

The Sound Collector

A stranger called this morning
Dressed all in black and grey
Put every sound into a bag
And carried them away.

The whistling of the kettle
The turning of the lock
The purring of the kitten
The ticking of the clock
The popping of the toaster
The crunching of the flakes
When you spread the marmalade
The scraping sound it makes
The hissing of the frying-pan
The ticking of the grill
The bubbling of the bathtub
As it starts to fill

The drumming of the raindrops
On the window-pane
When you do the washing-up
The gurgle of the drain
The crying of the baby
The squeaking of the chair
The swishing of the curtain
The creaking of the stair

A stranger called this morning
He didn't leave his name
Left us only silence
Life will never be the same.

By Roger McGough

Challenge 1

- 1 What word tells us that the poet does not know who the sound collector is?

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1 mark

- 2 What object in the poem makes a whistling sound?

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1 mark

- 3 Find two things in the poem that make a ticking sound.

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2 marks

- 4 According to the poem, what did the sound collector leave behind?

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1 mark

- 5 'On the window-pane...' What is the 'pane' of a window usually made of?

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1 mark

Challenge 2

- 1 'The turning of the lock...' What word could you use to describe the sound of a lock being turned?

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1 mark

- 2 'The crunching of the flakes...' What are the 'flakes' in this line? How do you know?

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2 marks

- 3 On what do you think marmalade is being spread? Give two reasons for your answer, based on the text.

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3 marks

4 Why might a frying-pan make a 'hissing' sound?

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1 mark

5 Alliteration is where two words close together start with the same sound. Find and copy an example from the fourth verse.

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1 mark

Challenge 3

1 What does the stranger do in the first verse, and why is it odd?

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2 marks

2 How do you think the narrator feels about living without all of the sounds? Give a reason for your answer.

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2 marks

3 If this were to happen to you, which of the sounds mentioned would you miss the most, and why?

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1 mark

Total: _____ / 19 marks



Had a go



Getting there



Got it!