

1 Sophie couldn't sleep.

A brilliant moonbeam was slanting through a gap in the curtains. It was shining right on to her pillow.

The other children in the dormitory had been asleep for hours.

5 Sophie closed her eyes and lay quite still. She tried very hard to doze off.

It was no good. The moonbeam was like a silver blade<sup>1</sup> slicing through the room on to her face.

The house was absolutely silent. No voices came up from downstairs. There were no footsteps on the floor above either. [...]

10 The moonbeam was brighter than ever on Sophie's pillow. She decided to get out of bed and close the gap in the curtains. [...]

*[After some hesitation, Sophie decides to look out the window.]*

In the silvery moonlight, the village street she knew so well seemed completely different. The houses looked bent and crooked<sup>2</sup>, like houses in a fairy tale. Everything was pale and ghostly and milky-white.

15 Across the road, she could see Mrs Rance's shop, where you bought buttons and wool and bits of elastic. It didn't look real. There was something dim and misty<sup>3</sup> about that too.

Sophie allowed her eye to travel further and further down the street.

Suddenly she froze. *There was something coming up the street on the opposite side.*

*It was something black...*

20 *Something tall and black...*

*Something very tall and very black and very thin.*



## CHAPTER II

## Who?

It wasn't a human. It couldn't be. It was four times as tall as the tallest human. It was so tall its head was higher than the upstairs windows of the houses. Sophie opened her mouth to scream, but no sound came out. Her throat, like her whole body, was frozen with fright.

25 This was the witching hour all right.

The tall black figure<sup>4</sup> was coming her way. It was keeping very close to the houses across the street, hiding in the shadowy places where there was no moonlight.

On and on it came, nearer and nearer. But it was moving in spurts. It would stop, then it would move on, then it would stop again.

30 But what on earth was it doing?

# Write the beginning of a scary story

The main character can be your best friend, your sister, your brother, your cousin, etc. Imagine his or her reaction to something or someone they have seen.



## 1 Plan your story

- Choose the characters, the place and the time.
- Imagine why the hero is scared.

## 2 Write your story

- Write a draft.
- Proofread it:
  - are the verbal forms correct?
  - is the vocabulary precise and varied?
  - are the characters very scared / very scary?

### Tip

- Souviens-toi de ce que tu as appris sur la **description des personnages** et la **montée du suspense**.
- Tu peux t'inspirer directement du texte de Roald Dahl :  
*Sophie couldn't sleep.*  
→ **Lucas couldn't move.**
- Aide-toi de la page *How to write a story* p. 111.



Tell your scary story to your classmates!



## write a story

a scary one!



Pour écrire une histoire effrayante en anglais, tu peux utiliser les mêmes techniques que Roald Dahl. Relis attentivement le texte p. 108. Voici quelques idées pour t'aider à t'organiser.

➔ Présente ton personnage principal (nom, problème éventuel).

Pour cela, Roald Dahl utilise le Prétérit simple.

Sophie **couldn't sleep**.

A brilliant moonbeam **was slanting** through a gap in the curtains. It **was shining** right on to her pillow.

The other children in the dormitory had been asleep for hours. [...]

➔ Plante le décor :

- le moment et l'atmosphère,
- les autres personnages et le lieu.

Pour expliquer le problème, Roald Dahl utilise le Prétérit BE + -ing.

➔ Introduis l'élément effrayant.

Remarque l'adverbe *suddenly* et le verbe, qui alertent le lecteur sur les sentiments de Sophie. Les phrases sont au Prétérit simple.

Suddenly she **froze**. There **was** something coming up the street on the opposite side.

It **was** something black...

Something tall and black...

Something very tall and very black and very thin.

[...]

➔ Laisse ton lecteur imaginer la scène et insuffle un rythme à ton récit.

Roald Dahl répète la même phrase en ajoutant un élément nouveau à chaque fois. Il va à la ligne à chaque phrase pour ménager le suspense, en laissant au lecteur le temps d'imaginer le pire !

The tall black figure **was coming** her way. It **was keeping** very close to the houses across the street, hiding in the shadowy places where there was no moonlight. [...]

But what on earth **was it doing**?

➔ Concentre-toi sur l'élément effrayant.

Sophie essaie de comprendre les mouvements et l'intention de la silhouette : les phrases sont au Prétérit BE + -ing.

