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The  
Return of  
the Iron  
Man

One evening a farmer's son, a boy called Hogarth, was fishing in a stream that ran down to the sea. It was growing too dark to fish, his hook kept getting caught in weeds and bushes. So he stopped fishing and came up from the stream and stood listening to the owls in the wood further up the valley, and to the sea behind him. Hush, said the stream. And again, Hush. Hush. Hush.

Suddenly he felt a strange feeling. He felt he was being watched. He felt afraid. He turned and looked up the steep field to the top of the high cliff. Behind that skyline was the sheer rocky cliff and the sea. And on that skyline, just above the edge of it, in the dusk, were two green lights. What were two green lights doing at the top of the cliff?

Then, as Hogarth watched, a huge dark figure climbed up over the cliff-top. The two lights rose into the sky. They were the giant figure's eyes. A giant black figure, taller than a house, black and towering in the twilight, with green headlamp eyes. The Iron Man! There he stood on the cliff-top, looking inland. Hogarth began to run. He ran and ran. Home. Home. The Iron Man had come back.

So he got home at last and gasping for breath he told his dad. An Iron Man! An Iron Man! A giant!

His father frowned. His mother grew pale. His little sister began to cry. His father took down his double-barrelled gun. He believed his son. He went out. He locked the door. He got in his car. He drove to the next farm.

1. One evening a farmer's ....., a boy called Hogarth, was ..... in a stream that ran down to the sea.
2. He felt ..... He turned and looked up the steep field to the top of the high .....
3. His father ..... His mother grew ..... His little sister began to .....

4. Who was the boy?
5. Where and what was he doing?
6. Why does the boy suddenly feel afraid?
7. What were the green lights at the top of the cliff?
8. When Hogarth told his parents why do you think his mother turned pale and his little sister started to cry?
9. In the last paragraph, why has the writer used lots of short sentences?
10. What does the word 'twilight' describe?
11. Read the first paragraph, how does the writer want the reader to feel?
12. Why do you think the writer starts the chapter in this way?
13. How does the mood change from the start to the end of this part of the story?
14. What does the word 'gasping' tell you about the way Hogarth spoke?