

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark

Chapter 1: Dark is Exciting

1. Who is Plop?

2. Who does Plop live with?

3. Where does Plop live?

4. What does Plop look like?

5. What is Plop afraid of?

6. What colour does Plop think the dark is?

Chapter 2: Dark is Kind

1. Why didn't Plop go hunting with his Daddy?

2. What kept Plop's mother and father busy all night long?

3. What did Plop do when he woke up?

4. What did the old lady say carrots were useful for?

5. Why does the old lady think the dark is kind?

6. How else does the old lady describe the dark?

Chapter 3: Dark is Fun

1. Why didn't Plop go hunting with his Daddy?

2. What did Plop decide to remember?

3. Why does the boy say the dark is fun?

4. What is the boy's favourite game?

5. What else do the Boy Scouts do around the camp fire?

6. What kind of songs do the Boy Scouts sing?

Chapter 4: Dark is Necessary

1. What does it mean if an owl snores?

2. What did Plop like about the fish Mr Barn Owl had brought him to eat?

3. What did the squirrel do when Plop let out his loudest 'Eeek'?

4. What kind of tail did the little girl have?

5. Why did the little girl think Plop wasn't a proper owl?

6. Why does the little girl say the dark is necessary?

Chapter 5: Dark is Fascinating

1. What was the young lady wearing?

2. Who did Plop think the young lady was?

3. Did the young lady have a white beard?

4. Why did the young lady always carry a sketch book with her?

5. What does the young lady draw in her sketch book?

6. What does the young lady say about the dark?

Chapter 6: Dark is Wonderful

1. Why did Plop want another shrew?

2. What is another word for shooting star?

3. Why was it not a good night for looking at stars and planets?

4. Why couldn't Plop see anything when he first looked through the telescope?

5. How far away were the stars that Plop saw?

6. What stars did Plop see?

Chapter 7: Dark is Beautiful

1. How did Plop land this time?

2. What were the two strange lamps shining from the shadows under the tree?

3. What did the cat wonder when he saw Plop floating down from the tree?

4. What does Orion invite Plop to do with him?

5. How does Orion describe the moonlight?

6. Why does Mrs Barn Owl ask Mr Barn Owl if he was sure it was Plop that he saw?

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Answers

Chapter 1: Dark is Exciting

1. Who is Plop?	4. What does Plop look like?
Plop is a baby barn owl.	Plop is fat and fluffy. He has a beautiful, heart-shaped ruff, enormous round eyes and very knacky knees.
2. Who does Plop live with?	5. What is Plop afraid of?
Plop lives with his Mummy and Daddy.	Plop is afraid of the dark.
3. Where does Plop live?	6. What colour does Plop think the dark is?
Plop lives at the top of a very tall tree in a field.	Plop thinks the dark is black.

Chapter 2: Dark is Kind

1. Why didn't Plop go hunting with his Daddy?	4. What did the old lady say carrots were useful for?
Plop didn't go hunting because he couldn't see. He had stars in his eyes from the fireworks.	The old lady said carrots were useful for helping one see in the dark.
2. What kept Plop's mother and father busy all night long.	5. Why does the old lady think the dark is kind?
Plop's mother and father were busy all night long bringing him food.	The old lady thinks dark is kind because it hides things such as shabby furniture or holes in carpets. It hides her wrinkles and her old hands. She can forget she is old and remember her husband and family in the dark.
3. What did Plop do when he woke up?	6. How else does the old lady describe the dark?
When Plop woke up he jiggled up and down on the branch. He practised standing on one leg; taking off and landing; and he tried out his voice.	The old lady also describes the dark as quiet and restful.

Chapter 3: Dark is Fun

1. Why didn't Plop go hunting with his Daddy?

Plop didn't go hunting with his Daddy because he was too busy remembering.

4. What is the boy's favourite game?

The boy's favourite game is where one of you stands outside a 'home' with a torch in your hand and you shine it on anything you see or hear moving. The others have to creep past and reach 'home' without being spotted.

5. What else do the Boy Scouts do around the camp fire?

The Boy Scouts also sing around the camp fire.

6. What kind of songs do the Boy Scouts sing?

The Boy Scouts sing funny songs, sad songs, short songs and long songs.

Chapter 4: Dark is Necessary

1. What does it mean if an owl snores?

If an owl snores it means it is hungry.

4. What kind of tail did the little girl have?

The little girl had a pony tail.

2. What did Plop like about the fish Mr Barn Owl had brought for him to eat?

Plop liked the fish because it was deliciously slippery.

5. Why did the little girl think that Plop wasn't a proper owl?

The little girl thought that Plop wasn't a proper owl because proper owls say 'Tu-whit-a-woo'.

3. What did the squirrel do when Plop let out his loudest 'Eeek'?

The squirrel jumped in the air and vanished into his hole in the tree when Plop let out his loudest 'Eeek'.

6. Why does the little girl say the dark is necessary?

The little girl says the dark is necessary so Father Christmas can come.

Chapter 5: Dark is Fascinating

1. What was the young lady wearing?

The young lady was wearing shiny black boots, a bright red fur coat with a matching hat, and what looked like a white beard.

4. Why did the young lady always carry a sketch book with her?

She always carried a sketch book in case she saw something interesting.

2. Who did Plop think the young lady was?

Plop thought the young lady was Father Christmas.

5. What does the young lady draw in her sketch book?

The young lady draws animals and birds in her sketch book. At one end of the book she draws creatures that come out in the day, and the other end creatures that come out at night.

3. Did the young lady have a white beard?

No; she had long blond hair.

6. What does the young lady say about the dark?

The young lady says that the dark is fascinating.

Chapter 6: Dark is Wonderful

1. Why did Plop want another shrew?

Plop wanted another shrew because he said that shrews are nice but they aren't very big, and the one he had eaten was feeling lonely all by itself at the bottom of his tummy.

2. What is another word for a shooting star?

A shooting star is also a meteor.

3. Why was it not a good night for looking at stars and planets?

It wasn't a good night for looking at stars and planets because it was cloudy.

4. Why couldn't Plop *see* anything when he first looked through the telescope?

Plop couldn't see anything through the telescope because he was looking through the wrong end.

5. How far away were the stars that Plop saw?

The stars Plop saw were fifty-four million miles away.

6. What stars did Plop see?

Plop saw the Dog Star, Orion the Great Hunter, the Plough and the Pole Star.

Chapter 7: Dark is Beautiful

1. How did Plop land this time?

Plop landed like a feather.

2. What were the two strange lamps shining from the shadows under the tree?

The two strange lamps shining from the shadows under the tree were the eyes of a big, black cat.

3. What did the cat wonder when he saw Plop floating down from the tree?

The cat wondered if it was starting to snow when he saw Plop floating down from the tree.

4. What does Orion invite Plop to do with him?

Orion invites Plop to go hunting with him.

5. How does Orion describe the moonlight?

Orion describes the moonlight as magic which turns everything to silver, especially on frosty nights.

6. Why does Mrs Barn Owl ask Mr Barn Owl if he was sure it was Plop that he saw?

Mrs Barn Owl asks Mr Barn Owl if he was sure it was Plop that he saw because she doesn't think that Plop would be so far from home.