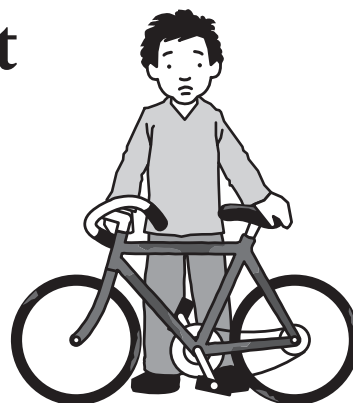




This text is from *Alex the Walking Accident* by Ian Whybrow.

Alex the Walking Accident



Alex Dent and accidents seemed to go together. That was why he wasn't having much luck asking for a new bike.

"No, you've already got a bike," said Mum. She was always in a mood at breakfast. *Bang* went her cup on to her saucer.

Alex didn't give up. "Yes, but I need more gears."

Now it was Mr Dent's turn. "You heard what your mum said. Forget it," he growled. "You know we haven't got the money to go buying you new bikes!"

There was a pile of letters beside his plate. He ripped one open. "Blast!" he roared. "There goes another job! I spent all that time designing office buildings for the Council and now they don't want them!"

"Don't worry, Charles, you're a *brilliant* architect," said Mrs Dent. "Things are bound to pick up soon." She tried to sound cheery but she didn't look it.

James, Alex's baby brother, was reaching down from his high chair towards Pud the cat. The cat was ignoring him. Alex meant to help. He tried to give Pud a little push towards James with his foot. Somehow he missed and trod on his tail.

"Yeeeeow!" went the cat and nearly scared the wits out of James.

"Waaah!" howled James.

"Alex!" shouted Mum and Dad together.

Alex kept going anyway. "All my friends say my bike's rubbish. It hasn't even got disc-brakes!"

He made a flapping movement with his hand to show how bad that was. Disaster.

Mr Dent's cornflakes were swimming in milk. On top he had plopped a great dollop of strawberry yoghurt. His spoon was in his bowl, with the handle resting on the side. So, when Alex's hand flapped out:

1. It knocked against the cornflakes box.
2. The box fell sideways and knocked over Dad's glass of orange juice.
3. The juice dived into Dad's lap – SPLOSH!
4. The glass fell at exactly the right angle to hit the handle of his spoon – TWANG!
5. Up went the spoon like a seesaw with a baby elephant on one end.
6. Suddenly soggy cornflakes and pink gunk started raining on everybody.
7. James threw his plate and hit Alex right on the ear – BONK!

"Axi Nutty Bye! Axi Nutty Bye!" screamed little James.

"Quite right! Alex is a *very* naughty boy!" agreed Mr Dent.



This text is from *Making Friends with Frankenstein* by Colin McNaughton.

The Shady Character

There's a shady character following me!
Who can the shady character be?

He silently slithers,
Dresses in black.
He's normally hiding
Behind my back!
The strange thing is,
When the sun isn't out
The shady character's never about!
When it's raining or snowing
Or cloudy or grey,
The shady character stays away!
But he comes back at night
As I walk down the street.
Sometimes long: sometimes short:
Sometimes under my feet!
Passing from streetlight to streetlight I find
He's sometimes in front of me.
Sometimes behind!

There's a shady character
Following me.
Who can the shady
Character be?



shady – in the shade or full of shade
shady – dishonest

Name:	Class:	Date:
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Alex the Walking Accident

1 Why did Mum's cup *bang* on to her saucer? Tick **one**.

Alex knocked it out of her hand.

She was feeling cross with Alex.

The cat yelped and made her jump.

James gave it a little push.

2d
1 mark

2 What does Alex think is wrong with his bike? Write **one** thing.

2b
1 mark

3 Tick to show whether the following sentences are about **Mum**, **Dad** or **Both** of them.

	Mum	Dad	Both
says they don't have enough money for a new bike			
tries to sound happy but isn't really			
shouts at Alex when he makes James cry			

2b
1 mark

4 Look at these lines from the story. Find and copy **one word** that shows how angry Mr Dent is feeling.

Now it was Mr Dent's turn. "You heard what your mum said. Forget it," he growled. "You know we haven't got the money to go buying you new bikes!" There was a pile of letters beside his plate. He ripped one open. "Blast!" he roared. "There goes another job! I spent all that time designing office buildings for the Council and now they don't want them!"

2g
1 mark

/ 4
Total for this page

5 Disaster.

What was the *disaster* and why did it happen?

2d
2 marks

6 SPLOSH! ... TWANG! ... BONK!

Why has the writer used these words? Tick **one**.

They show the reader in what order things went wrong.

They describe the big mess the soggy cornflakes made.

They explain how Alex was hit on the ear with a plate.

They help the reader imagine the sounds of the accident.

2g
1 mark

7 "Quite right! Alex is a very naughty boy!" agreed Mr Dent.

Has Alex *really* been a naughty boy? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the whole story to help you.

2c
2 marks

8 **Number** these events in **the order** in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

- Alex treads on the cat's tail.
- Dad opens one of his letters.
- Dad's glass of juice spills over.
- 1 Mum tells Alex he can't have a new bike.
- James throws his plate and it hits Alex.

2f
1 mark

/ 10
Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
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The Shady Character

1

a) Look at the first line of the poem. Who or what is the *shady character*?

2d
1 mark

b) What does the poet think is happening? Tick **one**.

He thinks:

the shady character is invisible.

someone is hiding from him.

somebody is following him.

the shady character is never there.

2b
1 mark

2

Draw lines to match the description with what it tells us about the shady character.

Description

silently slithers

dresses in black

sometimes long: sometimes short

What it tells us

it is dark

it changes size and shape

it makes no noise

2a
1 mark

3

The poem says that sometimes the shady character is not there.

a) **When** is it not there?

2b
1 mark

b) **Why** is it not there?

2d
1 mark

/ 5
Total for this page

4 The poem mentions some of the places the shady character can be found. Which of these are mentioned? Tick **two**.

under his feet

under the streetlight

in the rain

behind his back

behind the clouds

2b
1 mark

5 *There's a shady character following me!*
Who can the shady character be?

The poet repeats these two lines at the end of the poem. Why? Tick **one**.

to show that the shady character is asking a question

to show that the poem has answered the question

to show that he still doesn't really know the answer

to show that the shady character never goes away

2g
1 mark

6 Think about the rhyme in the poem. Which of the following sentences is **true**? Tick **one**.

There are no rhyming words in the poem.

Only the first four lines contain rhyming words.

There is some rhyme but no clear pattern.

The last word of every other line rhymes.

2f
1 mark

7 The poet makes the shady character seem a bit scary. How does he do this? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the poem to help you.

2g
2 marks

/ 10
Total for this test