

# Charlie Bone and the Time Twister

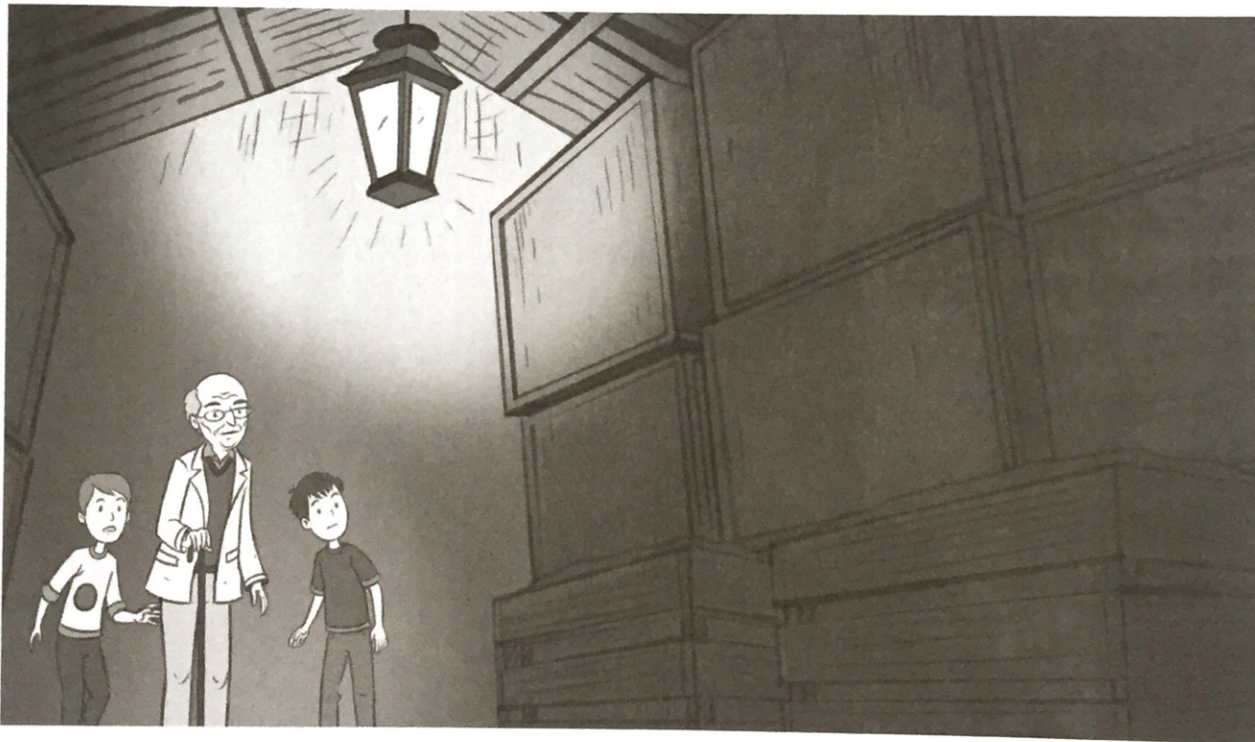
Fidelio and Charlie followed Mr Onimous to the back of the counter. They walked through a tinkling bead screen and into the kitchen.

Mr Onimous showed them to a small door at the back of the kitchen, and then they were in a long passage lined with shelves of disgusting-looking pet food.

“Come along,” urged Mr Onimous as the boys gazed around them.

The shelves came to an end and the passage narrowed. They were now walking on a rough stone floor and this very soon became a path of hard earth. As Mr Onimous scurried along he seemed more and more to take on the appearance of a mole or some other burrowing creature.

Charlie realized<sup>1</sup> that the ceiling was now so low he could rest the flat of his hand on its damp surface. It was getting darker. When the light had almost petered out, they stepped into a small round cavern. It was lit by a single lantern hanging from the ceiling, and all around the walls, huge tea chests stood shoulder to shoulder with plastic sacks and wooden crates. There seemed to be no way out except the way they had come.



