

Kidnapped

Somebody was coming up the stairs! Ducking down behind an old crate, we waited. I could feel my heart thumping like a bass drum. What if we were caught? The strange girl glanced at me through the semi-gloom and grinned.

Gradually, the door opened and we could hear someone tiptoeing in. There was a pause and then a torch flickered on. After a few moments, the light switched off. Then the door shut and the footsteps clicked back down the stairs. Relieved, I let out a sigh. As we clambered out of the window and slithered down the wet roof, I was trying to remember how I had got into such a mess.

It had only been half an hour ago when Mum had sent me down to the chippie with a tenner. When I reached the roundabout, I couldn't help looking at the old house, although it wasn't much to look at. It was then that I'd seen it: a light at the window. Then I saw a face. I stood there staring. It was a girl; she was mouthing a word and the word was, 'HELP'.

That's how it happened. I'd broken in round the back through a smashed window, despite the risk of being cut. Half a minute later and I'd found her, a trapped prisoner in an upstairs room. She'd only just finished telling me that she was the American ambassador's daughter, when the kidnappers returned!

So there we were, balancing on the roof, as if we were walking the tight rope. Gripping the loose, creaking guttering desperately, I lowered myself down. Five minutes later and we were back at Mum's cosy kitchen. "So Ron, where's the fish and chips?" she asked, eyeing the girl suspiciously. Half an hour after that, her Dad arrived in a shiny embassy limousine. That night it wasn't just chips for tea. He took us all out for a huge banquet. Amazingly, the next day, there I was in the local paper. A hero.

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In the first paragraph...

1. ...how can you tell the boy didn't want to be seen?
2. ..what evidence is there to suggest the boy is scared.
3. Summarise what happens in the second paragraph.
4. Look at the paragraph beginning *It had only been half an hour ago..* how did the boy know there was someone trapped in the house?
5. Order these events in the story:

They escape via the roof.

The boy notices the girl in the old house.

Ron is sent to get chippie for tea.

The girl explains who she is and what has happened.

The boy broke into the old house.

They went all went out for a meal to celebrate.

6. The writer uses a flashback in the story. For each sentence say if it is part of the flashback or main plot.

Ron and the girl hide from the kidnappers.

Ron and the girl are balancing on the roof.

Ron saw a light in the old house.

Ron found out he was a local hero.