

Improving Your Reading with Inference Iggy: An Unexpected Guest



It was five o'clock in the afternoon; there can be no doubt whatsoever about that as I looked at my watch less than ten minutes before it happened. It was exactly five o'clock in the afternoon when I received a most unusual and remarkable visit – a visit which has left an indelible impression on my memory. I was seated in an armchair in my private study in a small town on the west coast of England. It was a splendid afternoon. I was reflecting, as I frequently do, on the pleasant memories of bygone days (especially the happy days that I spent long ago among the coral islands of the Pacific), when I heard a tap on the door.



“Come in,” I beckoned. A stranger immediately burst into the room, shut the door in my landlady’s face and locked it. I was naturally surprised, though not alarmed, by the abrupt and eccentric conduct of my visitor, who stood before me with his arms folded, gazing at me and breathing hard.

“You are agitated, sir. Please sit down,” I said, pointing to a chair.

1. How is the narrator feeling in the first sentence of this extract? Tick **one**.

- resolute
- irritated
- dishevelled
- self-centred

2. Give two ways in which the narrator of the text is portrayed as a calm individual.

1. _____

2. _____

3. Explain why the landlady may have been offended.

4. What impression is the reader given about the strange visitor in this extract? Discuss two aspects of his character, using evidence to support your answer.



Answers

1. How is the narrator feeling in the first sentence of this extract? Tick **one**.
 resolute
 irritated
 dishevelled
 self-centred
2. Give two ways in which the narrator of the text is portrayed as a calm individual.
Accept any two reasonable answers from the text, such as: he spends many hours in his armchair reflecting about pleasant memories; he does not shout when the unexpected visitor enters; he remains seated as the unexpected visitor enters; he is not alarmed by the visitor's entry.
3. Explain why the landlady may have been offended.
The landlady may have been offended because the unexpected guest slammed the door in her face.
4. What impression is the reader given about the strange visitor in this extract? Discuss two aspects of his character, using evidence to support your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: The reader is given the impression that the visitor is rude because he slams the door in the landlady's face. They are also given the impression that the visitor is agitated because the gentleman tells him that he is and asks him to sit down.