

### Disaster in the darkness

They walked quietly down the road. Darkness was falling and there was an eerie glow in the street. Joe felt a bit uneasy. He felt as though the stage was set for something bad to happen. To make himself feel better he decided to talk about school. They had all just been put into new maths sets.

“Who are your maths teachers this term then ? ” he chirped with an enthusiasm he didn’t feel.

“I’ve got Mr Bancroft ” replied Ali slowly. He spoke quietly in low tones and sounded grumpy. Jack’s reply mirrored Ali’s.

“I’ve got him too – worse luck,” he said.

They continued to walk down the road when, suddenly, Jack slipped and fell into an enormous hole that seemed to have appeared from nowhere. He shouted and his shout echoed as he disappeared down.

The other two ran towards him, anxiously calling his name. They could barely see in the darkness but knew this wasn’t one of Jack’s pranks: this was serious.

1. In the first paragraph, what is ‘falling’?
  - a. Jack
  - b. Joe
  - c. Night
  - d. A glow
  
2. Which of these is the most accurate synonym for ‘chirped’?
  - a. Said
  - b. Said brightly
  - c. Replied
  - d. Suggested
  
3. What does the word ‘mirrored’ mean in the text ?
  
  
4. What does the word ‘set’ mean as used in this text?