

Listening Activity: The Shadow in the Thames

Instructions: Listen to the story and fill in the missing verbs in the correct past tense.



The night (1) _____ a heavy, damp fog as I (2) _____ home along the river. I (3) _____ the entire day dealing with a crisis at work, and the silence of the Thames (4) _____ like a sanctuary. I (5) _____ three pints of ale at the pub, which (6) _____ my head spin slightly. Entranced by the silver light, I sat on the cold stone steps. The water (7) _____ gently against the moss, and because I (8) _____ awake for nearly twenty hours, I eventually succumbed to a dark sleep.

When I woke up, the silence (9) _____ absolute. The moon (10) _____ behind a wall of black clouds, and a freezing wind (11) _____ through the bridge cables like a dying scream. I (12) _____ for my coat when a sickening, wet sound echoed from below. I looked down, and my heart stopped.

Something colossal (13) _____ from the turgid depths. A pale, translucent arm, covered in oily scales, (14) _____ out of the water. I (15) _____ anything so unnatural. The creature (16) _____ with a terrifying, rhythmic precision toward my throat. I tried to scream, but my voice (17) _____.

Suddenly, the air behind me (18) _____ to hum with static electricity. A blinding blue light (19) _____, illuminating the creature's jagged teeth. A man (20) _____ as if by magic. He (21) _____ a tattered velvet coat and (22) _____ a silver rod that (23) _____ with an intense sapphire light.

"Get back!" he roared. He pointed the device at the beast, which (24) _____ its frozen fingers around my ankle. A piercing whirring sound filled the air, and the monster dissolved into a foul-smelling mist.

The stranger looked at me with eyes that (25) _____ the beginning and the end of time. "You (26) _____ into a trap," he whispered. "The Water Wraiths (27) _____ for your pulse to slow down."

"Who... who are you?" I gasped.

"I'm The Doctor," he said. Before I could process how he (28) _____, another flash blinded me. When I finally opened my eyes, the steps (29) _____ empty. He (30) _____, leaving only the smell of ozone. and the distant sound of a fading police siren.