Gretl poured some more beer for Karl, and the clockmaker's apprentice scowled and turned away. Fritz was worried about him, but he couldn't stay there any longer, because the patrons were calling for him.

"Come on Fritz! Where's that story?"

"Sing for your supper! Come on! We're all waiting! What's it about this time, eh? Skeletons or ghosts?"

"I hope it's a nice bloody murder!"

"I've got a feeling it's going to be more horrible than anything we could imagine," said old Johann the woodcutter.

While the drinkers ordered more mugs of beer to see them through the story and settled themselves comfortably, Fritz gathered up his manuscript and took his place by the stove.

To tell the truth, Fritz was less comfortable himself than he had ever

been before at one of these story telling evenings, because of what

Karl had just told him, and because of the theme of his story – of the

start of it, anyway. But after all, it wasn’t about Karl. The subject was

really quite different.

(There was another private reason for Fritz to be nervous. The fact

was, he hadn’t actually finished the story. He’d written the start

alright, and it was terrific, but he hadn’t been able to think of

an ending. He was just going to wind up the story, set it going, and

make up the end when he got there. As I said just now, he was an

optimist).

“We’re all ready and waiting,” said the Burgomaster. “I’m looking

forward to the story, even if it does make my hair stand on end.

What’s it called?”

“It’s called – “ said Fritz, with a nervous glance at Karl – “it’s called

Clockwork.”

“Ah! Very appropriate!” cried old Herr Ringelmann. “Did you hear

that Karl? This is a story in your honour, my boy.”

Karl scowled and looked down at the floor.

“No, no,” said Fritz hastily, “this story isn’t about Karl, or the clock in

our town. No, no. It’s quite different. It just happens to be called

“Clockwork”.

1. What is the private reason for Fritz to be nervous? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do the drinkers order more mugs of beer? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Are these statements fact or opinion?

Fritz’s story is incomplete. It will be the most horrible story yet.

1. What evidence shows that the villagers think it will be a long story?

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1. What evidence shows that Fritz is an optimist?

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1. Why do you think Fritz is telling the story by the stove?

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1. Why does Ringelmann think the story is written in Karl’s honour?

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**LO: apply reading comprehension strategies**

Context – clockwork

**Friday 15th January 2021**