

The Landlady

Intentional Misdirection

Dahl uses intentional misdirection in “The Landlady” in an effort to keep the readers guessing if their suspicions of danger are reasonable—this makes the story’s ending have more “punch.” Go back through the text and find details in the story that show Dahl trying to keep his readers off guard by seeing how he sets up tension and relief in both setting and in character. Below are specific things to find evidence of how Dahl describes it, along with a page number of where to look. Next to each, write direct quotes (they can be whole sentences or just phrases) that Dahl wrote to create either tension or relief. Underline specific words that he likely used intentionally to influence the readers’ views (to suggest danger or safety). Finally, circle the bullet points where Dahl creates relief, or a false sense of security. The bulleted details are in the order that they appear in the story.

Setting:

- Time (1):
- Weather (1):
- Street/houses (1):
- Bed and Breakfast (1):

Character of the landlady:

- Opening the door (2):
- Age and first impression (2):
- Things she says (2):
- Facial features (2):
- What she reminds Billy of (2):
- Billy’s thoughts about her (3):
- What she does (3):
- Billy’s thoughts about her (3):