

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark

Chapter 1: Dark is Exciting

1. Who is Plop?

2. Where does Plop live and who does he live with?

3. What does Plop look like?

4. Plop has very 'knackety knees'. What does this mean?

5. What is Plop afraid of?

6. What colours does Mrs Barn Owl use to describe the dark?

7. Which firework had Mr Barn Owl never seen before?

8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 1?

Chapter 2: Dark is Kind

1. Plop didn't want to go hunting because he has stars in his eyes after the fireworks. Did he really have stars in his eyes?

2. What would happen if Mr and Mrs Barn Owl didn't get any sleep during the day?

3. When Plop woke up, he was 'full of beans'. What does this mean?

4. What did Plop do that shows you he was 'full of beans'?

5. Why was Mrs Barn Owl not pleased with Plop's screech?

6. Why is the old lady never lonely in the dark?

7. Why does Plop ask the old lady if she was a night bird?

8. What kind of bird did the old lady say she was?

Chapter 3: Dark is Fun

1. What was Plop remembering?

2. What brought Plop back from his remembering?

3. What did Plop think would happen next when he saw the bonfire?

4. What ordinary games are fun to play in the dark? Can you think of anymore games that would be fun to play in the dark?

5. Why does Scrumbo, with this big feet, always seems to get caught first?

6. Why did Plop's friend blow on the potato to cool it down for him?

7. Why didn't Plop sing along with the boys?

8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 3?

Chapter 4: Dark is Necessary

1. How can you tell Plop was hungry?

2. Why does the little girl say she has a pony tail?

3. What does the little girl say would happen if we had no dark?

4. What would Plop and the little girl prefer to have rather than a sugar mouse?

5. Why would Plop prefer a real mouse?

6. What did the little girl give to Plop?

7. Why was the little girl practising her owl's 'Eeek'?

8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 4?

Chapter 5: Dark is Fascinating

1. Why do you think Mr Barn Owl told Plop he was still asleep?

2. Why did Plop think the young lady was Father Christmas?

3. Why did Plop have to keep very still for the young lady?

4. Why did the young lady say badgers had funny faces?

5. Plop thought that the hedgehog had feathers. What do hedgehogs have to protect themselves?

6. Why did the hedgehog stop and roll itself into a ball?

7. What does the young lady ask Plop to do before he leaves?

8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 5?

Chapter 6: Dark is Wonderful

1. What does Mr Barn Owl think about Plop's tummy?

2. Why did the man with the contraption say "Drat!"?

3. What is the Dog Star also known as?

4. What do the three stars on the Greater Hunter represent?

5. Why is it useful to know where the Pole Star can be found?

6. What is the Pole Star also known as?

7. How can you tell that Mr Barn Owl isn't as interested in learning about the stars as Plop is?

8. What happened to Plop for the first time at the end of chapter 6?

Chapter 7: Dark is Beautiful

1. What was good about Plop's landing this time?

2. What did Plop expect the cat to do?

3. After the cat said Plop looked like a baby owl, why did he add that he had wondered if it was starting to snow?

4. Why is Orion a good name for a cat?

5. When Plop looked around him, what made the night beautiful?

6. Why was Mrs Barn Owl agitated when Mr Barn Owl returned to the nest?

7. How did Mr Barn Owl ease her worries?

8. What does Plop finally decide about the dark?

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark

Answers

Chapter 1: Dark is Exciting

1. Who is Plop?
Plop is a baby barn owl.
2. Where does Plop live and who does he live with?
Plop lives with his mummy and daddy at the top of a very tall tree in a field.
3. What does Plop look like?
Plop is fat and fluffy. He has a beautiful, heart-shaped ruff, enormous round eyes and very knackety knees.
4. Plop has very 'knackety' knees. What does this mean?
Pupil's own response. <i>This means he had knobbly or bent knees, or that he was knock kneed.</i>

5. What is Plop afraid of?
Plop is afraid of the dark.
6. What colours does Mrs Barn Owl use to describe the dark?
Mrs Barn Owl uses the colours silver, blue and grey to describe the dark, but almost never black.
7. Which firework had Mr Barn Owl never seen before?
Mr Barn Owl had never seen a flying saucer before.
8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 1?
At the end of chapter 1, Plop still does not like the dark.

Chapter 2: Dark is Kind

1. Plop didn't want to go hunting because he had stars in his eyes after the fireworks. Did he really have stars in his eyes?
No, Plop said he had stars in his eyes as an excuse because he was still afraid of the dark.
2. What would happen if Mr and Mrs Barn Owl didn't get any sleep during the day?
If Mr and Mrs Barn Owl didn't get any sleep during the day, Plop wouldn't have anything to eat at night.
3. When Plop woke up, he was 'full of beans'. What does this mean?
Pupil's own response. <i>The idea of being full of energy.</i>
4. What did Plop do that shows you he was 'full of beans'?
Plop showed us that he was 'full of beans' when he jiggled up and down on the branch, practised standing on one leg, taking off and landing, and when he tried out his voice.

5. Why was Mrs Barn Owl not pleased with Plop's screech?
Mrs Barn Owl was not pleased with Plop's screech because she was trying to sleep and the noise was disturbing her.
6. Why is the old lady never lonely in the dark?
The old lady is never lonely because she can sit in the dark and remember her husband, her children and all the good times they had together.
7. Why does Plop ask the old lady if she was a night bird?
Plop asked the old lady if she was a night bird because she said she was going indoors to rest during the day.
8. What kind of bird did the old lady say she was?
The old lady said she was a tired old bird.

