

Words in context: 6.11.23

Disaster in the darkness

The three 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. Each of the boys was in a new maths set.

“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.

“I’ve got Miss Turley,” said Joe. “She seems nice.”

They carried on chatting as they walked on. They were losing light rapidly and all of them were anxious to be home. When Jack stopped to tie his shoelace, he waved the other boys on, telling them he’d catch them up.

A few minutes later, they heard a shout from Jack that seemed to echo. They turned back, unable to see much in the darkness and initially thinking that this was one of Jack’s pranks, but as the shouts became more urgent, and less clear, Jack’s friends realised this was no prank.

They ran towards the sound and the place where he had last been, anxiously calling his name. Using their phone lights, they could see a huge hole that had appeared out of nowhere, and Jack lay, a small figure in the darkness, at the bottom of that hole.

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. Explain what the word ‘mirrored’ means in the text and give a synonym.
4. The word ‘set’ has been used twice in this text. Underline the words in the text. For each use of the word, write the word class and the meaning.