

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

There are lots of eery characters in this shop.



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# Analyse a text

**Read the extract from 'Noah Barleywater Runs Away' on the next page, of Noah describing the shop.**

**Answer the following questions:**

- Why do you think the author chose to put 'And then he did. Puppets.' on separate lines?
- The author says there was a 'total absence of sound'. Read the first 2 paragraphs and explain what the absence of sound suggests about the shop.
- What has the author put in *italics*?
- Can you explain how Noah feels both fear and safety at the same time?
- Look at the paragraph beginning, *there were dozens of them*, which describes the puppets in the shop. Count the number of sentences in this paragraph. These sentences are long and complex. What effect does that have on the reader?

***Extract from 'Noah Barleywater Runs Away' by John Boyne.***

The first thing he noticed was how quiet it was. This was nothing like the kind of quiet he heard when he woke up in the middle of the night after a bad dream. At those moments he could always tell there was life outside, even if all that life was fast asleep. It was a silence that wasn't silence at all.

But here, inside the shop, things were very different. Here the quiet wasn't just quiet; it was a total absence of sound.

Noah had been inside a lot of toy shops in his life. But this shop was very unlike all the others he had ever visited in his life. He looked around, trying to understand what made it so different, and at first he couldn't quite put his finger on it.

And then he did.

Puppets.

There were dozens of them. No, not dozens, scores. Not even scores, but hundreds, perhaps more than a person could count in one day. They were crafted in different shapes and sizes, varying heights and widths, dissimilar colours and shapes, but every single one was made of wood and painted with bright colours that filled them with life and energy and a sense that they were fully alive.

*They don't look like puppets at all, thought Noah. They look too real for that.*

'How extraordinary!' muttered Noah under his breath, and as he looked around, he began to experience a curious sensation that the puppets' eyes were following him wherever he went, keeping a close watch on his every movement.

"Hello?" whispered Noah nervously, his voice echoing a little around him. "Hello, is anyone there?"

Footsteps started somewhere distant, hesitated, stopped, continued, and then grew louder and louder.

"Hello?" he said again, raising his voice now as every nerve in his body grew more and more tense. He swallowed, and wondered why he felt this curious mixture of fear and safety at the same time. He felt as if he was supposed to be there but had better be ready for what came next.

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# Analyse a text: Model answers

- Why do you think the author chose to put 'And then he did. Puppets.' on separate lines?

To make them stand alone. This puts more emphasis on them as there are greater pauses surrounding these lines. It helps build suspense.

- The author says there was a 'total absence of sound'. Read the first 2 paragraphs and explain what the absence of sound suggests about the shop.

That there is no life. When he wakes from his nightmares he hears 'life outside' but this is worse as the shop feels dead. (Made even creepier by the reference to the puppets seeming to be alive)

- What has the author put in *italics*?

Noah's internal thoughts

- Can you explain how Noah feels both fear and safety at the same time?

He is scared of the strangeness of the environment and because he feels like he is being watched but he also feels like this is the place he is supposed to be and is comforted by that thought.

- Look at the paragraph beginning, *there were dozens of them*, which describes the puppets in the shop. Count the number of sentences in this paragraph. These sentences are long and complex. What effect does that have on the reader?

These sentences are long and rambling - they go on and on, just as the shelves and shelves of puppets do. It reinforces how many there are and helps the reader to feel how Noah feels as he looks around him and sees all these things.