The Closet Creature

By Kelly Hashway

Bump! Bump! Scratch!



Adam opened his eyes and pulled the covers up to his chin. He stared around his room, searching the darkness for the thing that was making those scary sounds. The closet door moved as something banged on it from the inside.

"Who's there?" Adam asked in a shaky voice.

The closet slowly began to open. Adam jumped out of bed and ran to the closet door, slamming it shut with his palms. He grabbed his desk chair and propped it against the door handle. Then he ran out of his room and down the hall. His brother's door was wide open, and Adam jumped onto David's bed.

"Adam?" David asked in a groggy voice. "What are you doing in here?"

Adam tugged on David's arm. "There's something in my closet!"

"You probably had a bad dream. Go back to bed." Adam yanked the blankets off the bed.

"It wasn't a dream. I was awake, and the closet door started opening by itself!" David sighed. "Fine. But when we don't find anything, you have to promise to leave me alone for the rest of the night."

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Adam nodded. David reached into his desk drawer and pulled out a flashlight. Then they headed to Adam's room. Adam stopped in the doorway. He could hear something scratching his closet door.

"Do you hear that?" Adam asked.

David nodded. He walked over to Adam's bed and pulled the case off one of the pillows. He opened the pillowcase.

"You open the door very slowly, and I'll grab whatever it is."

Adam slid the chair to the side and pulled the closet door open a crack. Something banged against the door, trying to force it open. Adam took a deep breath and opened the door a few more inches. A small furry creature ran right into the pillowcase.

"I got it!" David said, closing the pillowcase and holding it in the air. "What is it?" Adam moved closer as David peeked inside. David put the pillowcase on the bed and an orange cat climbed out.

Adam scooped the cat up. "Apricot? How did you get trapped in my closet?"

David laughed. "The poor cat. If I was locked in your closet with your stinky shoes, I'd be banging on the door to get out, too!"

"Poor, Apricot," Adam said. "You were probably more scared than I was."

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Instructions: Answer the following questions below.

1. What happened right after David went into Adam's room?
   a) Adam jumped into David's bed.
   b) David grabbed a flashlight from his desk drawer.
   c) Adam awoke to strange sounds coming from his bedroom closet.
   d) David heard the noise coming from Adam's closet.

2. What did David plan to do with the pillowcase?
   a) keep the creature from coming out of the closet
   b) scare the creature in the closet
   c) catch the creature in the closet
   d) hit the creature in the closet

3. What was making the strange sounds in Adam's closet?
   a) The boys' cat, Apricot, was trapped in the closet.
   b) The girls' cat, Apple, was trapped in the closet.
   c) The boys' bog, Apricot, was trapped in the closet.
   d) The strangers' cat, Snuggle, was trapped in the closet.

4. Drag and drop the right word to complete each sentence based on the passage.

Tired	Brave	Annoyed

_____ because he was willing to catch the creature in the closet.

_____ because he didn't like his brother waking him up.

_____ because he spoke in a groggy voice.

5. Draw a line and match the words to their definition.

Groggy	Took a quick look
Slid	Went towards
Palms	Very sleepy
Pillowcase	Soft bag for keeping a pillow clean
Headed	Past tense of slide
Peeked	Inner surface of the hands

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6. Who were the main characters in the story?
   a) sisters Molly and Megan
   b) brothers Tom and Jerry
   c) brothers Adam and David

7. Where and when did the story take place?
   a) Early in the morning, in the living room
   b) At night, in their bedroom
   c) At noon, in the attic

8. What was the problem in the story?
   a) David heard scratching sounds coming from the window, scaring him
   b) Adam heard sounds coming from the closet, closet door opened, scaring him
   c) Sally heard scary noises coming from the dark hallway

9. How was the problem solved in the story?
   a) David catches the creature with a pillowcase
   b) Adam runs out of the room from the creature
   c) The creature came out and said hi to the boys

10. Decide whether each statement below is true or false.

_____ - David capture the creature in the closet.

_____ - Adam was never afraid

_____ - the creature in the closet was their cat Apricot

_____ - Adam woke up David because he was scared

_____ - Adam tugged on David's arm and said "There's something in my closet!"

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