

Although we'd lived here all of our lives, none of us could remember seeing the *Cabinet of Curiosities* before. It was as if the shop had suddenly appeared overnight – but that isn't possible, is it?

It was darker than the shops around it, as if it was trying to hide, disguise itself, but we were certainly drawn towards it.

Peering inside, everyone swore they could see different things, even though we looked in the same window. Whatever we thought of, it appeared – like the shop was reading our minds.

A bell tinkled as we entered...the door clicked shut...everything suddenly changed.

1. What is a curiosity?
2. Which words, or phrases, show that this shop is unusual?
3. Which words, or phrases, show that the characters could not resist the shop?
4. What three words would you use to describe the *Cabinet of Curiosities*? Why?
5. What do you think changed as the bell tinkled? Explain why you think this.
6. Describe the inside of the shop. What will it look like? Why do you think this?



A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



Find out about some mysterious places, such as Hoia Baci forest, Bermuda Triangle, Rakotz Bridge. Why are they unusual?

Some magicians use 'mind reading' tricks – find out how to perform one.

The oldest sweet shop in the world opened in Pately Bridge in 1827. Find out about other old shops – find them on a map.

Cabinets of curiosity, or, Wunderkammer, began in the 1500s. What were they? What did they hold?

Some people collect unusual objects, like soap bars, coke cans and banana stickers. What would you collect? Why?