Chapter 3: Dark is Fun

1. What was Plop remembering?
Plop was remembering that the old lady had said the dark was kind, and that she was never lonely in the dark because she has so much to remember.
2. What brought Plop back from his remembering?
Happy shouts from under his tree brought Plop back from his remembering.
3. What did Plop think would happen next when he saw the bonfire?
Plop thought there would be more fireworks when he saw the bonfire.
4. What ordinary games are fun to play in the dark? Can you think of anymore games that would be fun to play in the dark?
Pupil's own response. <i>Hide and seek would be fun to play in the dark because you could hid easier and trying to find others would be harder.</i>

5. Why does Scumbo, with his big feet, always seem to get caught first?
Pupil's own response. <i>Scumbo is always caught first because his big feet mean he cannot creep around quietly.</i>
6. Why did Plop's friend blow on the potato to cool it down for him?
Plop's friend blew on the potato to cool it down because he knew that owls swallow their food whole and a hot potato in his tummy would have been uncomfortable.
7. Why didn't Plop sing along with the boys?
Plop didn't sing along with the boys because he wanted to listen instead.
8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 3?
At the end of chapter 3, Plop still does not like the dark.

Chapter 4: Dark is Necessary

1. How can you tell Plop was hungry?
You can tell Plop was hungry because he was snoring and owls always snore when they are hungry.
2. Why does the little girl say she has a pony tail?
The little girl said she had a pony tail because it is the fashion.
3. What does the little girl say would happen if we had no dark?
The little girl said that Father Christmas wouldn't come and you would have an empty stocking on Christmas Day if we had no dark.
4. What would Plop and the little girl prefer to have rather than a sugar mouse?
Plop and the little girl would prefer to have a real mouse rather than a sugar mouse.

5. Why would Plop prefer a real mouse?
Plop would prefer a real mouse because he would want to eat it.
6. What did the little girl give to Plop?
The little girl gave Plop a stocking to hang up.
7. Why was the little girl practising her owl's 'Eeek'?
She was practising her owl's 'Eeek' because she wanted to make her brothers jump.
8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 4?
At the end of chapter 4, Plop still does not like the dark.

Chapter 5: Dark is Fascinating

1. Why do you think Mr Barn Owl told Plop he was still asleep?
Pupil's own response. <i>Mr Barn told Plop he was still asleep because he did not want to be disturbed/wanted to sleep for longer.</i>
2. Why did Plop think the young lady was Father Christmas?
Plop thought the young lady was Father Christmas because she was wearing skinny black boots, a bright red fur coat with a matching hat, and what looked like a white beard.
3. Why did Plop have to keep very still for the young lady?
Plop had to keep very still for the young lady so that she could draw him.
4. Why did the young lady say badgers had funny faces?
She said badgers had funny faces to help them stop bumping into each other as they can't see very well.

5. Plop thought that the hedgehog had feathers. What do hedgehogs have to protect themselves?
Hedgehogs have prickles to help protect them.
6. Why did the hedgehog stop and roll itself into a ball?
The hedgehog stopped and rolled itself into a ball because it might have heard Plop say he could eat anything.
7. What does the young lady ask Plop to do before he leaves?
The young lady asked Plop to screech for her before he leaves.
8. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of chapter 5?
At the end of chapter 5, Plop still does not like the dark.

Chapter 6: Dark is Wonderful

1. What does Mr Barn Owl think about Plop's tummy?
Mr Barn Owl believes that Plop's tummy is a bottomless pit.
2. Why did the man with the contraption say "Drat!"?
The man with the contraption said 'Drat!' because it was cloudy and therefore he couldn't always see the stars.
3. What is the Dog Star also known as?
The Dog Star is also known as Sirius.
4. What do the three stars on the Great Hunter represent?
The three stars on the Greater Hunter represent the Great Hunter's belt.

5. Why is it useful to know where the Pole Star can be found?
It is useful to know where the Pole Star can be found because it is always directly above the North Pole, therefore, you can always find the direction of North.
6. What is the Pole Star also known as?
The Pole Star is also known as the North Star.
7. How can you tell that Mr Barn Owl isn't as interested in learning about the stars as Plop is?
You can tell that Mr Barn Owl isn't as interested in learning about the stars as Plop is because he doesn't want Plop to explain it all again the next day. He says he finds it wearing and he groans.
8. What happened to Plop for the first time at the end of chapter 6?
At the end of chapter 6, Plop slept right through the daylight hours like a real night owl.

Chapter 7: Dark is Beautiful

1. What was good about Plop's landing this time?
Plop's landing this time was good because he floated down and landed like a feather.
2. What did Plop expect the cat to do?
Plop expected the cat to ask or say what he thought Plop was.
3. After the cat said Plop looked like a baby owl, why did he add that he had wondered if it was starting to snow?
The cat added this because he could see Plop was disappointed.
4. Why is Orion a good name for a cat?
Orion is a good name for a cat because it is the name of a great hunter, like a cat.

5. When Plop looked around him, what made the night beautiful?
When Plop looked around him, the night was beautiful because the moon had risen and everything was bathed in its white light.
6. Why was Mrs Barn Owl agitated when Mr Barn Owl returned to the nest?
Mrs Barn Owl was agitated when Mr Barn Owl returned to the nest because she thought Plop had said he was going hunting with one of the stars he had spoken about, and wondered if he was alright.
7. How did Mr Barn Owl ease her worries?
Mr Barn Owl eases her worries by telling her he saw Plop up among the chimney pots on the houses near the church with a black cat.
8. What does Plop finally decided about the dark?
Plop finally decides that the dark is Super.