

The Signalman

By Charles Dickens

Chapter 1 A Strange Meeting

1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of the story and for each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 When the narrator first called him, the signalman
 - A ☐ looked up.
 - B ☐ looked in the direction of the tunnel.
 - C ☐ did not hear him.
- 2 Why did the narrator ask where the path was?
 - A ☐ He wanted to go down and catch the train.
 - B ☐ He wanted to go down and speak to the signalman.
 - C ☐ He wanted the signalman to come up.
- 3 What does the narrator say about the place?
 - A ☐ It was quiet, dark and lonely.
 - B ☐ It had high walls and a lot of sunlight.
 - C ☐ There was a red light from the sun.
- 4 Watching the red light
 - A ☐ was not part of the signalman's job.
 - B ☐ disturbed the signalman.
 - C ☐ was part of the signalman's job.
- 5 The narrator thought the signalman
 - A ☐ seemed nervous about something.
 - B ☐ was probably a ghost.
 - C ☐ was friendly.
- 6 The signalman began to relax
 - A ☐ when he took the narrator to his box.
 - B ☐ when the narrator said, 'I've never been there before'.
 - C ☐ when the narrator pointed to the red light.

2 Match the narrator's questions with the signalman's answers. Write A-F in boxes 1-6.

- 1 ☐ Why are you watching that red light?
- 2 ☐ Have you got much work to do?
- 3 ☐ Don't you sometimes feel lonely?
- 4 ☐ Are you a happy man?
- 5 ☐ When shall I come?
- 6 ☐ What's the problem?

A No, I'm used to it.

B No, not very much.

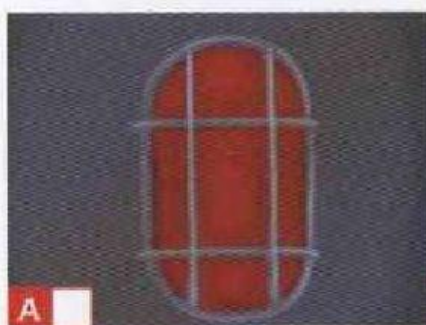
C Ten o'clock tomorrow night.

D It's difficult to say.

E Because it's part of my job.

F I was happy once.

3 Match sentences 1-6 to the correct pictures. Write 1-6 in boxes A-F.



- 1 I must show this when the train passes.
- 2 When I change this, it tells the train drivers to stop or go.
- 3 I always watch this because it warns of danger.
- 4 I use this to send and receive messages.
- 5 When I hear this, I know the station is calling me.
- 6 This is where the red light is.