

Scared of the Dark

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Susan was terrified of the dark. In fact, she couldn't sleep without leaving the lights on. If there was a storm, she actually preferred there to be lightning, because it helped to light the room. Power outages were a thing of nightmares, and blackouts were her worst fear.



She wasn't sure why she hated the dark so much. She didn't think there were monsters under her bed or in her closet. She'd never been attacked or startled at night, either. There was just something weird about being in total darkness that freaked her out!

Her parents worried about her fear, and they always tried to find ways to help her around it. They'd tried nightlights, but there had to be at least two of them, in case one burned out. They'd tried leaving the lights on and then coming back to turn them off after she fell asleep, but if she woke up she'd always start crying. They'd also tried giving her a flashlight to keep beside her in case she got scared in the dark, but she went through batteries in one night.

Her father had given up, but her mother kept trying to think of new things. One day, she came home with a big smile on her face and a shopping bag in her hands. "Guess what I've got." She said to Susan.

"I have no idea." Susan answered, feeling very curious about the bag.

Susan's mother wore a secretive smile as she pulled two packages out of the shopping bag. The first, Susan discovered, was a pair of slippers that had flashing lights on them. The second package was a pair of glow-in-the-dark pajamas.

"Wow!" Susan cried. "These are amazing." Even though it was only four o'clock, she tried them on immediately. They fit nicely, looked great, and they lit up very brightly!

"Well?" Her mother asked.

"They're the best thing in the universe ever!" Susan cried. She was so excited that she went to sleep immediately after dinner. The lights on her slippers blinked away happily, and the glow-in-the-dark pajamas kept her feeling safe and secure all night.

It was several nights later before she realized she wasn't scared of the dark anymore, not even if the slipper lights stopped flashing and her pajamas stopped glowing.

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why is Susan scared of the dark?
 - A. Her brother scares her at night.
 - B. A monster lives under her bed.
 - C. Storms at night scare her.
 - D. She really doesn't know.

2. Which of these is NOT one of the ways Susan's parents tried to defeat her fear of the dark?
 - A. Gave her a flashlight
 - B. Just let her cry until she fell asleep anyway
 - C. Let her have two nightlights
 - D. Turned the light off after she fell asleep

3. What did Susan's mother buy her?
 - A. Slippers and Pajamas
 - B. Pajamas and Pizza
 - C. Slippers and Sandwiches
 - D. Nightcaps and Nightgowns

4. What did Susan think of her mother's gifts?
 - A. She was afraid to sleep still.
 - B. She was excited to go to sleep.
 - C. She thought they were ugly.
 - D. None of the above

5. How did Susan feel about the dark at the end of the story?
 - A. Scared still
 - B. She was okay with the dark
 - C. She loved it and was scared of the light instead
 - D. It made her hungry

Scared of the Dark – Answer Key

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Use the information below to check the answers.

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