

**Samuel Daily** A prosperous landowner that Kipps had met on the train to Crythin Gifford.

rational explanation for the presence I had been so aware of. But then they ceased. There was no living occupant of Eel Marsh House other than myself and Samuel Daily's dog. Whatever was about, whoever I had seen, and heard rocking, and who had passed me by just now, whoever had opened the locked door was not 'real'. No. But what was 'real'? At that moment I began to doubt my own reality.

The first thing I must have was a light and I groped my way back across to my bed, reached over it and got my hand to the torch at last, took a step back, stumbled over the dog who was at my heels and dropped the torch. It went spinning away across the floor and fell somewhere by the window with a crash and the faint sound of breaking glass. I cursed but managed by crawling about on my hands and knees, to find it again and to press the switch. No light came on. The torch had broken.

For a moment I was as near to weeping tears of despair and fear, frustration and tension, as I had ever been since my childhood. But instead of crying I drummed my fists upon the floorboards, in a burst of violent rage, until they throbbed.

It was Spider who brought me to my sense by scratching a little at my arm and then by licking the hand I stretched out to her. We sat on the floor together and I hugged her warm body to me, glad of her, thoroughly ashamed of myself, calmer and relieved, while the wind boomed and roared without, and again and again I heard that child's terrible cry borne on the gusts towards me.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

'Whistle and I'll Come to You' is the title of the tenth chapter of *The Woman in Black*. This extract describes a night at Eel Marsh House and the ghostly happenings that worry the narrator. The text communicates the thoughts and feelings of the narrator as they shift from contemplating the harsh weather and reminiscing over his childhood, to extreme fear as he hears the wailing of the child and begins to strongly feel the presence of some being in the house.

The atmosphere of the house is effectively conveyed not only through the vivid description, but also from the way that Arthur Kipps is ready to believe that there may even be a person hiding there. The willingness of the narrator to believe in the supernatural creates a similar reaction in the reader making the extract all the more powerful and evocative.

Some of the themes in this extract are:

- isolation
- the supernatural
- fear
- a sense of the past.

## KEY POINT

Think about these themes in the passage and any others you can draw out. Analyse how they work together to create the atmosphere.