

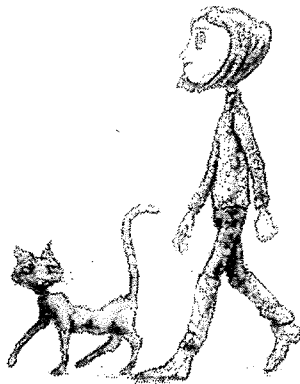
An extract from

CORALINE

By Neil Gaiman

NOW A MAJOR FILM

From the director Henry Selick.



**MINISTERIO
DE
EDUCACIÓN
& BRITISH
COUNCIL
BILINGUAL
PROJECT**

NAME:

You are going to read an extract from *Coraline*, a girl who steps through a door in her new house and into another house just like her own... except that's different. There's also another mother and another father in the house. They want Coraline to stay with them and they want to keep her forever! Now her real parents have disappeared and she wants to get them back.

Glossary (words that are underlined in the text)

Gully: a channel cut by water.

Thunder: move with loud noise.

Pant: breathe with short quick breaths.

Sarcastic: talk using bitter comments.

Mustiness: with moist (wet)

Bristle: show anger with hair standing up.

Eager: enthusiastic.

"When I was a little girl," said Coraline to the cat, "when we lived in our old house, a long, long time ago, my dad took me for a walk on the wasteland between our house and the shops.

5 "It wasn't the best place to go for a walk, really. There were all these things that people had thrown away back there—old cookers and broken dishes and dolls with no arms and no legs and empty cans and broken bottles. Mum and Dad made me promise not to go exploring back there, because there were too many sharp things, and tetanus and such.

"But I kept telling them I wanted to explore it. So one day my dad put on his big brown boots and his gloves and put my boots on me and my jeans and sweater, and we went for a walk.

10 "We must have walked for about twenty minutes. We went down this hill, to the bottom of a gully where a stream was, when my dad suddenly said to me, "Coraline—run away. Up the hill. Now!" He said it in a tight sort of way, urgently, so I did. I ran away up the hill. Something hurt me on the back of my arm as I ran, but I kept running.

15 "As I got to the top of the hill I heard somebody thundering up the hill behind me. It was my dad, charging like a rhino. When he reached me he picked me up in his arms and swept me over the edge of the hill.

"And then we stopped and we puffed and we panted, and we looked back down the gully.

"The air was alive with yellow wasps. We must have stepped on a wasps' nest in a rotten branch as we walked. And while I was running up the hill, my dad stayed and got stung, to give me time to run away. His glasses had fallen off when he ran.

20 "I only had the one sting on the back of my arm. He had thirty-nine stings, all over him. We counted later, in the bath."

The black cat began to wash its face and whiskers in a manner that indicated increasing impatience. Coraline reached down and stroked the back of its head and neck. The cat stood up, walked several paces until it was out of her reach, then it sat down and looked up at her again.

25 "So," said Coraline, "later that afternoon my dad went back again to the wasteland, to get his glasses back. He said if he left it another day he wouldn't be able to remember where they'd fallen.

30 "And soon he got home, wearing his glasses. He said that he wasn't scared when he was standing there and the wasps were stinging him and hurting him and he was watching me run away. Because he knew he had to give me enough time to run, or the wasps would have come after both of us."

Coraline turned the key in the door. It turned with a loud *clunk*.

The door swung open.

There was no brick wall on the other side of the door: only darkness. A cold wind blew through the passageway.

5 Coraline made no move to walk through the door.

"And he said that wasn't brave of him, doing that, just standing there and being stung," said Coraline to the cat. "It wasn't brave because he wasn't scared: it was the only thing he could do. But going back again to get his glasses, when he knew the wasps were there, when he was really scared. *That was brave.*"

0 She took her first step down the dark corridor.

She could smell dust and damp and mustiness.

The cat padded along beside her.

"And why was that?" asked the cat, although it sounded barely interested.

"Because," she said, "when you're scared but you still do it anyway, *that's brave.*"

5 The candle cast huge, strange, flickering shadows along the wall. She heard something moving in the darkness—beside her or to one side of her, she could not tell. It seemed as if it was keeping pace with her, whatever it was.

"And that's why you're going back to *her* world, then?" said the cat. "Because your father once saved you from wasps?"

0 "Don't be silly," said Coraline. "I'm going back for them because they are my parents. And if they noticed I was gone I'm sure they would do the same for me. You know you're talking again?"

5 "How fortunate I am," said the cat, "in having a travelling companion of such wisdom and intelligence." Its tone remained sarcastic, but its fur was bristling, and its brush of a tail stuck up in the air. At the end of the corridor the electric light went on, blinding after the darkness. A woman stood, silhouetted by the light, a little ahead of Coraline.

"Coraline? Darling?" she called.

"Mum!" said Coraline, and she ran forward, eager and relieved.

"Darling," said the woman. "Why did you ever run away from me?"

0 Coraline was too close to stop, and she felt the other mother's cold arms enfold her. She stood there, rigid and trembling as the other mother held her tightly.

"Where are my parents?" Coraline asked.

