Mrs Mather

Scared stiff,

Courage flown,

On that doorstep all alone,

Cold sweat,

State of shock,

Lift my trembling hand and knock.

Thumping heart.

Chilled with fear.

I hear the witch’s feet draw near.

Rasping bolts.

Rusty locks.

Shake down to my cotton socks.

Hinges creaking.

Waft of mould.

A groan that makes my blood run cold.

Cracking voice.

Knocking knees.

“Can I have my ball back, please?”

A

1. Describe where the boy is standing.

2. Can you find a line in the passage which tells us how the boy is feeling.

3. What is he going to do with his trembling hand?

4. What is the name of the woman who lives in the house?

5. Can you say why it would be difficult to get in through the woman’s door.

6. What noise does the door make when it opens?

7. What noise does the woman make when she sees the boy?

8. Why is the boy knocking on the woman’s door?

B

1. Why do you think the poet starts with ‘scared stiff’ on a line by itself?

2. What can the boy smell when the door opens?

3. Which word does the poet rhyme with ‘knees’?

4. What does the boy feel on his face that shows he is frightened?

5. Can you describe what happens when a voice ‘cracks’?