

I had to be quick, I was out of bounds, scanning frantically around the Headmaster's office. No-one knew I was here; they couldn't find out...

My heart was pounding, the sweat pouring from my head dripped into the shaggy carpet. I opened drawers, cupboards, cabinets, looked under piles of papers – nothing! Everywhere had to be searched. I was running out of time.

Just one cupboard left to go. The key was hanging just above it. Fumbling with the lock, trembling, I turned the key. The door wouldn't open! I pulled harder, falling backwards as it opened. Time was running out.



1. What do you think the narrator is searching for?
2. Do you think the narrator is a boy, or a girl? Why?
3. Describe the narrator's journey to the office. Describe how you think they felt?
4. Find words or phrases that show panic. How many can you find?
5. Why don't you think the narrator told anyone their plan?
6. If you could ask the narrator a question, what would it be? What do you think their answer will be?

A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



The first locks and keys were used in Ancient Egypt. They were wooden! What is the history of locks and keys? People worry about many things. What are some ways that you could help someone who is stressed? Modern locks use thumb prints, recognise eyes or let you see your door through your phone even if you're away from your house. Design a security system for the future. How will it work? Design a device that might help the narrator. What does it do? How does it work?