

Improving Your Reading with Inference Iggy: The Magic City



Philip stood in the shadow of the dark arch and looked out. He saw before him a great square surrounded by tall, irregular buildings. In the middle was a fountain whose waters, silver in the moonlight, rose and fell with a gentle splashing sound.

A tall tree, close to the archway, cast the shadow of its trunk across the path. He listened but there was nothing to listen to, except the deep night silence and the changing soft sound the fountain made.

His eyes, growing accustomed to the dimness, showed him that he was under a heavy domed roof supported on large square pillars and, to each side of him, he saw dark doors, firmly fastened. Philip did not exactly feel frightened but he did not exactly feel brave either.



1. Explain why Philip *did not exactly feel frightened*.

2. Explain why Philip *did not exactly feel brave either*.

3. What impression is the reader given about the setting of this extract? Discuss two aspects, using evidence to support your answer.

4. Do you think that Philip will choose to explore the setting?

Yes

No

Explain your choice.



Answers

1. Explain why Philip *did not exactly feel frightened*.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Philip did not feel frightened because nothing had happened to make him feel worried.
2. Explain why Philip *did not exactly feel brave either*.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Philip did not feel brave because it was night and he was unnerved being alone in the dark amongst the shadowy buildings.
3. What impression is the reader given about the setting of this extract? Discuss two aspects, using evidence to support your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: The reader is given the impression that the setting is a very quiet place because the author says that Philip had nothing to listen to. They are also given the impression that it is a little unsettling because there are lots of shadows and dark areas which Philip can't see properly.
4. Do you think that Philip will choose to explore the setting? Explain your choice.
Pupils' responses can be either 'yes' or 'no' providing that a relevant explanation is given in support of their choice, such as: No, because he did not feel confident and might have wanted to wait until it was light.