The Fox at Night

Year 3 reading comprehension (poem). Read the text carefully. The questions are on the next page.

Name: _____ Date: _____

When all the street is fast asleep
and moonlight paints the roofs with grey,
the fox comes out on silent feet
to start his busy night-time day.

He sniffs the bins, he checks the gate,
he slips beneath the garden fence;
his tail a flame of russet red,
his eyes two lamps, alert and tense.

A door bangs shut! He freezes still,
then vanishes without a sound.
By morning, all that's left of him
are paw prints on the frosty ground.

Questions: The Fox at Night

Tick one answer for each question. You can look back at the text as often as you like.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. **When does the fox come out?**
   - ☐ at lunchtime
   - ☐ at night, when the street is asleep
   - ☐ in the morning

2. **What does the fox sniff?**
   - ☐ the bins
   - ☐ the cars
   - ☐ the flowers

3. **What colour is the fox's tail?**
   - ☐ grey
   - ☐ russet red
   - ☐ white

4. **Why does the poet say the fox's eyes are "two lamps"?**
   - ☐ because the fox carries lamps
   - ☐ because the fox is very old
   - ☐ because they shine in the dark

5. **What makes the fox freeze?**
   - ☐ a car horn
   - ☐ a dog barking
   - ☐ a door banging shut

6. **What does "vanishes" mean?**
   - ☐ disappears
   - ☐ falls over
   - ☐ sings

7. **How do we know the fox was there in the morning?**
   - ☐ A neighbour saw him.
   - ☐ The bins are knocked over.
   - ☐ There are paw prints on the frosty ground.

Answer key: The Fox at Night

The correct answer for each question, with the evidence from the text.

1. **When does the fox come out?**

   at night, when the street is asleep

   Why: The first line says: When all the street is fast asleep.

2. **What does the fox sniff?**

   the bins

   Why: Verse 2: He sniffs the bins.

3. **What colour is the fox's tail?**

   russet red

   Why: His tail is a flame of russet red.

4. **Why does the poet say the fox's eyes are "two lamps"?**

   because they shine in the dark

   Why: Comparing eyes to lamps suggests they glow and stand out in the night.

5. **What makes the fox freeze?**

   a door banging shut

   Why: Verse 3: A door bangs shut! He freezes still.

6. **What does "vanishes" mean?**

   disappears

   Why: After he vanishes, only paw prints are left, so he has disappeared.

7. **How do we know the fox was there in the morning?**

   There are paw prints on the frosty ground.

   Why: The last line says all that is left of him are paw prints.