

JAMES SMITH & SONS UMBRELLA SHOP, LONDON, 1944

The grandfather clock had just struck five when Pip Hanway saw Mr and Mrs Smith for the last time. Watching them closely, with her whiskers twitching on her cheeks, she peered out from under her umbrella canopy and tightened her tail around the end of one of its metal ribs, hoping more customers would soon visit the shop to tell more stories of the far-flung places she dreamed to see.

Mr Smith was standing behind the long mahogany counter, smiling at his wife as she dusted the umbrellas in the shop window. She fluttered from one umbrella to the next as the June sunlight poured inside, all the time having no idea that a small family of mice were secretly living inside her precious antique umbrella, occupying pride of place at the front of the display.

The Umbrella Mouse by Anna Fargher



1. What time is it? What time of year is it? (R – 2 marks)
2. Select two phrases which shows you Pip is not human (R – 2 marks)
3. What does "pride of place" mean? (V – 1 mark)
4. What did Pip want to see? (R – 1 mark)
5. What does the verb "fluttered" tell you about how she moved? (I/E – 2 marks)
6. Finish off the next sentence: "It had once belonged to the first man who..." (P/I – 1 mark)