

### Zombies at the Door

I could hear the zombies hanging on the front door. They had been doing it all night. Hanging and then scraping and then silence. At first we thought the silence meant that the zombies had given up and gone away. But the noise always started again. I was exhausted; Melissa and Jake were exhausted.

"Look," Melissa whispered. She turned her head towards the front door and it's horrendous scraping thing that was clearly cracking under the pressure. In only moments it would come off and the barrier between the zombies and us would be broken. I leapt around the kitchen table and began pushing my old lounge. It was a heavy thing, made of solid wood and thick upholstery, so it was slow going. Luckily, Melissa and Jake joined in and before you could say, "dead man's chest" we had pushed the three-seater beast, with a cracking thud, against the door.

The zombie hanging stopped. Silence. Two unassuming minutes passed and then as always, a chorus of groans followed by a new round of hanging. I don't know if I was imagining it, but it seemed louder and more insistent this time. Bang! Bang! Bang! We all watched as the door shook and shifted slightly but remained in place. Thankfully, for now, the zombies were staying on the other side.

"That was close," said Jake, sweat peeling on his pasty forehead, "We need to get out of here before they try something else."

I sat down at my kitchen table. It seemed ordinary enough with its scattering of used cups, a two-day-old newspaper and Melissa's set of keys. For the past three years, I had sat here perfectly safe, drinking my tea, eating my cereal and chatting with my friends. Now my safe haven had sinking zombie odour seeping in from under the front door and a relentless terrifying hanging.

"Ya," I agreed, "we need to get out of here. Any ideas?"

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN FULL SENTENCES\*

1. Who or what was hanging on the front door?
2. How long had this been going on?
3. Why were the three scared of the zombies?
4. What did Melissa want the others to look at?
5. What did the three put in front of the door?
6. The zombies made a hanging noise. What other noise did they make?
7. What was on the kitchen table?
8. Describe what you think the zombies looked like?
9. Imagine you were hiding in the house. Describe how you are feeling?
10. We don't know who the main character is. Choose a name for him or her and describe what they look like.
11. Write one way of escaping from the house that involves a car, hairspray and a bowl of custard.
12. Write another way of escaping from the house that involves three bicycles, a large coil of rope and a box of empty bottles.