

2. Soren's Basement

¹Usually on Fridays my dad works at the pet store. ²I had an hour before he'd be home, so I sat down to relax and enjoy my time alone. ³I decided to play video games, so I picked up the remote, turned off the TV, and went downstairs. ⁴Before I made it to my room, I noticed the basement door was slightly ajar. ⁵I closed it. ⁶Walking toward my room, I noticed a partially chewed napkin on the floor. ⁷As I picked it up, the basement door slowly started to creak back open. ⁸I darted toward my room and slammed the door behind me. ⁹I stood shaking with my ear pressed against the door. ¹⁰My heart was pounding against my chest. ¹¹I could feel the blood rush to my face, just like when I give a wrong answer in math class. ¹²A cold breeze brushed my bare feet from underneath the bedroom door.



¹³After building up enough courage to move, I cracked the bedroom door and peered out. ¹⁴The basement door was open and the light began to flicker.

¹⁵CRASH!!! BAM!!! BOOM!!!

¹⁶"AHHH!!!" I screamed.

¹⁷Lightening fast, I shut my bedroom door. ¹⁸I started sweating profusely. ¹⁹It felt like the heater was turned up to 100 degrees! ²⁰I had to get out of my room. ²¹I felt trapped. ²²I waited for hours — at least it felt like that — then tiptoed into the bathroom, closed the door, and turned off the light.

²³I heard a low voice. ²⁴It was coming from the basement. ²⁵I looked over at the bathroom window, wondering if I could fit through it. ²⁶There was no time to waste. ²⁷I knocked out the screen and made an attempt to climb through it, making a lot of noise in the process. ²⁸Just then, my dad burst through the door holding a box of light bulbs. ²⁹When he saw me stuck, hanging halfway out of the window, he fell onto the floor laughing.

Circle **T** if you are certain this sentence is true. Circle **F** if you are certain it is false. Circle **U** if it is unknown because you need more information. Add the sentence number(s) that best supports your true or false answer.

1. The narrator waited an hour in his bedroom before moving to the bathroom.

T ____, F ____, or U

2. The basement light was flashing before the narrator ran to his bedroom.

T ____, F ____, or U

3. Soren's cat was in the basement making the noise Soren heard. T ____, F ____, or U ____

Circle the letter next to the correct answer or write the answer on the lines given.

4. The word "profusely" in sentence 18 most likely means:
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| a. slightly. | c. variously. |
| b. excessively. | d. moderately. |
5. In the first paragraph, what caused the narrator to be scared?
- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| a. the basement door slowly opened | c. the torn napkin |
| b. thinking that there was something in the basement | d. all of the above |
6. Number the events in order.
- _____ Soren screamed.
- _____ Soren's dad found him.
- _____ The light was flickering.
- _____ Loud sounds came from the basement.
7. What elements of the picture on page 4 are not parts of the story?
- _____
- _____

Circle **PT** for probably true or **PF** for probably false. Be sure to supply the best evidence that supports your answer: sentence number(s) and/or personal knowledge.

8. Soren's dad was in the basement fixing a light bulb.

PT or PF Sentences _____ Personal knowledge: _____

9. Soren's dad burst into the bathroom because he heard loud sounds.

PT or PF Sentences _____ Personal knowledge: _____

10. Soren's dad helped Soren get out of the window.

PT or PF Sentence _____ Personal knowledge: _____

Answers

2. Soren's Basement (p. 4)

1. U; We have no idea how long the narrator waited in his bedroom before going into the bathroom. Sentence 22 offers no specific information about how long the narrator actually waited in his bedroom.
2. F; 14
3. U; We have no evidence that Soren had a cat, or that if he did it was in the basement making noise.
4. b
5. d
6. 3, 4, 1, 2
7. Elements which are not part of the story include the Mona Lisa painting, the cat, the bench the cat is sitting on, and the slingshot in the boy's back pocket.
8. PT; 14, 28
9. PT, 27, 28; Sentence 27 tells us that Soren made "a lot of noise" while trying to climb through the window. Sentence 28 says that as he was doing this his dad "burst" into the room. It is reasonable to infer that his father probably "burst" into the room because of the loud sounds he heard coming from the bathroom.
10. PT; 29; Sentence 29 tells us that Soren was stuck, hanging halfway out the window. He would probably need some help getting out the window. Since his father is in the bathroom with him, then his father probably helped him out of the window.