

Quickly, I checked the address again. This was definitely it, number 21. It certainly didn't look like I expected it to! It didn't look like anyone lived here, or had been living here for some time. Mossy, worn stairs, leading ominously to a battered, shabby door that looked like someone had already tried to get in – without a key!

I took a deep breath, before sending a couple of texts to let people know where I was. Walking on legs that didn't feel like mine, I climbed the stairs. Hesitantly I knocked; hearing the sound echo through an empty hallway.



1. Why do you think the author checks the address?
2. Which words, or phrases, make you feel wary of the doorway?
3. Who do you think the author sent texts to? What did they text?
4. Why do you think the author has come to number 21?
5. Think of a time you have taken a deep breath before you did something. What did you do? What advice would you give to yourself if you went through a similar situation?
6. Why might the knock on the door echo through the hallway?

A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



The first text message was sent in 1992. What was it? Who sent it? How many are sent every day? Write a message to a friend using as much text speak and as many emojis as possible. Can they read it? Find out about an abandoned building near to where you live? Why might it be empty? Write some advice to someone who is feeling worried. What can you suggest to help them? Find out about the history of iron railings. What happened to many of them in World War II?