Listening Activity: The Shadow in the Thames

Instructions: *Listen to the story and fill in the missing verbs in the correct past tense.*

The night **(1)** _____ a heavy, damp fog as I **(2)** _____ home along the river. I **(3)** _____ the entire day dealing with a crisis at work, and the silence of the Thames **(4)** _____ like a sanctuary. I **(5)** _____ three pints of ale at the pub, which **(6)** _____ my head spin slightly. Entranced by the silver light, I sat on the cold stone steps. The water **(7)** _____ gently against the moss, and because I **(8)** _____ awake for nearly twenty hours, I eventually succumbed to a dark sleep.

When I woke up, the silence **(9)** _____ absolute. The moon **(10)** _____ behind a wall of black clouds, and a freezing wind **(11)** _____ through the bridge cables like a dying scream. I **(12)** _____ for my coat when a sickening, wet sound echoed from below. I looked down, and my heart stopped.

Something colossal **(13)** _____ from the turgid depths. A pale, translucent arm, covered in oily scales, **(14)** _____ out of the water. I **(15)** _____ anything so unnatural. The creature **(16)** _____ with a terrifying, rhythmic precision toward my throat. I tried to scream, but my voice **(17)** _____.

Suddenly, the air behind me **(18)** _____ to hum with static electricity. A blinding blue light **(19)** _____, illuminating the creature's jagged teeth. A man **(20)** _____ as if by magic. He **(21)** _____ a tattered velvet coat and **(22)** _____ a silver rod that **(23)** _____ with an intense sapphire light.

"Get back!" he roared. He pointed the device at the beast, which **(24)** _____ its frozen fingers around my ankle. A piercing whirring sound filled the air, and the monster dissolved into a foul-smelling mist.

The stranger looked at me with eyes that **(25)** _____ the beginning and the end of time. "You **(26)** _____ into a trap," he whispered. "The Water Wraiths **(27)** _____ for your pulse to slow down."

"Who... who are you?" I gasped.

"I'm The Doctor," he said. Before I could process how he **(28)** _____, another flash blinded me. When I finally opened my eyes, the steps **(29)** _____ empty. He **(30)** _____, leaving only the smell of ozone.
and the distant sound of a fading police siren.

LIVEWORKSHEETS