

Read the poem.

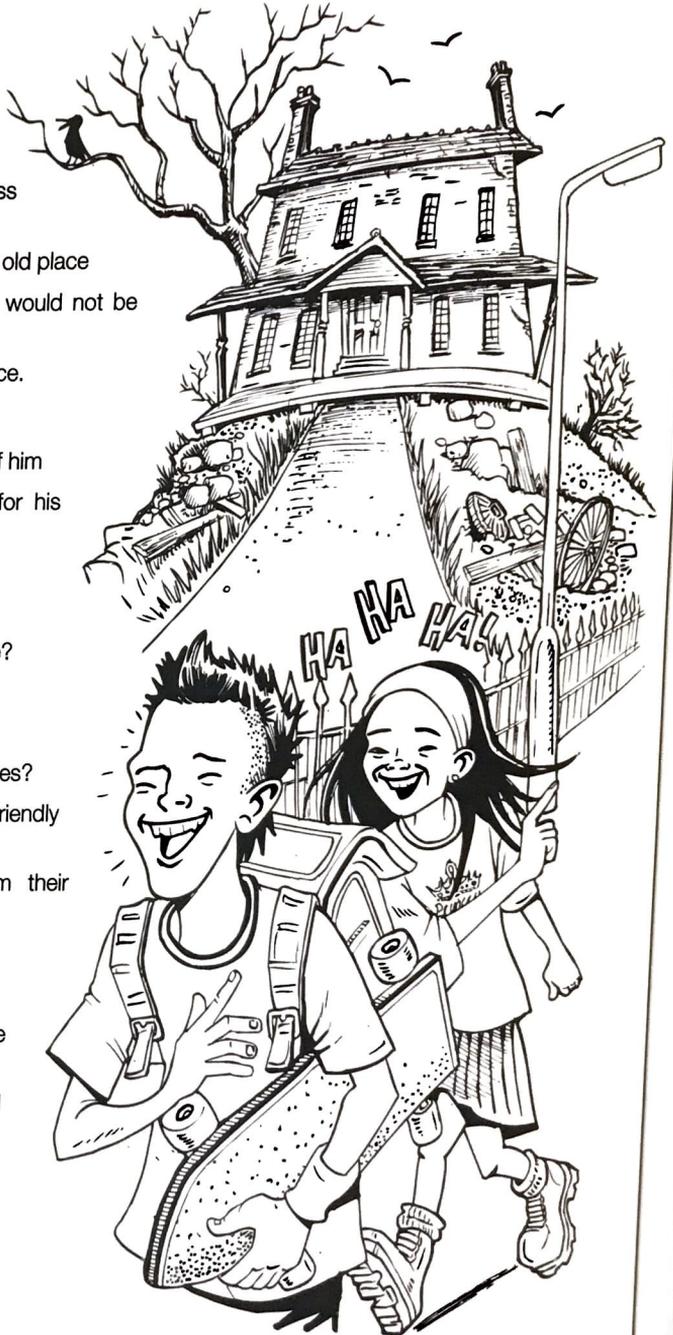
## IGNORANCE

Every morning they'd hurry across  
the road  
As they passed by his run-down old place  
They hoped and they prayed it would not be  
the day  
That they'd have to look at his face.

One day they caught a glimpse of him  
Frail old man, clothes too big for his  
frame.  
They froze in their tracks  
There was no turning back  
Would the world ever be the same?

What scary thing was he saying?  
Where were his fangs and the flames?  
They looked at his face which was friendly  
and kind  
And he asked them to tell him their  
names.

The children looked at each other  
They laughed as they realised the  
truth  
They'd been scared by a silly old  
rumour  
And now they had absolute proof!





Use the strategies you learnt and practised in *Bindiyup Rock* to work out what is probably true.

- The answers are usually not in the text, but there is information to give you clues to think about. (This could be underlined.)
- Find the answer that makes the most sense and is supported by text details.
- Always consider all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *Why did the children hurry past the old man's house?*

- (a) Because they were running late for school.
- (b) Because there was a nasty smell coming from the garden.
- (c) Because they thought the house was haunted.
- (d) Because they were afraid of the old man who lived there.

The best answer is .

2. *The children 'froze in their tracks' because:*

- (a) The weather turned chilly.
- (b) They were very frightened.
- (c) The old man used his powers to freeze them on the spot.
- (d) The old man was a ghost.

The best answer is .

3. (a) When the children saw the old man, did he look the way they had imagined?

Yes  No

(b) Explain why you think this and give details from the text to support your ideas.

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4. *The title of the poem is 'Ignorance' which means 'lack of knowledge' and 'being unaware'.*

(a) Do you think the title fits the poem?  Yes  No

(b) Explain why you think this.

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**Think!**  
Read the poem again and think about what the message of the poem is.

5. (a) Do you think the old man knew of the rumours about him?  Yes  No

(b) Explain why you think this.

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