Click on the audio to listen as you read the second chapter of *The Judge's House*.

CHAPTER TWO

'Well, sir,' she said, 'a long time ago - no, I don't know how long - a judge lived there. He was a hard, cruel judge, sir - a real hanging **judge**. He showed **no mercy** to anyone. But as for the house itself - well, I can't say. I've often asked, but nobody could tell me for certain.' She found it hard to explain. The general feeling in the town was that there was something strange about the Judge's House. 'As for me, sir,' she said, 'I won't stay there alone, not for all the money in the bank!'

Then she apologized to Moore. 'I'm sorry to worry you, sir, really I am. But if you were my son I wouldn't let you stay there one night on your own. I'd go there myself and pull the big alarm bell that's on the roof!'

Moore was grateful for her kindness and her **anxiety**. 'How good of you to be so anxious about me, Mrs Wood!' he said. 'But there's really no need to worry. I'm studying for an important examination and I have no time for horrors or mysteries.'

The landlady kindly promised to do his shopping for him. Moore then went to see the old servant whom Mr Carnford had recommended to him. Her name was Mrs Dempster, and she seemed pleasant and eager to please her new master.

When he returned with her to the Judge's House two hours later, he found Mrs Wood waiting outside it. She had **several** people with her - men and boys carrying **parcels**, and another two men with a bed.

'But there are beds in the house!' cried Moore in surprise. 'And nobody's slept in them for fifty years or more! No, sir, I won't let you risk your life in an old, **damp** bed.'

The landlady was obviously curious to see the inside of the house. At the same time she was clearly afraid. At the smallest noise she held nervously to Moore's arm. Together they **explored** the whole house. After his **exploration**, Moore decided to live in the dining-

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room. It was big enough for both working and sleeping. Mrs Wood and Mrs Dempster began to arrange everything. Soon the baskets were unpacked. Moore saw that kind Mrs Wood had brought many good things from her own kitchen. Before she left she turned to Moore and said, 'I do hope you will be all right, sir. But I must say - I couldn't sleep here, with all those ghosts!'

When she left, Mrs Dempster laughed. 'Ghosts!' she said. 'Ghosts! There are no ghosts! There are rats and insects, and doors that need oiling. There are windows that blow open in the wind... Look at the old oak walls of this room, sir. They are old - hundreds of years old! Don't you think there'll he rats and **insects** behind the wood? You'll see plenty of rats here, sir, but you won't see any ghosts - I'm sure of that. Now you go and have a nice walk, sir. And when you come back. I'll have this room all ready for you.'

She kept her promise. When Moore returned he found the room clean and **neat**. A fire was burning in the **ancient** fireplace. She had lit the lamp and put his supper ready on the table.

'Good night, sir,' she said. 'I have to go now and get my husband's supper. I'll see you in the morning.'

'This is wonderful!' said Moore to himself as he ate Mrs Dempster's excellent food. When he had finished his **supper**, he pushed the dishes to the other end of the table. He put more wood on the fire and began to study.

Translate the words into your language. Use the dictionary if you need to.

judge = _____ no mercy = _____

anxiety = _____ several = _____

parcels = _____ damp = _____

explore = _____ exploration = _____

insects = _____ ancient = _____

neat = _____ supper = _____

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Answer the following statements true or false.

The old house used to belong to a kindhearted judge.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Wood was anxious because Moore was staying at the house.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Dempster was Mr Carnford's servant.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Dempster was an old servant who was eager to work for John.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Wood gave John Moore a new bed to sleep in.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Wood explored the house with John.	☐ True ☐ False
The landlady saw a ghost in the dining room.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Dempster doesn't believe in ghosts.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Wood packed food for John in a basket.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Wood sent John out for walk.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Dempster cooked John supper.	☐ True ☐ False
Mrs Dempster had a room in the house where she slept.	☐ True ☐ False
The house had a very old fireplace.	☐ True ☐ False

In what word group do these words belong? SORT THE WORDS.

damp	anxious	anxiety	explore
parcels	ancient	apologize	exploration
insects	neat	arrange	explain

Drag and drop the words above in the columns below in alphabetical order.

Adjectives	Nouns	Verbs
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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