

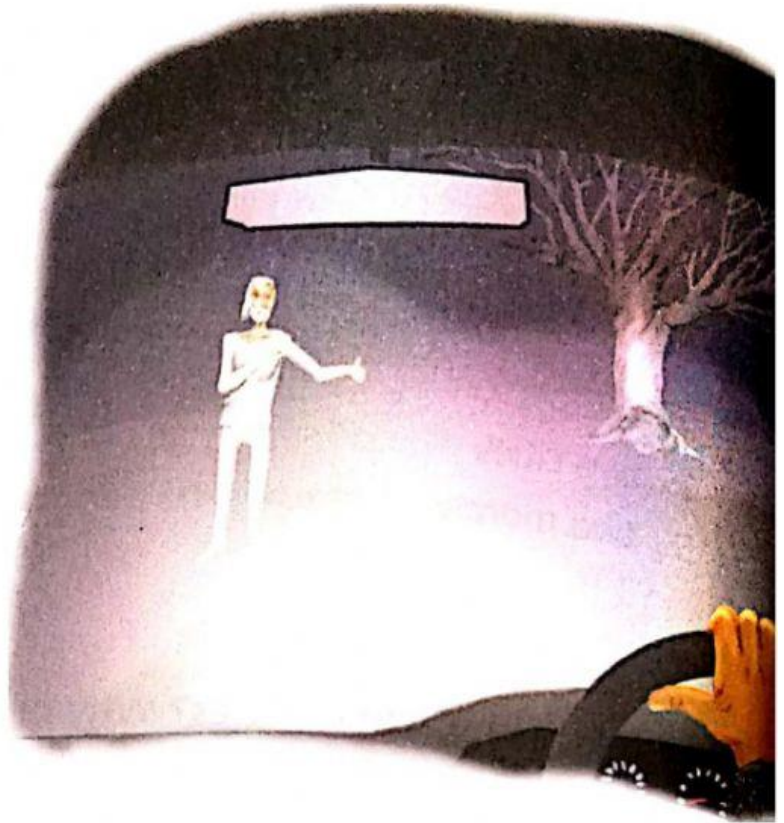
The Hitchhiker*

One winter evening, a young man called Peter went to his friend's party. He drove home very late at night on a dark country road* , Suddenly he

5 saw a hitchhiker next to the road. It was cold and raining, so he stopped the car and said, "Do you want a ride?" The hitchhiker was an old man in white clothes, but he didn't have a jacket. The old man didn't say anything but he opened the door and got into the car.

The hitchhiker sat very quietly and Peter thought he looked cold and 5 frightened*.

"Are you okay?" he asked. The old man didn't answer. Peter took off his jacket and gave it to him.



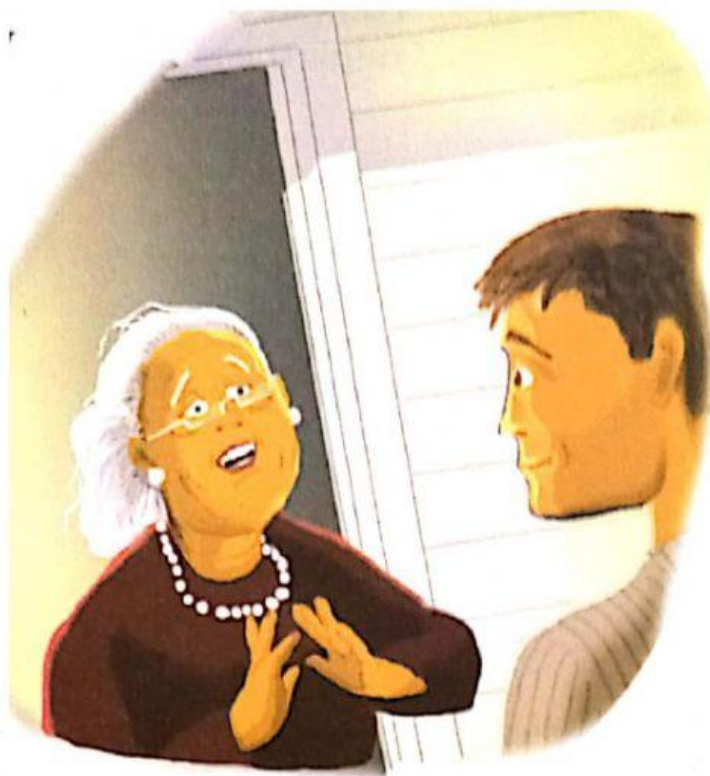
"Here, put my jacket on," he said. The hitchhiker took the jacket and put it on.

Half an hour later, he pointed to a big house on the hill, so Peter stopped the car. "Let me open the door for you," Peter said and he walked around the car to open the door. When he got there, the man wasn't there. "That's strange," thought Peter, "I didn't see him get out of the car!"

When Peter got home, he looked for his jacket. "The hitchhiker forgot to return my jacket," he thought. So the next day, he went back to the hitchhiker's house and knocked on the door. An old woman opened the door.

"Is your husband at home?" asked Peter.

"My husband died ten years ago," answered the woman. "I live here alone." She showed him a photograph of her husband and Peter was very surprised.



"That's impossible* ! " he exclaimed. "I drove your husband to this house last night."

The old woman smiled. "Did you give my husband your jacket?" she asked.

'-o "Yes, I did," replied Peter. "How did you know that?"

"I'm sorry," the woman said, "this happens all the time! Follow me, please." She took peter to a small garden and pointed to a grave* under a tree.

"That's where my husband is," she said sadly.

peter walked to the gave. His jacket was hanging over the headstone*.



Questions

1. What is the story about?
2. Who are the main characters?
3. When does the story take place?
4. Where does the story take place?