



Ethel's Winter Wonderland



I was looking for somewhere good to hide from my brother and that's when I saw the run-down, eerie shed in Uncle Jack's overgrown garden. I slowly opened the door and stepped into the dimly lit space. My footsteps crunched in the thick layer of dust on the ground. There was only one thing in the shed and it was hidden beneath a large cloth. As I walked closer, I wondered if I should I peek beneath it or if I should turn around and find somewhere else to hide.

Q1: Tick **two** statements that are true.

- Ethel was playing hide and seek.
- Ethel went into her bedroom.
- There was lots of furniture in the shed.
- Ethel's footsteps made a crunching sound.



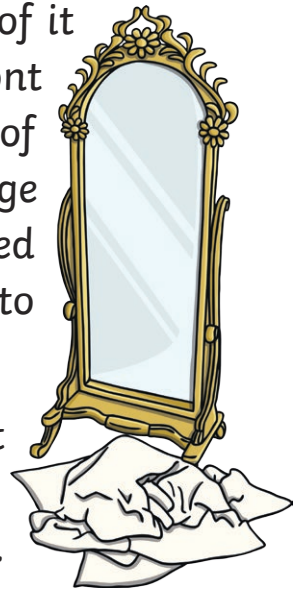
Q2: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Q3: Why do you think that Ethel was scared to peek beneath the cloth?



I touched the cloth carefully at first, before pulling the rest of it down onto the floor. A glorious, golden mirror stood in front of me. It had been carefully carved with beautiful patterns of trees and flowers. I don't know why but I suddenly had an urge to reach out and touch the glass. To my surprise, when I tried to touch it, my hand passed straight through the glass and into a mysterious space beyond.

"This is the perfect place to hide from my brother," I thought to myself as I stepped forwards into the mirror. The space seemed to go deeper and deeper as I stepped into the emptiness.



Q4: What did Ethel find beneath the cloth? **Circle** your answer.

a big cupboard

lots of tools

a wooden shed

a gold mirror



Q5: Find and copy **two** words from the text which describe the mirror.



Q6: How do you think Ethel felt as she first stepped through the mirror?

Explain your answer.



As I stepped forward into the mirror, my hand suddenly brushed against something prickly and cold. I quickly pulled my hand away and looked to see what I had touched. To my surprise, I could see that what I had touched was a snowy fir tree and I was now inside a splendid winter wonderland. I moved forward, pushing the snow-covered branches aside and stepped out into the wintry forest. Flakes fell from the sky and covered my hair and eyelashes. The ground was covered with thick, fluffy snow and all I could see around me were bare branches covered in ice.



Q7: Why do you think that Ethel was surprised when she saw what she had touched?



Q8: What do you think that Ethel might have done next?



Q9: Put the following statements in the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- Ethel reached out towards the glass.
- Ethel's hand brushed against something prickly and cold.
- 1 Ethel slowly opened the door to the shed.
- Ethel got snowflakes on her eyelashes.
- Ethel touched the cloth carefully at first.
- Ethel stepped forward into the emptiness.





Ethel's Winter Wonderland Answers

Q1: Tick **two** statements that are true.

- Ethel was playing hide and seek.**
- Ethel went into her bedroom.
- There was lots of furniture in the shed.
- Ethel's footsteps made a crunching sound.**

Q2: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Accept any answer which says that Ethel could see one thing hidden beneath a large, dirty cloth, e.g.

- **She could only see something big hidden beneath a cloth.**

Q3: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Accept answers which infer that Ethel may have been scared to look beneath the cloth because she did not know what was under it and it could have been something unpleasant, e.g.

- **Ethel was scared because she didn't know what she might find and it could have been something she didn't like.**

Q4: What did Ethel find beneath the cloth? **Circle** your answer.

a big cupboard

lots of tools

a wooden shed

a gold mirror

Q5: Find and copy **two** words from the text which describe the mirror.

Accept the adjectives 'glorious' and 'golden' only.

Q6: How do you think Ethel felt as she first stepped through the mirror? Explain your answer.

Accept answers which infer that Ethel felt excited that she had found such a good hiding spot, sneaky as she was hiding from her brother or nervous because you cannot normally step through a mirror, e.g.

• I think Ethel felt excited because she knew that she had found a good place to hide and her brother would not find her in there.

Q7: Why do you think that Ethel was surprised when she saw what she had touched?

Accept answers which infer that Ethel was surprised because she did not expect to stumble across a snowy fir tree or a winter wonderland inside the mirror, e.g.

• Ethel felt surprised because she did not think there would be a wintry forest inside the mirror.

Q8: What could Ethel see in the shed?

Accept any reasonable prediction based on logic or the events of the text so far, such as:

• Ethel might have gone back to get her brother and show him.

• Ethel could have explored the wintry forest.

• Ethel might have been frightened and ran back through the mirror.

• Ethel could have built a snowman.

Q9: Put the following statements in the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

③ Ethel reached out towards the glass.

⑤ Ethel's hand brushed against something prickly and cold.

① Ethel slowly opened the door to the shed.

⑥ Ethel got snowflakes on her eyelashes.

② Ethel touched the cloth carefully at first.

④ Ethel stepped forward into the emptiness.