

Wednesday 10th February – Reading

Comprehension

Extract taken from Chapter 9 of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J K Rowling

In this extract, Harry, Ron, Hermione and Neville are almost caught by Filch when they venture into the trophy room in the middle of the night.

They flitted along corridors striped with bars of moonlight from the high windows. At every turn, Harry expected to run into Filch or Mrs Norris, but they were lucky. They sped up a staircase to the third floor and tiptoed towards the trophy room.

Malfoy and Crabbe weren't there yet. The crystal trophy cases glimmered where the moonlight caught them. Cups, shields, plates and statues winked silver and gold in the darkness. They edged along the walls, keeping their eyes on the doors at either end of the room. Harry took out his wand in case Malfoy leapt in and started at once. The minutes crept by.

'He's late, maybe he's chickened out,' Ron whispered. Then a noise in the next room made them jump. Harry had only just raised his wand when they heard someone speak — and it wasn't Malfoy.

'Sniff around, my sweet, they might be lurking in a corner.' It was Filch speaking to Mrs Norris. Horror-struck, Harry waved madly at the other three to follow him as quickly as possible; they scurried silently towards the door away from Filch's voice. Neville's robes had barely whipped round the corner when they heard Filch enter the trophy room.

'They're in here somewhere,' they heard him mutter, 'probably hiding.'

'This way!' Harry mouthed to the others and, petrified, they began to creep down a long gallery full of suits of armour. They could hear Filch getting nearer. Neville suddenly let out a frightened squeak and broke into a run — he tripped, grabbed Ron around the waist and the pair of them toppled right into a suit of armour.

The clanging and crashing were enough to wake the whole castle.

'RUN!' Harry yelled and the four of them sprinted down the gallery, not looking back to see whether Filch was following - they swung around the doorpost and galloped down one corridor then another, Harry in the lead without any idea where they were or where they were going. They ripped through a tapestry and found themselves in a hidden passageway, hurtled along



it and came out near their Charms classroom, which they knew was miles from the trophy room.

Questions

1. Where are the children heading at the start and who are they planning to meet there?
2. Who is Filch speaking to?
3. What caused the clanging and crashing?
4. What are your impressions of Neville's character from this extract?
Remember to back up your ideas with detail from the text.
5. Look up the definitions of the following words:

flitted	tapestry	scurried
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