

Coraline

Chapter 2

The next day the rain was gone, but there was thick white fog around the house.

"I'm going for a walk," said Coraline.

"Don't go far," said her mother. "And wear warm clothes."

Coraline put on her blue coat with a hood, her red scarf, and her yellow boots. Then she went outside.

Miss Spink was walking her dogs.

"Hello, Caroline," said Miss Spink. "Bad weather."

"Yes," said Coraline.

"I once played Portia in a play," said Miss Spink. "People came to see my Portia. We were actresses long ago."

Miss Spink wore many sweaters and looked small and round, like a big fluffy egg. She had thick glasses, and her eyes looked very big.

"People sent flowers to my room after the shows," she said.

"Who did?" asked Coraline.

Miss Spink looked around carefully, first to one side, then to the other. She looked into the fog, as if someone might be listening.

"Men," she whispered. Then she pulled the dogs closer and walked slowly back to the house.

Coraline kept walking.

She was almost all the way around the house when she saw Miss Forcible at the door of her flat.

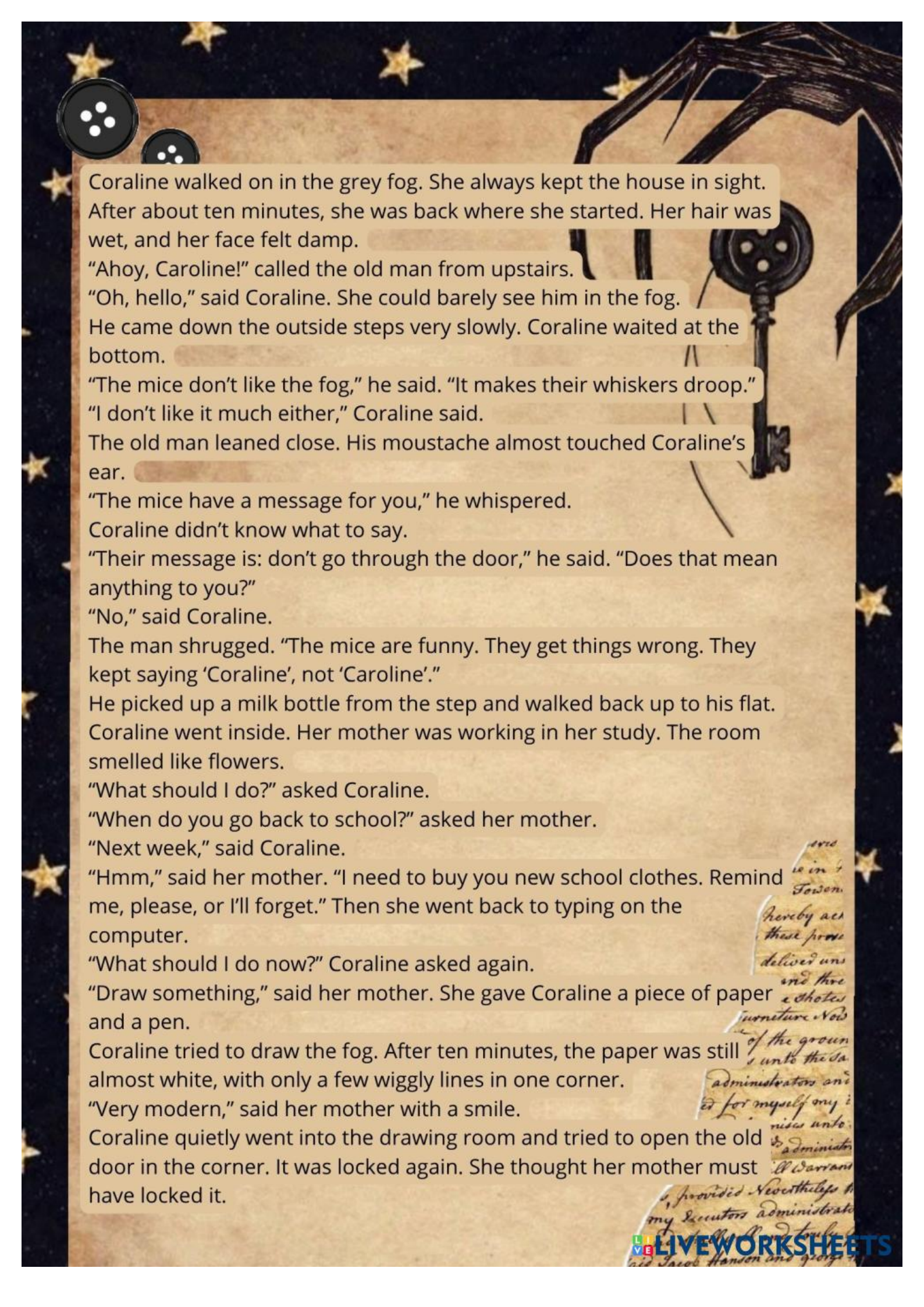
"Have you seen Miss Spink, Caroline?" asked Miss Forcible.

