

When Bob walked slowly into the room everyone turned and stared at him. He was very striking looking and he acted as if he really didn't mind attention. He found a safe and comfy spot in the corner and sat down. With a last lazy look around, he closed both eyes.

Jane was remembering how her cousin Joe had treated her last time they came to dinner. She remembered vividly the kicks under the table, the nasty looks and the faces he pulled at her across the room. Mum didn't want to hear about it. "They're family, she said, and family is important. We can't have any problems in the family. I'm sure he didn't mean it."

When Joe walked in with his family Jane retreated to the furthest corner of the big table. Joe spotted her and came and took his seat opposite her...

Later on, when all the children were in the garden together, leaving the adults to clear away and wash the dishes, Amy came up to Jane.

"Are you ok?" she said, "I saw what happened in there". Jane nodded, emotion welling up in her throat, so much so that she knew she couldn't speak without bursting into tears. She stroked Bob's soft coat and he nuzzled her arm noisily. "Have you told your mum?" Amy asked. Jane shook her head. She didn't trust herself to speak just yet.

1. What do you think Jane's feelings may have been when Joe sat opposite her at the dinner table?
2. Who or what do you think Bob is?
3. What do you think it was that Amy saw happening during the dinner?
4. Why do you think Jane didn't '*trust herself to speak...*' ?
5. Why do you think Jane hadn't told her mum ?

