

# The Minpins

Roald Dahl

- 1 Little Billy hesitated.
- 2 “I’m not nervous,” he said. “I’m not in the least bit nervous. Not me.”
- 4 Very, very slowly, he walked forward into the great forest. Giant trees were soon surrounding him on all sides and their branches made an almost solid roof above his head, blotting out the sky. Here and there little shafts of sunlight shone through gaps in the roof. There was not a sound anywhere. It was like being among the dead men in an enormous empty green cathedral.
- 10 When he had ventured some distance into the forest, Little Billy stopped and stood quite still, listening. He could hear nothing. Nothing at all. There was absolute silence.
- 13 Or was there?
- 14 Hold on just one second.
- 15 *What was that?*
- 16 Little Billy flicked his head round and stared into the everlasting gloom and doom of the forest.
- 18 There it was again! There was no mistaking it this time.
- 19 From far away, there came a faint whoozing whiffling noise, like a small gusty wind blowing through the trees.
- 21 Then it grew louder. Every second it was growing louder, and suddenly it was no longer a small wind, it was a fearsome swooshing whooshing whiffling snorting noise that sounded as though some gigantic creature was breathing heavily through its nose as it galloped towards him.
- 30 Little Billy turned and ran.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Class:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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- 1 At the start of this extract, Little Billy was nervous.

Explain this statement using ideas from the text. You do not have to copy words.

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2d

1 mark

- 2 Look at the paragraph beginning “*Very, very slowly ...*”.

What does the phrase “*blotting out*” mean? Tick **one**.

dimming

hiding

mopping up

spoiling

2a

1 mark

- 3 Find and copy **one** word or group of words in the paragraph beginning “*When he had ventured ...*” that tells you what Billy could hear.

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2b

1 mark

- 4 The writer describes the forest as like “*being among the dead men*”.

How does this make you feel about the forest?

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2g

1 mark

- 5 “*Or was there?*”

*Hold on just one second.*

*What was that?”*

Why does the writer use short paragraphs here? Tick **one**.

He is trying to describe something but he doesn’t know what it is.

He is trying to explain something that is difficult to explain.

He is trying to give the reader information about what Billy heard.

He is trying to help the reader understand Billy’s frightened thoughts.

2f

1 mark

- 6 The thing making the noise gets closer to Billy during this extract.

Find and copy **one** group of words that is evidence for this statement.

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2d

1 mark

7 Number the events to show the order in which they happened in this extract.

- Little Billy turned and ran.
- Little Billy stopped and stood still.
- Little Billy walked into the great forest.
- Little Billy heard a faint noise.

2c  
  
1 mark

8 Put **one** tick in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The forest was light and airy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The roof of the forest was high above Billy's head.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Little Billy was enjoying his walk in the forest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At the end, Little Billy thought something was chasing him.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2b  
  
2 marks

9 Draw lines to join groups of words from the text to what they tell you.

*“empty green cathedral”*

Billy was surrounded by the dark.

*“everlasting gloom and doom”*

The sound was loud and scary.

*“like a small gusty wind blowing”*

Billy felt alone.

*“a fearsome swooshing, whooshing, whiffing, snorting noise”*

There was a quiet, breathy sound.

2d  
  
2 marks