

Collection Sheet for a Short Story Review**Introduction**Title: *The Knock at the Door*Author: *Stuart Mead*Genre: *short story/horror***Opinion**

(Rate the story – out of five stars, how many would you give it?)

Summary

What is the short story about? (Highlight a few of the most important events.)

Joey is 13 years old and lives with his mother in an old house built by his grandparents. He hasn't seen his father in a long time and misses him.

One stormy night, his mother receives a phone call and leaves Joey at home alone. Joey hears a bang on the roof and the lights go out. When the phone rings, he answers it but no one is there.

Then there is a knock at the door. Who could it be? Is it his mother? His father? Or could it be the dead man in the scary book that he is reading?

Personal reflection

What do you like or dislike about the story? Why?

I liked the way the author built up the suspense with the bang on the roof, the lights, the book, the phone, the window and finally the knock at the door. Joey becomes more and more frightened as the story progresses.

I also liked the story within a story. Joey is reading a book about a man who comes back from the dead. When he hears the knock at the door, he is afraid that it might be the dead man from the story.

I really liked the final knock at the door. I wonder who it could be!

Critical analysis

What is the author's purpose? What is the story's theme or message?

I think the author's purpose is simply to entertain the reader with a suspenseful story that has a humorous ending. Just like many horror stories, the story takes place in an old house on a dark, stormy night.

There are two twists at the end of the story. The first twist is quite funny, because Joey realises that there was nothing to be afraid of. As Joey and his mother are eating dinner, there is a second twist. This one is quite scary.

The author leaves the ending up to the imagination of the reader.