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The Haunted House

A strange thing had begun to happen again and again in the Sesemann house. Every morning, the front door would be found standing wide open.

Mr Sesemann was as puzzled as anybody else. He decided to sit up all night to find out the reason for the strange happening. He had an old friend, Dr Classen, who offered to keep him company.

The house had a corridor running through it. The two friends went into a room that led off the corridor, leaving the door ajar.

The clock struck the hour of midnight. Nothing happened. Another hour went by. Suddenly, the doctor raised a finger. "Did you hear anything, Sesemann?" he whispered.

Both men listened. Then, each of them took a candle and stepped softly into the corridor.

They were shocked to see a white figure standing in the doorway. "Who is it?" shouted the doctor in a booming voice and both men rushed at the white figure, which turned around with a low cry. It was Heidi!



"What are you doing here, Heidi?" Mr Sesemann asked gently.

Heidi replied in a dull voice, "I don't know."

Dr Classen talked to Heidi. He asked her, "Did you have a dream?"

"Oh yes. I dream of the same thing every night—that I am with Grandfather again. I hear the wind blowing through the trees. I run to the door of the hut and open it. Then I wake up and I am still in Frankfurt!"

The doctor turned to Mr Sesemann. "Your house is not haunted. Only, little Heidi has been walking in her sleep every night. She is very, very homesick. She must be sent back home without delay."

And the very next day, Heidi was sent back to her mountain home, to be with her Grandfather again.

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From *Heidi*



A. Comprehension

1. What was the strange thing happening in the Sesemann house?
- a. The front door would be found open every morning.
 - b. There would be footprints on the carpet every morning.
 - c. There would be voices whispering every night.

2. Why did Mr Sesemann decide to sit up all night?

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3. Who kept him company?

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4. What did they see in the doorway?

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5. What did Heidi dream of every night?

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6. Why was Heidi walking in her sleep?

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7. Tick the correct meanings of the following words.

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|------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| a. puzzled | i. confused | <input type="checkbox"/> | ii. happy | <input type="checkbox"/> | iii. sad | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. ajar | i. closed | <input type="checkbox"/> | ii. half-shut | <input type="checkbox"/> | iii. open | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. dull | i. blunt | <input type="checkbox"/> | ii. expressionless | <input type="checkbox"/> | iii. angry | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Composition

1. Read this passage again and write down what it tells you about these people.

a. Dr Classen

b. Heidi's grandfather

c. Heidi