Coraline said yes, and that Miss Spink was walking the dogs.

"I hope she doesn't get lost," said Miss Forcible. "The fog is so thick. You could be an explorer to find your way in this."

"I am an explorer," said Coraline.

"Of course you are, dear," said Miss Forcible. "Just don't get lost."



Coraline walked on in the grey fog. She always kept the house in sight. After about ten minutes, she was back where she started. Her hair was wet, and her face felt damp.

"Ahoy, Caroline!" called the old man from upstairs.

"Oh, hello," said Coraline. She could barely see him in the fog.

He came down the outside steps very slowly. Coraline waited at the bottom.

"The mice don't like the fog," he said. "It makes their whiskers droop."

"I don't like it much either," Coraline said.

The old man leaned close. His moustache almost touched Coraline's ear.

"The mice have a message for you," he whispered.

Coraline didn't know what to say.

"Their message is: don't go through the door," he said. "Does that mean anything to you?"

"No," said Coraline.

The man shrugged. "The mice are funny. They get things wrong. They kept saying 'Coraline', not 'Caroline'."

He picked up a milk bottle from the step and walked back up to his flat.

Coraline went inside. Her mother was working in her study. The room smelled like flowers.

"What should I do?" asked Coraline.

"When do you go back to school?" asked her mother.

"Next week," said Coraline.

"Hmm," said her mother. "I need to buy you new school clothes. Remind me, please, or I'll forget." Then she went back to typing on the computer.

"What should I do now?" Coraline asked again.

"Draw something," said her mother. She gave Coraline a piece of paper and a pen.

Coraline tried to draw the fog. After ten minutes, the paper was still almost white, with only a few wiggly lines in one corner.

"Very modern," said her mother with a smile.

Coraline quietly went into the drawing room and tried to open the old door in the corner. It was locked again. She thought her mother must have locked it.

Then Coraline went to see her father. He was typing and didn't turn around. "Go away," he said cheerfully.

"I'm bored," said Coraline.

"Learn to tap-dance," he suggested, still not looking at her.

Coraline shook her head. "Can't we play together?"

"I'm busy working," he said. "Why don't you talk to Miss Spink and Miss Forcible?"

So Coraline put on her coat, pulled up her hood, and went out again. She went down the steps and rang the bell at Miss Spink and Miss Forcible's flat. She heard the dogs barking inside.

After a while, Miss Spink opened the door.

"Oh, it's you, Caroline," she said. "Angus, Hamish, Bruce, be quiet, my dears. It's only Caroline. Come in, dear. Would you like some tea?"

The flat smelled like furniture polish and dogs.

"Yes, please," said Coraline.

Miss Spink took her to a small, dusty room she called the parlour. There were old black-and-white photos and framed theatre programmes on the walls. Miss Forcible sat in an armchair, knitting.

Miss Spink gave Coraline tea in a little pink cup and a dry biscuit.

