The Closet Monster

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

The Closet Monster



Scratch. Scratch. Thump. Lucy sat up in bed. The sound was coming from her closet. She pulled the blanket up to her nose.

"It's nothing," she whispered to herself. But then she heard it again, and this time there was a tiny squeak too.

Lucy thought about calling for Dad. Then she remembered that she was eight years old now, and eight-year-olds can be brave. She grabbed the flashlight from her nightstand and tiptoed across the cold floor.

Her hand shook as she turned the doorknob. Slowly, she opened the closet door and shone the light inside. Two green eyes glowed back at her from behind her winter boots.

"Pepper!" Lucy gasped. Her grey cat had been missing all afternoon. Pepper was curled up on an old sweater, and snuggled against her were four tiny kittens, no bigger than mittens.

Lucy ran to get Mom and Dad. They knelt beside the closet and smiled. "Pepper must have wanted a quiet, safe place to have her babies," Mom said softly.

That night, Lucy fell asleep listening to the soft squeaks from her closet. It turned out the monster wasn't scary at all. It was the best surprise she had ever had.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did Lucy hear coming from her closet?

(a) Music
(b) Scratching, thumping and squeaking
(c) Talking

2. What did Lucy take with her to the closet?

(a) A flashlight
(b) A broom
(c) A pillow

3. What was in the closet?

(a) A monster
(b) Her cat and four kittens
(c) A mouse

4. Why did Pepper go into the closet?

(a) To find food
(b) To hide from Lucy
(c) To have her kittens in a quiet, safe place

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How did Lucy feel when she first heard the noises? How do you know?**

2. **What clue in the story tells you the noise might be an animal?**

3. **How did Lucy show that she was brave?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **What did Lucy hear coming from her closet?**
   - a. Music
   - **b. Scratching, thumping and squeaking**
   - c. Talking

2. **What did Lucy take with her to the closet?**
   - **a. A flashlight**
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3. **What was in the closet?**
   - a. A monster
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4. **Why did Pepper go into the closet?**
   - a. To find food
   - b. To hide from Lucy
   - **c. To have her kittens in a quiet, safe place**

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **How did Lucy feel when she first heard the noises? How do you know?**
   She felt scared. She pulled the blanket up to her nose and her hand shook when she opened the door.
2. **What clue in the story tells you the noise might be an animal?**
   There was a tiny squeak, and Pepper had been missing all afternoon.
3. **How did Lucy show that she was brave?**
   She went to the closet by herself with a flashlight instead of calling her dad.