**Writing Activities 1**

**1. Story time**

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7ypmw-0JU0> .

Listen to Ruth reading *The Night Shimmy* by Gwen Strauss and Anthony Browne.

**2. Answering questions**

Look at the *Questions about The Night Shimmy*.

* Read each question carefully.
* Listen again to parts of the story if you need to.
* Write your answers in the spaces provided.
* Check that your answers say what you wanted them to.

**3. Writing about pictures**

Read information on *Expanded Noun Phrases.* Make sure you understand it.

* Pause *The Night Shimmy* at a picture you really like or choose one from *Pictures from The Night Shimmy*.
* On *My Favourite Picture*, write about what is going on in the picture.
* Use expanded noun phrases for description.
* The Night Shimmy chooses the ‘best stories’ for Eric at night. What do you think the very best story is? Use *The best story I know is...* to record your suggestion.

**Questions about The Night Shimmy**

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1. Who do you think the Night Shimmy is? Tick one of the options below or add your own answer.

A real friend of Eric’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A visiting wizard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A superhero like Batman or Superman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Eric himself imagining that he is the Night Shimmy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An imaginary friend of Eric’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain **why** you think that.

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3. What sort of things does the Night Shimmy do for Eric? Mention at least three things.

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4. Why do you think the Night Shimmy disappears at the end of the story?

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5. When does the parrot **first** appear in the story?

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6. When does it become real?

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7. How many parrots are there on the page which begins, ‘They began to talk.’?

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8. What do you think the parrot suggests about how Eric is feeling at the end of the story?

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9. Look at the page, ‘Eric slammed his bedroom door shut...’ Why do you think Anthony Browne has drawn the picture just in greys and browns?

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10. With most of the pictures in the book, it is a bit like we are looking through a window that is surrounded by black. How are the last three pages different?

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11. **Why** do you think are they different?

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**Expanded Noun Phrases**

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These are examples of **noun phrases**.

the park a kite some trees two children

If we want to describe the nouns (the objects or things or people) in these phrases in more detail we can **expand** the phrases.

We do it like this:

1. Add some **adjectives** to tell us more about the noun.

the big park a bright, cheerful kite some tall, thin trees two happy children

If we use two adjectives we usually separate them with a comma.

2. Modify the adjective with **adverbs**. The adverbs tell you more about the adjectives.

the really big park a very bright, cheerful kite some extremely tall, thin trees two rather happy children

3. Add a **prepositional phrase.** The prepositional phrase tells you a bit more about where or when things happen or how things relate to one another.

the really big park with a singing gorilla

a very bright, cheerful kite beside the path

some extremely tall, thin trees on top of the hill

two rather happy children before bedtime

**Pictures from The Night Shimmy**

** **

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**My Favourite Picture**



**The best story I know is...**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of story: |  |
| Author or illustrator (*if known*): |  |
| What happens in the story: |  |
| The kind of people I think would the like the story: |  |