

## LEVEL 1: ANNOTATED READING QUESTIONS

### The Night Before Showcase

'Twas the night before Showcase  
When all through the school,  
Not a student was stirring,  
Not even Kate Yule.

The streamers were hung  
From the backdrop with care  
In hopes that an audience  
Soon would be there.

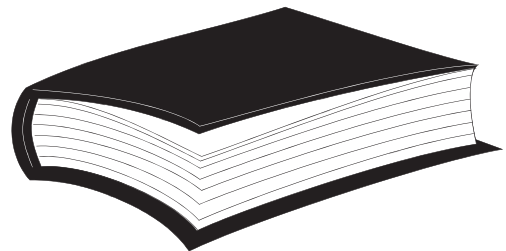
The teachers were safe  
All snug in their beds  
While visions of reading groups  
Danced in their heads.

And Mrs Evans in the office  
I know for a fact  
Had just finished the script  
For the opening act.

When out on the asphalt  
There arose such a din.  
Mrs Evans sprang up  
And knocked over the bin.

Through the dark hallway  
Down the carpet she tore  
Turned off the alarm  
And opened the door.

And what did she see  
When out she did look  
Nothing but stars  
And a poetry book!



## Answer these sample questions.



1. The night before Showcase was:

- ☐ busy
- ☐ hectic
- ☐ quiet
- ☐ boring

**HINT** – The clues are in the 1st stanza, “not a student was stirring”, and the 3rd stanza, “The teachers were safe . . .” Don’t be tricked by the action later in the poem.

2. Why did Mrs Evans get up?

- ☐ she had finished the script
- ☐ she heard a noise outside
- ☐ she knocked over the bin
- ☐ she had to turn off the alarm

**HINT** – Find out what happened before Mrs Evans got up, not after she got up. Look in the 5th stanza.

3. Which word best describes how Mrs Evans moved down the carpet?

- ☐ ran
- ☐ sprang
- ☐ jumped
- ☐ walked

**HINT** – Look for the clue word in the 6th stanza. – What is a synonym for “tore”? – Ignore other words that are not directly related to the question.

4. What else could Mrs Evans have seen when she looked outside?

- ☐ a poetry book
- ☐ a library bag
- ☐ an old school hat
- ☐ a toy rubber chook

**HINT** – Rhyming words have the same ending sound. The correct answer must rhyme with the second line of the last stanza. – The answer cannot be “a poetry book”.

## Answer these questions about “The Night Before Showcase”.



1. What had Mrs Evans been doing in the office?
  - ☐ cleaning
  - ☐ writing
  - ☐ filing
  - ☐ decorating
  
2. What is the meaning of “danced in their heads”?
  - ☐ the students were dancing together
  - ☐ the teachers had a headache
  - ☐ the teachers were dreaming
  - ☐ the teachers were dancing in showcase
  
3. Why did they add streamers to the backdrop?
  - ☐ for the audience
  - ☐ for the students
  - ☐ for the teachers
  - ☐ for Mrs Evans
  
4. What is the main setting for the poem?
  - ☐ the hall
  - ☐ the office
  - ☐ the asphalt
  - ☐ the school
  
5. Who is the author of the poem?
  - ☐ an unknown person
  - ☐ Mrs Evans
  - ☐ Kate Yule
  - ☐ the teachers