

Read the text and answer the questions below.

Extract from **Charlie Bone and the Red Knight**, by Jenny Nimmo

To the small man hurrying through the city, the dark buildings that rose about him had never appeared so menacing.

“Menaced,” muttered Orvil Onimous. “That’s what we are, my dears, menacing.” He was speaking to three cats that paced about him, magnificent creatures with fire-bright coats, from the deep copper of the cat that leaped ahead, to the flame orange and starry yellow of the two that ran on either side of him.

“You are a comfort, Flames,” sighed the little man. “You know that, don’t you?”

They turned off the High Street and made their way down Frog Street, a narrow alley that led to the ancient city walls. It was a cold, damp night and the cobblestones were wet with melting frost. Every step the small man took became more laboured. He rounded a corner and came within sight of an unusual-looking shop, built into the very fabric of the old walls. Above a large, latticed window, the words ‘The Pets’ Café’ could just be made out on a sign filled with the paintings of animals.

Mr. Onimous seemed unable to continue. He hung his head, gasping for air. With his whiskery face and furry brown hair he resembled a large mole in an ill-fitting tweed coat.

The cats gathered round him, meowing encouragement, but Orvil Onimous let out a mournful sob and pointed to a sheet of paper nailed to the green painted door.

These premises are closed, read the notice, by order of the city councillors, in accordance with Section 238 of the Public Health Act.

The cats could not read the notice but they were well aware of its meaning. Their friend’s livelihood had been stolen from him. The Pets’ Café, where every customer was obliged to bring a pet, was now closed. The joyful twittering, the braying, and the meowing that once had welcomed every visitor was now gone, leaving only a bleak silence.

Write **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** on the answer line.

1. Which word is a synonym for ‘menaced’?

A lost
B threatened
C tempted
D punctual

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2. How does Orvil feel about the company of the cats?

A They intimidate him.
B He is irritated by them.
C He feels reassured by their presence.
D He would prefer it if they left him alone.

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3. Who or what gave the city councillors the authority to close The Pets’ Café?

A the Public Health Act
B Mr. Orvil Onimous
C the notice on the café’s door
D the mayor’s aide

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4. Which of these is an example of alliteration?

A a large mole
B a mournful sob
C an ill-fitting tweed coat
D a large, latticed window

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