



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 What are the differences between living in a house and living in a flat?
- 2 Where would you prefer to live – in a modern house or an old house? Why?
- 3 Can you think of an old house in your neighbourhood? What does it look like?

The text is near the beginning of a fantastic story. A small child and a cuckoo from a cuckoo clock become friends. At night, the clock takes her to magic places.

- 1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question. What colours do you imagine when you read this text?

The Cuckoo Clock (1877)

Mary Louisa Molesworth

In an old town, in an old street, there stood a very old house. You can hardly see such a house nowadays as it belonged to a time now quite **passed away**.

It stood in a street, but yet it was not like a town house,

- 5 for though the front faced the pavement, from the back windows you saw a beautiful garden, with old trees growing so close together that in summer it was like living on the edge of a forest.

Time seemed to stand still in and all about the old house,

- 10 perhaps the house and the people who lived there had got so old that they could not get any older or change.

But one day a change came. Late one autumn afternoon a **carriage** drove up to the door of the old house. In the carriage was a little girl in a grey dress, a grey hat and grey

- 15 gloves – all grey together, even to her eyes, all except her round **rosy** face and bright brown hair. Her name even was rather grey, for it was Griselda.

A **gentleman** lifted her out of the carriage and disappeared with her into the house. Shall we go inside to see more?



- 20 Up the wide stairs an old **servant** leads a tired and **drowsy** Griselda to the room prepared for her. It was a strange room – everything in the house was strange; but in the dancing light of the fire it looked cheerful enough. 'I am glad there's a fire,' said the child. 'Will it burn till the
- 25 morning, do you think?' The old servant shook her head.

GLOSSARY

passed away	died
carriage	a vehicle with wheels that is pulled by a horse
rosy	pink colour
gentleman	a polite word for <i>man</i>
servant	someone who works and lives in someone else's house doing their cooking and cleaning, especially in the past
drowsy	feeling tired and wanting to sleep

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1** In what way is the house unusual?

.....

- 2** How are Griselda's name and her clothes similar?

.....

.....

- 3** What is nice about the *strange room*?

.....

- 4** Who do you think the gentleman is?

.....

.....

VOCABULARY

3 Put the words in order.

Example: feeling / I / was / drowsy

I was feeling drowsy.

- 1** house / an / the / in / old / servant / worked

.....

- 2** dress / colour / her / a / was / pink

.....

- 3** very / is / a / kind / he / gentleman

.....

- 4 horses / large / pulled / four / carriage / the

.....

4 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

carriage drowsy passed away servants

- 1** He was very sad when his uncle

- 2** She grew up in a house with twenty.....!

- 3** In those days only rich people travelled by

- 4** I had a sleep because I was feeling.....

WRITING

- 5** Write a questionnaire. Write questions to ask people about either their flat/house or their neighbourhood. For the flat/house, you could ask about size, colour, furniture, how many people live there, favourite room, etc. For the neighbourhood, you could ask about parks, shops, places to go, etc.

[illegible]

SPEAKING

- 6** Interview other students about where they live, using your questionnaire from the Writing activity and make notes on their answers.