

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



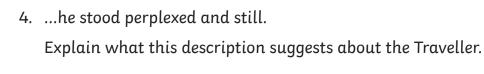
1. Which **two** things are true about the Traveller? Tick **two**.

He knocked on the door twice. He has grey eyes. He leaned over from the sill. 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.







The Listeners Answers

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

He knocked on the door twice.

He has grey eyes.

He leaned over from the sill.

He descended from the turret.

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- 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.

