

The Vacuum Cleaner – Page 2: Questions

Look at paragraph 1, beginning: *Shooting out from its hiding place...*

- 1) Find the phrase: ***like a cheese baguette from the mouth of an ancient brass cannon...*** (1 mark)

This is an example of: (Tick **one**)

- a) Sulphur
- b) San Francisco
- c) Synonym
- d) Simile**
- e) Satsuma

- 2) What was the ***doomed rubber toy***? (1 mark)

Sophie's rubber bouncy ball.

- 3) Why did the animal fly down the hallway? (1 mark)

(Tick **one**):

- a) It had to make a sandwich in the kitchen.
- b) It was time to give Sophie a kiss.
- c) It wanted to capture Sophie's bouncy ball.**
- d) It needed some exercise.
- e) It wanted to get some stones from a quarry.

- 4) Why were the creature's eyes described as ***determined***? (1 mark)

ia) Because they were focused on the ball all the time.

ib) Because they belonged to a creature that was fully committed to its attack and totally focused on its prey.

5) In this paragraph, what is the meaning of the word **quarry**? (1 mark)

(Tick **one**):

- a) A large, deep pit from which stone is extracted.
- b) A creamy Mexican dish made from sweet potato.
- c) A brightly painted kitchen door.
- d) An animal pursued by a hunter or predator.**
- e) A type of all-in-one nightwear for style conscious children.

6) Find and copy **one word** which tells us that the creature (1 mark)
was very unusual and remarkable.

extraordinary

Now look at paragraph 2, beginning: *Sophie squealed...*

7) Why do you think that Sophie cried out? (1 mark)

- ia) She was frightened by the creature's quivering mouthparts.**
- ib) She was alarmed by the creature's sudden attack/movements.**
- ic) She didn't like the blast of warm air on her face.**

8) What followed the creature down the hall? (1 mark)

a (long electrical) flex, a power cable, an electrical wire

9) How do you know that the creature had not been in (1 mark)
existence for very long when this story takes place?

It says there was a "sudden smell of new things."

- 10) In the table below, there are **five** pairs of synonyms. (1 mark)
Each of the two synonyms in the pair is in a different column.

Draw a line between the two words in each of the five pairs.
You will need to draw **five** lines.

a) quiver	c) bony
b) boss	d) slither
c) skeletal	a) tremble
d) move along smoothly from side to side	e) dutiful
e) faithful	b) master

Now look at paragraph 3, beginning: *In that split second...*

- 11) Sophie's dad used to make her laugh when he did the housework. What did he do that she found so funny? (1 mark)

He would always get himself **tangled up** in things.

- 12) What is a ***split second***? (1 mark)
(Tick **one**):

- a) A pair of trousers with a rip in one knee.
- b) A kind of creamy banana pudding.
- c) A very small duration of time.**
- d) Someone who helps both of a pair of duellers.
- e) An elaborately worked piece of gold jewellery.

- 13) What particular thing reminded Sophie of her dad's antics? (1 mark)

The electrical flex **slithering quickly down the hall.**

Now look at paragraph 5, beginning: *A terrific crash...*

- 14) What caused Sophie to think about the present again? (1 mark)

Loud **noises**: a terrific **crash** and a triumphant **whoosh**.

- 15) Find and copy **one word** which tells us that Sophie loved her bouncy ball. (1 mark)

treasured

- 16) What did the creature do to Sophie's bouncy ball? (1 mark)

It **ate** the ball.

- 17) Find the phrase: ***the aggressor was calmed...*** (2 marks)
Explain what this means.

- i) The aggressor is the **predatory, hunter** vacuum cleaner.
ii) It was **quiet, still** and **restful** after its successful attack.

- 18) What did the creature do before it settled down? (2 marks)

- i) waved its snout (in victory)
ii) wiggled its tail
iii) coughed
(any two for two marks)

- 19) Find the phrase: ***it lay still, lifeless and innocent...*** (1 mark)
Why was the creature not really ***innocent***?

It had attacked and eaten Sophie's ball.

Now look at paragraph 6, beginning: "Sophie, what on earth..."

20) What did Sophie's mother want to know? (1 mark)

What had caused all the noise and disturbance.

21) As well as curiosity, what else was Sophie's mum feeling? (1 mark)

(slightly) irritated

22) About what in particular was Sophie's mother worried? (1 mark)

Whether Sophie had been playing with the new vacuum cleaner.

Now look at paragraph 7, beginning: The door to the kitchen opened...

23) What had Sophie's mum been doing in the kitchen? (1 mark)

(Tick **one**):

a) reading

b) frying

c) roasting

d) cleaning

e) baking (she had dough on her hands)

24) Sophie admitted to playing with the vacuum cleaner when she had not. Why do you think she didn't tell the truth? (1 mark)

Because she didn't think that she would be believed.

Total marks /26