

It seemed like a lifetime since I had last visited the house on the hill, but I knew deep in my heart, that one day it would draw me back to it – like a magnet it both repelled and attracted me.

Grey, desolate and windswept, the house perched ominously in the gloom. Alone and miserable, I stood staring at it, not wanting to go back inside...but I had to, I had no choice.

Gradually, my feet dragging through the long, soaking grass, I climbed the hill, eventually reaching the front door. I stared... sighed... summoned the courage... before knocking loudly.



1. What is the house like? Which words or phrases describe it?
2. How old do you think the narrator is? Why do you think this?
3. Why do you think the narrator has returned?
4. Who do you think lives in the house? Or is it empty ?
5. Why might the narrator not want to knock on the door?

A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



Draw, or describe, what you think the inside of the house in this opener might look like.
Find out about books, or films that have famous houses in them. How many can you name?
What is the largest house in the world? Where is it? Who lives there? How much is it worth?
Where are the smallest houses in the world? Can you find them on a map?
Research innovative house designs – e.g. tree houses, underwater houses, eco-friendly houses, e.t.c.
Design the perfect house. What would you include in it?