

The Signalman

By Charles Dickens

Chapter 1 A Strange Meeting

1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of the story and for each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 When the narrator first called him, the signalman
 - A looked up.
 - B looked in the direction of the tunnel.
 - C did not hear him.

- 2 Why did the narrator ask where the path was?
 - A He wanted to go down and catch the train.
 - B He wanted to go down and speak to the signalman.
 - C He wanted the signalman to come up.

- 3 What does the narrator say about the place?
 - A It was quiet, dark and lonely.
 - B It had high walls and a lot of sunlight.
 - C There was a red light from the sun.

- 4 Watching the red light
 - A was not part of the signalman's job.
 - B disturbed the signalman.
 - C was part of the signalman's job.

- 5 The narrator thought the signalman
 - A seemed nervous about something.
 - B was probably a ghost.
 - C was friendly.

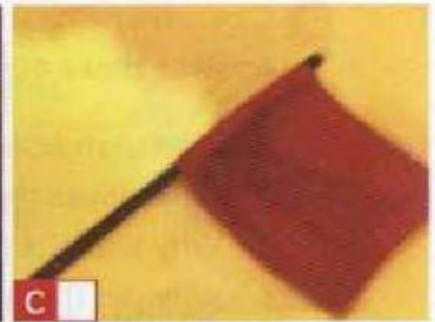
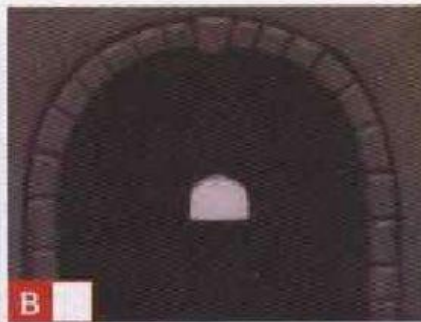
- 6 The signalman began to relax
 - A when he took the narrator to his box.
 - B when the narrator said, 'I've never been there before'.
 - C when the narrator pointed to the red light.

2 Match the narrator's questions with the signalman's answers. Write A-F in boxes 1-6.

- 1 Why are you watching that red light?
- 2 Have you got much work to do?
- 3 Don't you sometimes feel lonely?
- 4 Are you a happy man?
- 5 When shall I come?
- 6 What's the problem?

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| A No, I'm used to it. | D It's difficult to say. |
| B No, not very much. | E Because it's part of my job. |
| C Ten o'clock tomorrow night. | F I was happy once. |

3 Match sentences 1-6 to the correct pictures. Write 1-6 in boxes A-F.



- 1 I must show this when the train passes.
- 2 When I change this, it tells the train drivers to stop or go.
- 3 I always watch this because it warns of danger.
- 4 I use this to send and receive messages.
- 5 When I hear this, I know the station is calling me.
- 6 This is where the red light is.