Miss Forcible looked at Miss Spink, took a deep breath, and started talking about old plays and roles. Miss Spink said they shouldn't talk about it.

Coraline thought they were having a comfortable old argument — the kind that never ends.



"I can read your future in the tea leaves," Miss Spink told Coraline.

"Sorry?" said Coraline.

"In the bottom of the cup. I'll tell your future."

Coraline gave her the cup. Miss Spink looked closely at the tea leaves and made a serious face.

"You are in terrible danger," she said after a while.

Miss Forcible snorted. "Don't scare the girl, April. Your eyes aren't good."

She took the cup and looked at it too.

"Oh dear," she said. "She really is in danger."

"See?" said Miss Spink happily.

"What kind of danger?" asked Coraline, a little worried.

"It doesn't say," said Miss Spink. "Tea leaves only tell general things, not details."

"So what should I do?" asked Coraline.

"Don't wear green in your dressing room," said Miss Spink.

"And don't mention the Scottish play," added Miss Forcible.

Coraline wondered why the grown-ups said such strange things.

"Be very careful," said Miss Spink. She went to the fireplace and took some small things from a jar on the mantelpiece: a tiny china duck, a thimble, a small coin, two paperclips, and a stone with a hole in it.

She gave the stone to Coraline.

"What's it for?" asked Coraline. She held it up and looked through the hole.

"It might help," said Miss Spink. "It's good for keeping bad things away."

Coraline put on her coat, said goodbye to the ladies and the dogs, and went outside.

The fog was still all around the house, like a thick blanket. Coraline walked slowly to the steps and stopped to look around.

In the fog, everything looked like a ghost world.

"Danger?" she thought. "That sounds exciting."

She walked up the steps, holding the stone tightly in her fist.

**1. Reading check: выбери слово, чтобы
дополнить предложение**

The next day there was no rain, but there was _____ around the house.

- a) sunshine b) fog

Coraline wore a blue coat, a red scarf, and _____.

- a) yellow boots b) black shoes

Miss Spink used to be _____.

- a) an actress b) a teacher

The old man said the mice didn't like the fog because it made their _____ droop.

- a) whiskers b) tails

Coraline's mother told her to _____ her about new school clothes.

- a) remind b) forget

Coraline tried to draw the _____, but the paper stayed almost white.

- a) fog b) house

The old door in the drawing room was _____ again.

- a) locked b) open

Miss Spink offered to read Coraline's future in the _____.

- a) tea leaves b) book

Miss Spink gave Coraline _____ to help keep bad things away.

- a) a stone with a hole b) a coin

Coraline held the stone _____ as she walked up the steps.

- a) tightly in her fist b) in her pocket

2.True / False

- The weather was sunny and clear the next day.
- Coraline listened to her mother and stayed at home.
- Miss Spink told stories about her acting days.
- The old man's mice liked the fog very much.
- Coraline's mother promised to buy her new school clothes right away.
- Coraline drew a very detailed and clear picture of the fog.
- The old door in the drawing room was open when Coraline checked it.
- Miss Forcible agreed with Miss Spink that Coraline was in danger.
- The stone Miss Spink gave Coraline had a hole in the middle.
- Coraline felt very scared and cried because of the warning about danger.



3.3. Вставь слова по смыслу в пропуски

Слова: walked, gave, looked, said, tried, kept, heard, went, held, told

- Coraline _____ outside in her warm clothes.
- She _____ around the house and stayed close to it.
- The old man _____ that the mice's whiskers drooped in the fog.
- Her mother _____ her to remind her about school clothes.
- Coraline _____ to draw the fog, but it was hard.
- She _____ at the old door, but it was locked.
- In the flat, Coraline _____ the dogs' barking before Miss Spink opened the door.
- Miss Spink _____ Coraline a stone with a hole.
- Coraline _____ the stone tightly in her hand.
- Miss Forcible _____ Coraline she was in danger after looking at the tea leaves.

