

The Brass Pocket Watch

1. The heavy door flung open. Lady Ignis stormed into the office, her usually expressionless face flushed and screwed up. She stomped to the antique mahogany desk and rifled through the papers that littered it, tossing documents carelessly aside. Throwing herself into the handsome, imposing leather chair, she began to yank open the desk drawers at random, violently pulling out the unusual contents before flinging them across the wood-panelled room: a magnifying glass; a small leather bound book; and a beautifully carved oak box with a golden padlock. As her inner panic grew, her behaviour became more ferocious. 'That stupid receptionist', she thought savagely. She should have known that no-one could be trusted to guard her office, and now look what had happened.
2. The receptionist appeared in the doorway, her face ashen, her fingertips quaking on the door frame.
3. "Can I assist you, my Lady?" the woman asked in a trembling voice.
4. Lady Ignis turned slowly around in the throne-like chair to stare directly at the receptionist. Her face smoothed into the blank, mask-like façade she was so careful to present to these stupid, vacuous people who she was forced to entrust with such simple jobs. 'They have no idea what they're dealing with,' she thought.
5. "You've done quite enough damage for one day, I would think," she replied slowly, her voice low and dangerously honeyed; she knew this poisonous sweetness was far more disturbing to these idiots who worked for her than shouting. "It's gone."
6. The woman looked as though she were about to faint. Lady Ignis drew herself up from the chair, her razor-sharp heels clicking on the shiny wooden floor and her eyes fixed like lasers on the receptionist, who was shaking like a leaf and wringing her hands. Both women sensed the storm that was coming.
7. Hundreds of miles away, Anya smiled to herself as she unwrapped the shiny, brass pocket-watch.



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Comprehension Questions

1. List 3 pieces of evidence from the first 3 sentences that show Lady Ignis is angry.

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2. The receptionist appeared in the doorway, her face ashen, her fingertips quaking on the door frame. (paragraph 2). Tick the word which is closest in meaning to the word 'ashen'.

<input type="checkbox"/>	flushed	<input type="checkbox"/>	dull
<input type="checkbox"/>	pale	<input type="checkbox"/>	gloomy

3. Her face smoothed into the blank, mask-like façade she was so careful to present to these stupid, vacuous people...(paragraph 4). What does the word 'façade' imply about how Lady Ignis feels in comparison to how she looks?

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4. Look at paragraphs 1-4. What can you tell about Lady Ignis' attitude to working with other people? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5. ...her voice low and dangerously honeyed... (paragraph 5). Tick the word which would be the best replacement for the word 'honeyed' in this sentence.

<input type="checkbox"/>	sticky	<input type="checkbox"/>	harsh
<input type="checkbox"/>	gooey	<input type="checkbox"/>	sweet

6. What is the difference between the receptionist's mood and Anya's mood?

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7. From this text, how would you describe Anya's character? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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8. What do you predict Lady Ignis will do next to: a) the receptionist b) Anya?

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Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. List 3 pieces of evidence from the first 3 sentences that show Lady Ignis is angry.

(2b retrieve and record information / identify key details) Any 3 of the following:
she flung open the door, she stormed into the office, her face was flushed, her face was screwed up, she stomped to the desk.

2. The receptionist appeared in the doorway, her face ashen, her fingertips quaking on the door frame. (paragraph 2). Tick the word which is closest in meaning to the word 'ashen'.

<input type="checkbox"/>	flushed	<input type="checkbox"/>	dull
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	pale	<input type="checkbox"/>	gloomy

(2a give / explain the meaning of words in context)

3. Her face smoothed into the blank, mask-like façade she was so careful to present to these stupid, vacuous people...(paragraph 4). What does the word 'façade' imply about how Lady Ignis feels in comparison to how she looks?

(2g identify / explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases)

She hides her feelings, she pretends she doesn't feel a certain way, she puts a front on- clues given through the words 'mask-like' and 'present'.

4. Look at paragraphs 1-4. What can you tell about Lady Ignis' attitude to working with other people? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

(2d make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text) She does not trust them, she thinks they're all stupid/idiots, she thinks she is better than/superior to them all, she is 'forced' to give them jobs which shows she would rather do things herself/ alone.

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Answers

5. ...her voice low and dangerously honeyed... (paragraph 5). Tick the word which would be the best replacement for the word 'honeyed' in this sentence.

<input type="checkbox"/>	sticky	<input type="checkbox"/>	harsh
<input type="checkbox"/>	gooey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sweet

(2a give / explain the meaning of words in context)

6. What is the difference between the receptionist's mood and Anya's mood?

(2h make comparisons within the text) The receptionist is terrified/
frightened, Anya is smiling to herself which implies she is content/
pleased with herself/happy/proud.

7. From this text, how would you describe Anya's character? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

(2d make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text) It appears the pocket watch she has was stolen but we don't know why- she could therefore be described as brave/courageous/clever for managing to get it from Lady Ignis, or reckless/ foolish for taking it.

8. What do you predict Lady Ignis will do next to: a) the receptionist b) Anya?

(2e predict what might happen from details stated and implied)
a) The line 'both women sensed the storm that was coming' implies Lady Ignis is about to lose her temper/punish the receptionist in some way....
b) Lady Ignis may hunt Anya down/send someone to do the same/ try somehow to trace the pocket watch and find out Anya has got it.