

Click on the audio to listen to the final two chapters of *The Judge's House* by Bram Stoecker

Listen as you read and write the missing words.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Moore stared into the cruel eyes, like a bird watching a cat. He saw the Judge coming nearer with his noose. He saw him throw the noose towards him. Desperately Moore _____ himself to one side, and saw the rope fall harmlessly to the floor. Again the Judge raised the noose and tried to catch Moore. Again and again he _____. And all the time he stared mercilessly at the student. 'He's just playing with me,' thought Moore, 'like a cat playing with a bird. Soon he'll catch me, and hang me...'

He looked desperately behind him. Hundreds of rats were watching him with bright, anxious little eyes. Then he saw that the rope of the alarm bell was _____ with rats. As he watched, more and more were pouring down onto the rope, from the round hole in the _____ that led to the bell itself. The rats were hanging from the rope, and there were so many of them that the rope was swinging backwards and forwards.

The alarm bell _____ to ring, softly at first, then more strongly. At the sound, the Judge looked up. A devilish anger spread across his face. His eyes burned like red jewels. Outside there was a sudden, deafening crash of thunder. The Judge raised his _____ again, while the rats ran desperately up and down the rope of the alarm bell.

This time, instead of throwing the rope, the Judge moved nearer to Moore, and _____ the noose open. Moore was unable to move. He stood there like a stone figure. He felt the Judge's icy fingers and the _____ rope against his neck.

He felt the noose against his throat. Then the Judge picked up the stiff body of the student in his arms. He carried him over to the great oak chair and stood him on it. Then, stepping up beside him, the Judge put up his hand and _____ the rope of the alarm bell. At his touch the rats ran away, squeaking with fear. They disappeared through the hole in the ceiling. Then the Judge _____ the end of the noose which was around Moore's neck. He tied it to the hanging bell rope. Then he climbed down, and pulled away the chair.

CHAPTER EIGHT

When the alarm bell of the Judge's House began to ring, a _____ soon gathered. People came running with lanterns and torches, and soon hundreds of people were hurrying to the house. They _____ loudly at the door, but there was no reply. Then they broke down the door, and poured into the great dining-room. The Doctor was the first to _____ Moore. But too late.

There at the end of the bell rope _____ the body of the student. The Judge stared out once more from his picture. But on his face there was a smile of _____.

- THE END -

Answer the following questions.

1. What was the expression on the judge's face like?

2. What were the rats doing as the judge moved closer to Moore?

3. Why did the rats suddenly disappear through the hole in the ceiling?

4. Why did the alarm bell ring?

5. What did the people find when they broke down the door?

6. How had the judge's face changed in the picture?