### À toi de jouer !

- Rédige des scènes effrayantes à partir de celle de Roald Dahl. → WB p. 131

## Atmosphere

Track 122

- dim ≠ bright
- misty
- pale, ghostly  
/eɪ/ /əʊ/
- gloomy = dark, depressing  
/u:/
- eerie = strange and mysterious  
/'iəri/
- disturbing, disquieting

## Impressions and feelings

Track 123

- creepy, spooky, scary, frightening, terrifying  
/i:/
- cute, lovely, charming  
/kju:t/ /ɑ:/
- ugly, revolting = disgusting, gross  
/əʊ/
- be afraid = be scared = be frightened
- be terrified, be frozen with fear

## Comparison

Track 124

- be like
- look like

## Time

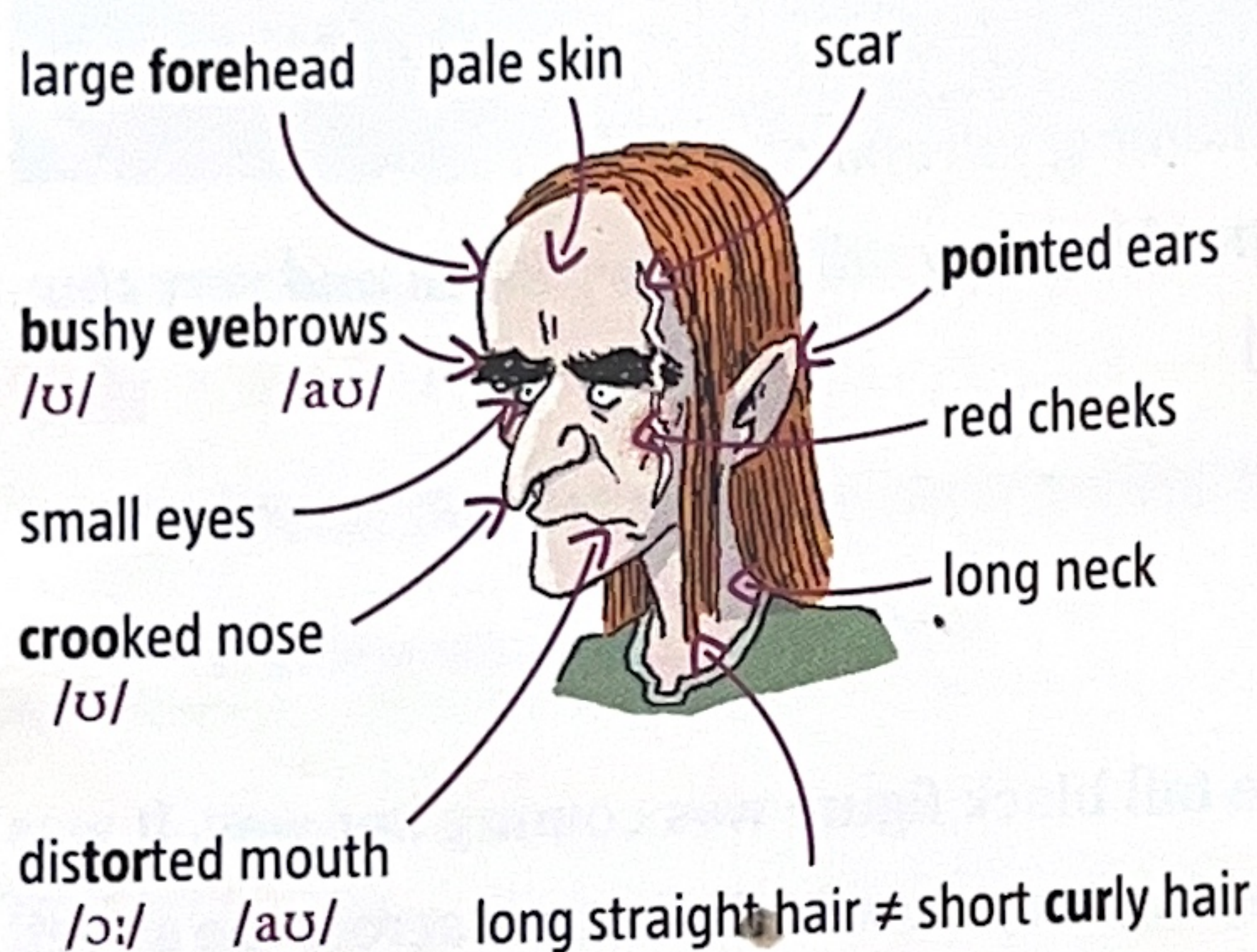
Track 125

- during the day
- in broad daylight  
/ɔ:/
- in the morning / afternoon / evening
- at night
- at nightfall, in the twilight,  
at dusk ≠ at dawn  
/aɪ/ /ɔ:/

# A scary story

## Face

Track 126



bald  
/ɔ:/



a wig

## Figure

Track 127

- tall ≠ short, small  
/ɔ:/    /ɔ:/    /ɔ:/
- skinny, thin, slim ≠ large, fat, big  
/θɪn/    /ɑ:/    /æ/
- strong ≠ weak  
/i:/

## Dictionary

### Witching hour (n.)

The time when witches are said to appear, and magic things are said to happen, usually midnight.



Learn these words in your workbook

→ WB p. 115