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About the Author

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With more than 15 years of experience, Robert has contributed to the field of education in many capacities, including: teacher (private, public, and alternative), tutor, author, researcher, consultant, and guest lecturer. His curricular and pedagogical perspectives are student-centered, constructivist, and simultaneously challenging and supportive. As an educator, Robert's primary focus is on the advancement of higher-order thinking skills through the development of interdisciplinary curriculum content.

5. The Old House

¹Everyone always stayed away from the old, red and yellow house on the corner of our block. ²Some people said that a mean, old woman lived there. ³Others said that they had seen a man on the porch surrounded by hundreds of cats. ⁴Sometimes on the way home from school, my best friend Jason would sneak up to the house, ring the doorbell, and run. ⁵Well, one windy day, Jason quietly tiptoed up to the front door and accidentally stepped on a squeaky board on the front porch. ⁶He stopped, looked at me, and then took a few more steps toward the doorbell. ⁷SWOOSH!!! ⁸The screen to the front door swung open and slammed hard against the front wall of the house. ⁹Jason froze; he didn't move a muscle. ¹⁰The rest of us ran down the street as fast as our feet could take us.



Circle **T** if you are certain this sentence is true. Circle **F** if you are certain it is false. Circle **U** if it is unknown because you need more information. Add the sentence number(s) on the line that best supports your true or false answer.

1. Jason saw the mean, old woman. T ____, F ____, or U
2. It was a windy day. T ____, F ____, or U
3. The old house is not blue. T ____, F ____, or U

Write the answer on the lines given or circle the letter next to the correct answer(s).

4. Give at least 2 reasons why the door could have swung open.

5. Which two words best describe Jason's character?
 - a. furious
 - b. disrespectful
 - c. polite
 - d. uncaring

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6. In sentence 9 infer what "froze" means.
 - a. He stopped.
 - b. He got cold.
 - c. He turned into an ice cube.
 - d. none of the above
7. Which best describes the kind of story this is?
 - a. non-fiction
 - b. fairy tale
 - c. comedy
 - d. mystery/suspense

Circle **PT** for probably true or **PF** for probably false. Be sure to supply the best evidence that supports your answer: sentence number(s) and/or personal knowledge.

8. The group of kids didn't get scared when the door swung open.

PT or PF Sentence _____

Personal knowledge: _____

9. This story happened on a Saturday morning.

PT or PF Sentence _____

Personal knowledge: _____

