

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

Recall

1. What does the word "tension" mean?

2. In a book, that you have read recently or an adult has read to you, how did the author create tension? It can be your reading book or "A series of unfortunate events"?

Recall - ANSWERS

What does the word "tension" mean?

"Tension" is a nervous worried feeling that makes it impossible for you to relax.

In a book, that you have read recently or an adult has read to you, how did the author create tension? It can be your reading book or "A series of unfortunate events"?

In "A series of unfortunate events" the author shows an unknown, mysterious figure approaching the three children on the beach. The reader gets worried because he/she doesn't know who or what is approaching the children and why.

LO: Participate in discussions

25.11.20

- Some will even justify their answers.
 - Some will create their own answers.
 - Most will use modelled answers.
 - All will read the text.
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Query 1

What words/phrases does Dickens use that create some tension in this moment?

After several turns, he sat down again. As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell, a disused bell, that hung in the room, and communicated for some purpose now forgotten in a chamber of the highest storey of the building. It was with great astonishment, and with a strange, inexplicable dread, that as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. It swung so softly in the outset that it scarcely made a sound; but soon it rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house.

Query 1

What words/phrases does Dickens use that create some tension in this moment? - ANSWERS

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Query 2

What sounds can Scrooge hear in this moment?

Why did Dickens tell the reader how long these sounds lasted for?

How did Dickens make the reader feel when he tells us that

Scrooge remembered what ghosts sound like?

This might have lasted half a minute, or a minute, but it seemed an hour. The bell ceased as they had begun, together. They were succeeded by a clanging noise, deep down below; as if some person were dragging a heavy chain over the casks in the wine-merchant's cellar. Scrooge then remembered to have heard that ghosts in haunted houses were described as dragging chains.

Query 2 - answers

What sounds can Scrooge hear in this moment?

At first, Scrooge heard all the bells at home ringing and then he heard very loud noise of chains.

Why did Dickens tell the reader how long these sounds lasted for?

Dickens wanted the reader to imagine the duration of the noise. The reader realises that the noise was very unpleasant and despite lasting for just a minute, it seemed to last much longer.

How did Dickens make the reader feel when he tells us that Scrooge remembered what ghosts sound like?

Dickens made the reader think of ghosts. As you know everybody is afraid of ghosts, especially when they are at your house, approaching you.

Query 3

In this (final) chunk do you feel more tension than the previous two paragraphs?

How did Dickens make you feel like this?

Why did Dickens use semi-colons?

The cellar-door flew open with a booming sound, then he heard the noise much louder, on the floors below; then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door.

Query 3 - Answers

In this (final) chunk do you feel more tension than the previous two paragraphs?

Before, there were just bells ringing and there was a clanging noise of a chain downstairs. Now, the door of the cellar flew open loudly with a booming sound. This time there's some rapid movement and very loud, terrifying noise.

How did Dickens make you feel like this?

He described noise using some onomatopoeia (booming) and made us imagine that the noise was coming closer and closer.

Why did Dickens use semi-colons?

Semi-colons were used to show different places of where the noise was at certain point in time.