think he brought it?

5. There are two points in the story where the author seems to be talking to George. Give an example of where she does this.

Why do you think she does this?

6. 'Be careful now, creep round the corner ...' Why do you think the author chooses the word 'creep' instead of 'walk'?

7. Choose two more verbs in the story which you think describe the action well.

8. What do you think will happen next? Why?