1 realized is the American spelling of 'realised'

"Now what?" Fidelio whispered to Charlie.

Mr Onimous had ears as sharp as a rabbit's. "Aha!" he said, making both boys jump nervously. "You're wondering where it is, aren't you? You think Mr Onimous has led you into a nasty trap, don't you?"

Charlie gulped, "Course not."

Fidelio asked, "Where what is?"

Mr Onimous beamed and then, with amazing speed, he spun a crate away from the wall. And there it was! A very small and ancient door. The little man's smile disappeared. His next words were spoken in such a solemn tone, Charlie would never forget them. "Before you go in, I want you boys to swear never to tell a soul about this door."

"I swear," said Charlie.

"I swear," Fidelio repeated gravely.

Mr Onimous nodded. "Good." He reached inside his woolly shirt and pulled out a small key on a gold chain. Putting a claw-like hand on the door, he fitted the key into the lock and gently turned it. With a light creak, the door swung open.



Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** Who did Fidelio and Charlie follow to the back of the counter?

.....

**2** Tick **three** things that you are told about the long passage.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is a tinkling bead screen.      | <input type="checkbox"/> There are plastic sacks.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It is lined with shelves of pet food. | <input type="checkbox"/> There is a rough stone floor.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There are huge tea chests.            | <input type="checkbox"/> The floor becomes a path of hard earth. |

**3** What animal is Mr Onymous compared to as he scurries along the passage?

.....

**4** When they stepped into the small round cavern, what was it lit by?

.....

**5** Read the text starting from “When the light had almost petered out ...” to “... except the way they had come.”

What impression do you get of the cavern? Write down **two** points.

.....

.....

**6** When they were in the cavern, the boys jumped “nervously”. Why do you think they were nervous?

.....

**7** Why do you think Mr Onymous didn't want the boys to tell anyone about the door?

.....

**8** Why do you think Mr Onymous keeps the key inside his shirt on a gold chain?

.....

**9** Do you like Mr Onymous?

Yes       No

Explain your answer giving examples from the story.

.....

.....

**10** How do you think Fidelio and Charlie are feeling as they reach the end of the passage?  
Explain fully, using evidence from the text in your answer.

.....

.....

.....

**Answers**

Links to content domain requirements are in brackets after the answer.

1. Mr Onimous [2b]
2. It is lined with shelves of pet food. There is a rough stone floor.  
The floor becomes a path of hard earth. [2b]
3. a mole [2b]
4. a single lantern [2b]
5. Any two of the following: it is dark and gloomy; it is full of things; it is enclosed. [2g]
6. Because Mr Onimous spoke suddenly/loudly. Because they didn't know what was happening. [2d]
7. It was well hidden so it must be a secret./Because there was something valuable behind the door. [2d]
8. Because it's valuable/very important to him. [2d]
9. Answers that draw on the text, e.g. he is mysterious because he doesn't say where he's taking the boys. He sounds scary because he makes the boys jump. [2d]
10. They are uncertain of what is happening because Fidelio says "Now what?"  
They don't want Mr Onimous to hear what they are saying because Fidelio whispers to Charlie. They are scared because it says they jumped nervously and that Charlie gulped. [2d]

**Assessment**

The children are secure in their ability to retrieve information if they can identify clues in the questions in order to look for key words in the text. They are able to make inferences if they can make connections between the text and their own experiences, and can empathise with characters by putting themselves into the text.

They can explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words if they can unpick the words and phrases in the description of the 'small round cavern' that gives a sense of being enclosed.

**Next steps**

Give the children copies of texts and challenge them to find specific words and phrases in a given time. Develop their scanning skills by giving them specific challenges, e.g. find three adjectives; four nouns; five words ending in *-ing*.

Use passages of fiction to focus on techniques that authors use to create strong impressions of characters. Involve the children in using one colour to highlight words and phrases that give information about a character, and using another colour to highlight words and phrases that give clues about the character. This develops the children's awareness of how an author's choice of language has an impact on the meaning of a text.