

## Questions about The Night Shimmy



1. Who do you think the Night Shimmy is? Tick one of the options below or add your own answer.

A real friend of Eric's

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A visiting wizard

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A superhero like Batman or Superman

Eric himself imagining that he is the Night Shimmy

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An imaginary friend of Eric's

✓  
or  
✓

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2. Explain **why** you think that.

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3. What sort of things does the Night Shimmy do for Eric? Mention at least three things.

Chose stories, shoed monsters away, replied to answers,  
an expert spy

4. Why do you think the Night Shimmy disappears at the end of the story?

Because Eric has become confident.

5. When does the parrot first appear in the story?

When Eric was asleep in bed.

6. When does it become real?

When Marcia flies her kite and it's stuck in the tree.

7. How many parrots are there on the page which begins, 'They began to talk.'?

I can see 4!

8. What do you think the parrot suggests about how Eric is feeling at the end of the story?

He feels brave and confident and spoke for himself.

Look at the page, 'Eric slammed his bedroom door shut...' Why do you think Anthony Browne has drawn the picture just in greys and browns?

To show Eric feels angry as the Night  
Shimmy was missing.

10. With most of the pictures in the book, it is a bit like we are looking through a window that is surrounded by black. How are the last three pages different?

It's not surrounded by black - just a picture on a white page.

11. Why do you think are they different?

The Night Shimmy has gone now, and  
Eric has become confident without him.