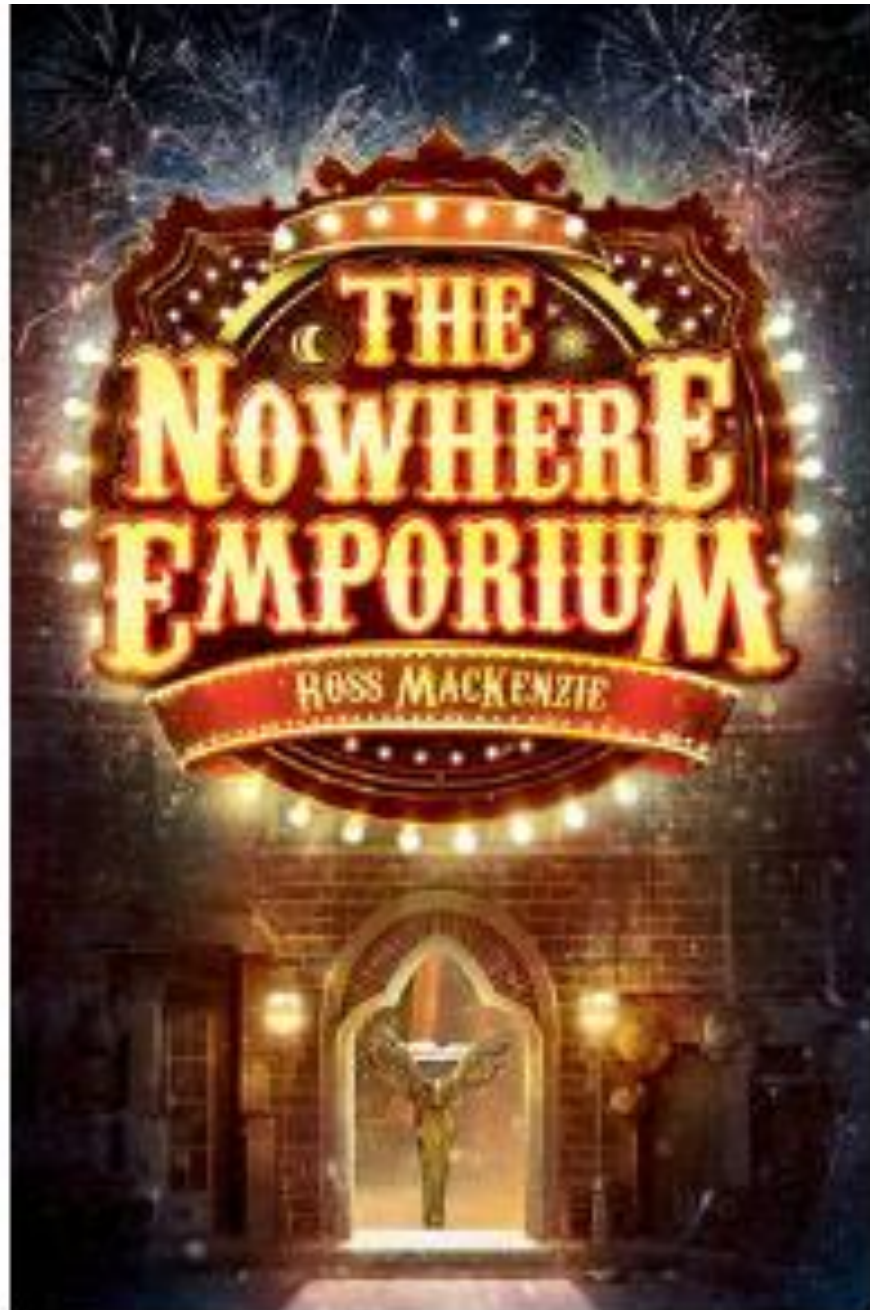


Wednesday

The Nowhere Emporium

Re-read the Extract carefully and then try to answer the following questions







The shop from nowhere arrived with the dawn on a crisp November morning.

Word travelled quickly around the village, and by midday the place was abuzz with rumour and hearsay.

"There were four shops in the row yesterday. Today there are five!"

"Did you hear? It sits between the butcher's and the ironmonger's..."

"The brickwork is black as midnight, and it sparkles strangely in the light!"

By evening time, a curious crowd had begun to gather around the mysterious building. They jostled for position and traded strange and wonderful theories about where the shop had come from and what it

might sell, all the while hoping to catch a glimpse of movement through the darkened windows.

The shop was indeed built from bricks the colour of midnight, bricks that shimmered and sparkled under the glow of the gas streetlamps. Blocking the doorway was a golden gate so fine and intricate that some wondrous spider might have spun it. Over the windows, curling letters spelled out a name:

THE NOWHERE EMPORIUM

There was a glimmer of movement in the entranceway, and a ripple of excitement passed through the crowd. And then silence fell – a silence so deep and heavy that it seemed to hang in the atmosphere like mist.

The shop's door swung open. The fine golden gate turned to dust, scattering in the wind.

The air was suddenly alive with a hundred scents: the perfume of toasted coconut and baking bread; of salty sea air and freshly fallen rain; of bonfires and melting ice.

A dove emerged from the darkness of the shop and soared through the air, wings flashing white in the blackness. The enchanted crowd watched as it climbed until it was lost to the night. And then, as one, they gasped. The black sky exploded with light and colour, and a message in dazzling firework sparks and shimmers spelled out:

THE NOWHERE EMPORIUM IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

BRING YOUR IMAGINATION..

The writing hung in the air just long enough for everyone to read it, and then the words began falling to the ground, a rain of golden light. The crowd laughed in delight, reaching out to catch the sparks as they fell.

Everybody who'd gathered outside the Emporium was entranced. No one had ever seen a spectacle such as this. One by one they walked forward, touched the sparkling black brickwork, examined the tips of their fingers. And then they stepped through the door to find out what was waiting.



Vocabulary and Inference

1. Can you find out what the word 'emporium' means? How is it different from a normal shop?
2. What do you think the word 'intricate' means?
3. Can you find two similes that have been used?
4. Can you make a glossary to explain the meaning of the following words - write them in alphabetical order?

entranced

enchanted

emerged

5. What clues are there to tell you how the people were feeling when they saw the strange shop?
How would you feel if you saw a shop appear from nowhere?