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Reading Comprehension and Analysis Questions

*Directions: Answer the following questions after reading “The Landlady” by Roald Dahl.*

1. From which point of view is “The Landlady” being told?
2. How does the author’s choice of point of view create suspense in the story?
3. In the first paragraph, what is the author’s purpose in referring to the cold as “deadly” and “like a flat blade of ice”?
4. What is the author’s purpose in describing Billy Weaver’s background and goals?
5. What is the author’s purpose in repeating the word brisk in various forms?
6. Why does the author state that Billy felt compelled to approach the boarding house?
7. The narrator emphasises the speed at which the Landlady answers the door. What might this foreshadow about the landlady, about Billy, and about how the two might interact later in the story?
8. How does the author’s use of irony when describing the landlady make the reader question her?
9. Why does the author include the line, "There were no other hats or coats in the hall. There were no umbrellas, no walking sticks-nothing."?
10. When Billy is in the living room, what first alerts the reader that something maybe wrong? When should Billy have been suspicious of the Landlady? When would you have been suspicious?
11. As Billy is almost remembering the connection between the two boys, what effect did the interruptions from the landlady have on the story?
12. What can the reader infer, using evidence from the text, about the two boys that are missing? What does this information lead the reader to believe concerning Billy's possible fate? What evidence from the story suggests Billy's demise?
13. What does the landlady’s dialogue reveal about her character?

14. What is the message or main idea of this story? What in the story leads the reader to this conclusion?