

Improving Your Reading with Vocabulary Victor: The Midnight Miller



There was a weary, old miller who lived in Wales. Each morning he arrived at the mill and noticed that his sacks had been opened during the night. He decided that someone must have been working in his mill whilst he was away.

He told his friend what he thought and they decided to go and guard the mill the next night. The following night, as the ghostly moon was high in the sky, they approached the mill on top of the bare, stony hill. Much to their surprise, the mill was all lit up and the sails were spinning round! Creeping up to a small window, the miller peered inside. He saw lots of tiny figures carrying small bags and emptying them into the millstones. However, when the miller looked closely, he saw that the bags were not filled with flour... they were filled to the brim with golden coins!



1. **Find** and **copy** two words from the text which describe the hill.

- _____
- _____

2. *filled to the brim*

What does this phrase mean?

3. *as the ghostly moon was high in the sky*

why do you think the author described the moon as ghostly?

4. *Creeping up to a small window, the miller peered inside.*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word **peered**? Circle **one**.

walked

barged

looked

avoided

Answers

1. **Find** and **copy** two words from the text which the author uses to describe the hill on which the mill sits.

bare, stony

2. *filled to the brim*

What does this phrase mean?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'filled all the way to the top'.

3. *as the ghostly moon was high in the sky*

Why do you think the author described the moon as ghostly?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author described the moon as ghostly because it had hazy, cloudy edges so it looked like a ghost floating in the sky.

4. *Creeping up to a small window, the miller peered inside.*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word **peered**? Circle **one** answer.

walked

barged

looked

avoided