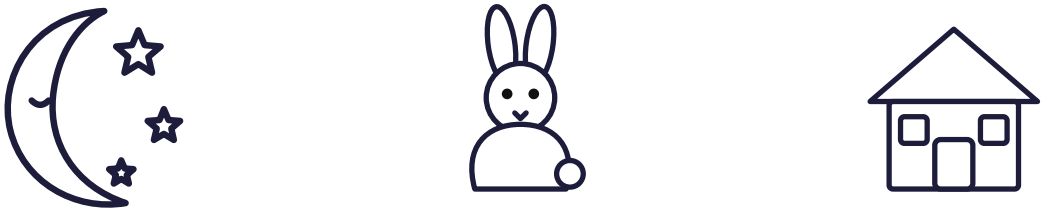
Fiction

Level 3 · Year 2 · Grade 2

The Night the Lights Went Out



The storm had been growling all evening. Rain hammered on the windows, and the wind howled around the house like a hungry wolf.

Mia was halfway through her favourite book when, with a soft click, every light in the house went out. The room was suddenly as dark as the inside of a cupboard.

“Dad?” she whispered. Her heart was thumping.

“It’s all right,” called Dad from the kitchen. “It’s just a power cut. The storm must have knocked down a power line.” Mia heard him open a drawer, and then a beam of light swept across the hall. Dad came in holding a torch, with Mia’s little brother Sami close behind him.

“I don’t like the dark,” said Sami in a small voice.

Mia had an idea. She held up her hand in front of the torch, and a shadow rabbit appeared on the wall. Its long ears wiggled.

Sami giggled. “Make a bird!” he said.

For the next hour, they made shadow animals: a rabbit, a bird, a snapping crocodile and a very wobbly elephant. Sami laughed so much that he forgot all about the dark.

When the lights flickered back on, Sami groaned. “Oh no,” he said. “Can we turn them off again?”

Questions: The Night the Lights Went Out

Name _____ Date _____

1. **What was Mia halfway through when the lights went out?** Find it 1b

2. **"Rain hammered on the windows." Hammered means the rain... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a
   - ☐ fell softly
   - ☐ hit hard and loudly
   - ☐ stopped

3. **What did Dad think had caused the power cut?** Find it 1b

4. **"Her heart was thumping." This tells you Mia felt... Tick one.** Think it 1d
   - ☐ bored ☐ scared ☐ sleepy

5. **Number the events 1 to 4 to show the order they happened.** In order 1c
   - ☐ A shadow rabbit appeared on the wall.
   - ☐ Every light in the house went out.
   - ☐ The lights flickered back on.
   - ☐ Dad came in holding a torch.

6. **How did Sami's feelings change from the start to the end of the story? Use the text to explain.** Think it 1d

Questions: The Night the Lights Went Out (continued)

Name _____ Date _____

7 **What do you think Mia and Sami might do the next time there is a power cut?** What next? 1e

_____

_____

_____

Draw your favourite part of the story.

Answers: The Night the Lights Went Out

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

1 **What was Mia halfway through when the lights went out?** Find it 1b

her favourite book

In the text: "Mia was halfway through her favourite book"

2 **"Rain hammered on the windows." Hammered means the rain... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

- [ ] fell softly
- [x] hit hard and loudly
- [ ] stopped

In the text: "Rain hammered on the windows"

3 **What did Dad think had caused the power cut?** Find it 1b

The storm had knocked down a power line.

In the text: "The storm must have knocked down a power line."

4 **"Her heart was thumping." This tells you Mia felt... Tick one.** Think it 1d

- [ ] bored
- [x] scared
- [ ] sleepy

In the text: "'Dad?' she whispered. Her heart was thumping."

5 **Number the events 1 to 4 to show the order they happened.** In order 1c

3 A shadow rabbit appeared on the wall.

1 Every light in the house went out.

4 The lights flickered back on.

2 Dad came in holding a torch.

In the text: "every light in the house went out", then "Dad came in holding a torch", then "a shadow rabbit appeared on the wall", then "When the lights flickered back on"

6 **How did Sami's feelings change from the start to the end of the story? Use the text to explain.** Think it 1d

Possible answer: At first he was scared ("I don't like the dark"). By the end he was having fun and wanted the lights off again.

In the text: "'I don't like the dark,' said Sami in a small voice." ... "Can we turn them off again?"

Answers: The Night the Lights Went Out (continued)

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

7 **What do you think Mia and Sami might do the next time there is a power cut?**

What next? 1e

Possible answer: Make shadow animals again with a torch.

In the text: "For the next hour, they made shadow animals" ... "Can we turn them off again?"