

A Shadowy Figure

Right on cue, a shadowy figure stepped out of one of the police cars. With the bright glare of the headlights behind her, at first all Jack could make out was her silhouette. She was a short stocky lady, with what looked like a nurse's hat on her head and a cape draped over her shoulders.

"Who are you?" demanded Jack.

At a slow pace the figure walked towards him. Her high-heeled boots echoed on the cold, wet pavement.

When she finally reached him, her face contorted into a pantomime of a smile. Her eyes were small and mean, and her nose upturned, as if she was sticking it against a window.



Quick Questions

1. Explain what the word 'silhouette' means.

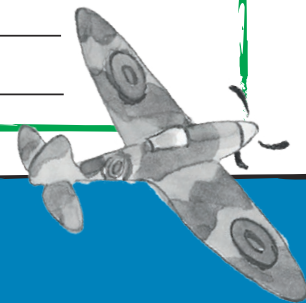
2. What physical features does the shadowy figure have? Tick **two**.

- small, mean eyes upturned nose
- tall, thin figure thin, friendly smile
- broad, stocky shoulders

3. Give two phrases or sentences that the author has written to build suspense or tension in the story.

- _____
- _____

4. Explain how you think Jack might feel about the figure. Use evidence from the text.



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Answers

1. Explain what the word 'silhouette' means.

The dark shape of a person or object.

2. What physical features does the shadowy figure have? Tick two.

- small, mean eyes upturned nose
 tall, thin figure thin, friendly smile
 broad, stocky shoulders

3. Give two phrases or sentences that the author has written to build suspense or tension in the story.

- **a shadowy figure stepped out**
- **At a slow pace the figure walked towards him.**

4. Explain how you think Jack might feel about the figure. Use evidence from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Jack might feel suspicious about the figure because her small, mean eyes and pantomime smile make her seem less than friendly and genuine.