

Where was mum ?

“Hi mum, I’m home,” shouted Joe as he closed the front door behind him and tucked his keys into his pocket. There was no answer. He thought this was a bit strange. His mum was always in at this time. Maybe she’d had to pop out for something the girls needed. That was the problem with having twin baby sisters. They always needed something! If it wasn’t the twins, it was his teenage sister. It seemed to Joe that girls needed so much more than boys did. He was happy with food and his play station. What else could anyone need?

Joe walked into the kitchen and opened the fridge. His stomach rumbled. As he tried to decide whether to make a sandwich or just cut a piece of cheese, he suddenly heard a strange, muffled sound. He closed the fridge and looked down the garden, frowning. It seemed to be coming from the shed. Then the noise came again. Joe knew he had to investigate.

The shed was covered in thick branches and leaves. Dad had been meaning to clear it out for ages but hadn’t got round to it. As Joe opened the door it creaked loudly and cobwebs that had been wound around the wooden door split. He was sure he heard spiders scurrying away. He told himself not to be a chicken. He took a deep breath and, with just a moment’s hesitation, he strolled in.

1. How can you tell from the text that Joe has three sisters?
2. How can you tell that the shed hasn’t been used for a long time? Give two different reasons.
3. How can you tell that Joe is nervous when he goes to the shed?
4. How can you tell that Joe was hungry when he came in?