

The Listeners

'Is there anybody there?' said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest's ferny floor:
And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller's head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;
'Is there anybody there?' he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.

by Walter De La Mare



1. Which **two** things are true about the Traveller? Tick **two**.

He knocked on the door twice.

He leaned over from the sill.

He has grey eyes.

He descended from the turret.



2. What do you think the word 'champed' means?



3. **Find** and **copy** an example of alliteration from the verse.



4. ...he stood perplexed and still.

Explain what this description suggests about the Traveller.

The Listeners Answers

1. Which **two** things are true about the Traveller? Tick **two**.

He knocked on the door twice.

He leaned over from the sill.

He has grey eyes.

He descended from the turret.

2. What do you think the word 'champed' means?

'Champed' means the horse was chewing noisily.

3. **Find** and **copy** an example of alliteration from the verse.

forest's ferny floor

4. ...he stood perplexed and still.

Explain what this description suggests about the Traveller.

Award marks for responses that explain the Traveller's confusion, e.g.

- **he stood still because he didn't know what else to do because no one was coming to the door.**
- **he was confused that no one was answering.**