

The Nightmare

Solution and Cut-ups

Jane woke with a start.

She had dreamt that some awful creature was lurking in the garden.

It was the beast from the horror film she had foolishly watched that evening.

What a horrible nightmare!

She switched on the light and looked at the clock.

It was almost half past three.

She took a sip of water and turned over.

Suddenly she heard a noise.

It was a sort of deep, rough breathing.

Perhaps she was just nervous because Tim was away on business.

It was probably the dog next door.

Anyway, the door was locked so nobody could get in.

It must have been her imagination.

A few seconds later she heard it again.

This time she thought it came from downstairs.

Then a door creaked loudly and she heard the breathing again.
This time it was at the bottom of the stairs.

Then she heard a step creak; then another.

She began to tremble and her mouth felt dry.

If only she hadn't left her mobile downstairs!

Another footstep made up her mind.

The window was the only way out.

At least there was the lawn below.

The bedroom door opened very slowly.

As she jumped, her nightdress caught on a branch by the window.

She fell awkwardly to the ground and lay quite still.

“Jane, Jane.” There was no reply.

“Darling?.....I got back early but my car broke down in the village.”

Teachers' Notes

AIM to present the concept of onomatopaeic words and to expand Ss' vocabulary in the field of sounds. To practise narrative skills.

LEVEL Intermediate

TIME 45 to 60 minutes

- 1 Offer the Ss a couple of sound words: bang, splash. Elicit some more.
- 2 Explain the concept of onomatopaeia and demonstrate. Compare an example with a word from each language in the class.
- 3 Elicit the word 'nightmare'. Brainstorm possible vocabulary.
- 4 Read the first few lines of the story and ask pairs to think of a possible storyline. Pairs feed back to class.
- 5 Make copies of cut-ups and give out to small groups. Ask Ss to put the story in the correct order.
- 6 Ss read out to compare versions. Final check.
- 7 Pairs produce their own nightmare, which could be written for homework.