

The Guest

by Arnold Lobel



Owl was at home.

"How good it feels to be sitting by this fire," said Owl.

"It is so cold and snowy outside."

Owl was eating delicious buttered toast and hot pea soup for supper.

Practice questions

A Where was owl?

Tick **one**.

in the garden

at home

at school

in a tree

B What was the weather like outside?

C Find and copy two words that tell you what Owl's toast was like.

Owl heard a loud sound at the front door.

“Who is out there, banging and pounding at my door on a night like this?”
he said.

Owl opened the door. No one was there. Only the snow and the wind.



1 Why did Owl go to the front door?

2 What was at the door?

Tick **one**.

the rain and the
mist

the snow and the
wind

the fog

the sun

3. Who is out there, banging and pounding at my door on a night like this?”

In this sentence the word **pounding** means

Tick one box

waving

knocking hard

shouting

scratching

Owl sat near the fire again. There was another loud noise at the door.

“Who can it be,” said Owl, “knocking and thumping at my door on a night like this?”

Owl opened the door.



4 Where did Owl sit?

5 When Owl says *a night like this*, he means that the night was...

No one was there. Only the snow and the cold.

“The poor old winter is knocking at my door,” said Owl.
“Perhaps it wants to sit by the fire. Well, I will be kind and let the winter come in.”

Owl opened his door very wide.

"Come in, Winter," said Owl.

"Come in and warm yourself for a while."



6 Why did Owl say the *poor old winter*?

Tick **one**.

Winter was ill.

Winter had no money.

Owl felt sorry for Winter.

Owl felt angry with Winter.

Winter came into the house. It came in very fast. A cold wind pushed Owl against the wall. Winter ran around the room. It blew out the fire in the fire-place. The snow whirled up the stairs and whooshed down the hallway.

“Winter!” cried Owl. “You are my guest. This is no way to behave!”



7 What happened to the fire?

8 How did Owl feel when he said, “*this is no way to behave*”?

Tick **one**.

happy

tired

angry

hungry

9. Find and copy two words that tell you how the snow moved.

1. _____

2. _____

But Winter did not listen. It made the curtains flap and shiver. It turned the pea soup into hard, green ice. Winter went into all the rooms of Owl's house. Soon everything was covered with snow.



“You must go, Winter!” shouted Owl. “Go away, right now!”

10 Find and copy two words that tell you that the curtains moved around.

1. _____

2. _____

11 How did Owl speak to Winter?

Tick **one**.

kindly	<input type="checkbox"/>	crossly	<input type="checkbox"/>
quietly	<input type="checkbox"/>	softly	<input type="checkbox"/>

The wind blew round and round. Then Winter rushed out and slammed the front door.

“Goodbye,” called Owl, “and do not come back!”

Owl made a new fire in the fire-place. The room became warm again. The snow melted away. The hard, green ice turned back into soft pea soup.

Owl sat down in his chair and quietly finished his supper.



10 *Then Winter rushed out and slammed the front door.*

What does *rushed* mean in this sentence?

11 Who slammed the front door?

12 At the end, the room was...

Tick **one**.

cold and damp.

warm and quiet.

noisy and
windy.

icy and snowy.

13 Who was the guest in this story?



14 Do you think Owl would let Winter in again?

Yes

No

Why do you think this?
