

### Disaster in the darkness

The two boys 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. He knew that Joe's year had just been put into maths sets.

"Who is your maths teacher 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. Joe understood why; Mr Bancroft was mean. When he replied, his tone mirrored Ali's.

"I had him last year – bad luck," he said.

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

Ali did not know what to do. He looked around wildly, all the time anxiously calling Joe's name. He could barely see in the darkness but knew this wasn't one of Joe's pranks: this was serious.

1. In the first paragraph, what is 'falling'?
  - a. Ali
  - b. Joe
  - c. Night
  - d. An eerie 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. The word 'set' is used to mean two different things in this text. What are each of the meanings as used in this text?