Read the text again

Answer the following questions. (3 marks)

1. What kind of text do you think this is? Underline the correct answer.

A report a letter a story a biography

2. Who is the author?

3. This book was made into a film. Who was the director of this film?

Reading Comprehension: Write numbers in the boxes to place the following events in the order in which they appear in the story. (6 marks)

- Coraline's dad was stung by some wasps and got thirty nine stings.
- Coraline's dad went back to the wasteland to find his glasses.
- Coraline tells the cat that once her father took her for a walk on a wasteland.
- Her dad got home wearing his glasses.
- Coraline ran up a hill to get away from the wasps.
- Coraline explains to the cat the true meaning of *brave*.

Reading Comprehension: Multiple choice.

Choose the correct answer and circle the letter. (5 marks)

- 1 Coraline says that her father and her must have stepped on:
 - a. On a rotten branch.
 - b. On a nest.
 - c. On a bees' nest.
 - d. On a wasps' nest.

- 2 Coraline's father had:
 - a. Thirty nine stings on the back of his hand.
 - b. Thirty nine stings on the back of his leg.
 - c. A few stings all over him.
 - d. Thirty nine stings all over him.

- 3 Coraline says that you are brave when:
- a. You are scared and you don't do it.
 - b. You don't do it because you are scared.
 - c. You are scared but you still do it anyway.
 - d. You are not scared but you don't want to do it.

- 4 Coraline is going back to the other house because:
- a. Her father once saved her from wasps.
 - b. Because she wants to see *her other* mother again.
 - c. Because she is brave and wants to have a thrilling adventure,
 - d. Because she wants to go back to get her real parents.

- 5 When the light went on Coraline could see someone:
- a. It was her true mother standing at the end of the corridor.
 - b. It was the other mother standing at the end of the corridor.
 - c. It was a witch.
 - d. It was a lovely woman standing at the end of the corridor.

Focussing on the language:

Vocabulary Look at the words that are highlighted in the text, which are not in the glossary. Write the words you think go with the following definitions. (5 marks)

- _____ : unproductive or useless area of land.
- _____ : bacterial disease.
- _____ : hair on face of cat.
- _____ : walk soft and steady sound of steps.
- _____ : common sense.

Adjectives are descriptive words added to nouns. Here is an example. The adjective is underlined. The boy put on a new hat.

Read these sentences and underline the adjectives. Some sentences have more than one adjective. (2 marks)

1. There were too many sharp things.
2. The candle cast huge, strange, flickering shadows along the wall.

Write two adjectives which are used to describe the objects on the wasteland. (2 marks)

Verbs tell us what someone or something is doing. Here is an example. The verb is underlined The boy put on a new hat.

Read these sentences and underline the verbs. Some sentences have more than

1 Verb. (2 marks)

1. But I kept telling them I wanted to explore it.
2. And then we stopped and we puffed...

The author makes the story interesting by using lots of different verbs.

Read lines 12 to 18. The author uses 3 different verbs that mean "move fast".

Write 2 of the verbs below. (2 marks)

Which of the verbs below is not related to the verb breath? Line 16 Circle your answer (1 mark)

Puffed panted stroked

Focussing on the Writer's craft

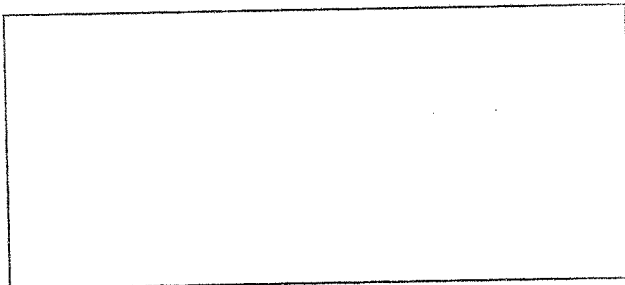
To make the story more fantastic and exciting, one of the main characters is a cat that can talk. He is very helpful, though a bit sarcastic, and walks along with Coraline listening to her story.

Answer the questions below. (5 marks)

1. Do you know any other stories in which cats talk with humans?

2. Draw a picture of the cat based on the description below:

Its tone remained sarcastic. But his fur was bristling, and its brush of a tail stuck up in the air.



3. Was the cat a patient listener? Find the evidence in the text that explains your answer.

4. When Coraline accompanied by the cat, turned the key in the door, it turned with a loud clunk. This underlined word is:

An alliteration a rhyming word an onomatopoeia

Reading Comprehension

Write down who or what the [bracketed] words in the text refer to. (4 marks)

Example: [It] wasn't the best place to go for a walk, really. (line 4) It= the wasteland

1. [His] glasses had fallen off when he ran. (line 19)

2. Caroline reached down and stroked the back of [its] head and neck. (line 23)

3. Its tone remained sarcastic, but [its] fur was bristling. (line 53)

4. She stood there, rigid and trembling as the other mother held [her] tightly. (line 60)

True or false? (5 marks)

1. Coraline wanted to explore the wasteland.

2. Coralline's dad got stung by the wasps because his glasses fell off.

3. Brave is when you don't want to do something but you still do it.

4. There were many wasps in the wasteland.

5. Coraline ran to her real mum eager and relieved.

Answer the questions below. (6 marks)

1. Why wasn't the wasteland the best place to go for a walk?

2. Why did Coralline's daddy stayed behind getting stung by the bees?

3. Why does Coraline think that the bees stung them?

4. What did *the other* house smell of?

5. Which mother had cold arms? Coraline's real mother or *the other* mother?

6. What's the reason for Coraline to go back to *the other* house?

The test is finished. Check that you have answered all the questions.

