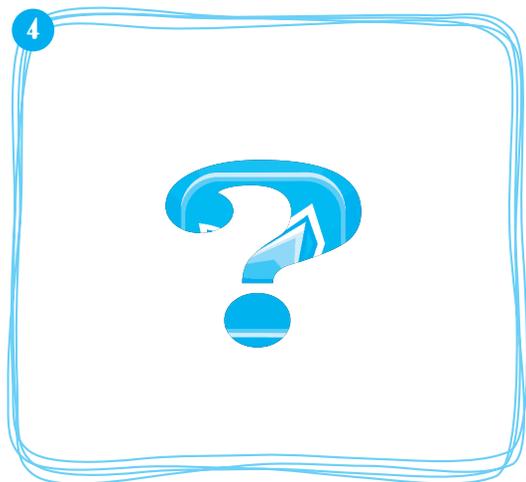


Theme: Unexpected Events

The Burglar

Write a story based on the pictures below. Your story should be at least 120 words long. Give your own ending to the story.



Before You Write



Basic Story Premise

An old lady left her front door ajar and main gate unlocked.



She then fell asleep in her rocking chair in the living room.



While she was asleep, a burglar crept into her house and entered her bedroom. He ransacked the room for valuables.



Meanwhile, the old lady got up. When she realized that a burglar was in her room, she pulled the door shut and locked it with the key.
The burglar was trapped inside the room.



???

Useful Words and Phrases

- rocking chair
- for added ventilation, she left the front door ajar
- lulled into a restful slumber
- stealthily crept past the living room
- ransacked the wardrobe
- an acute sense of hearing
- rummaging through her belongings
- alarm bells went off in her head
- trespassing on private property
- attempted burglary

Adapted:

Write Your Way To An A* (Intermediate)

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The Burglar

Madam Lim was the sole occupant of a three-room flat in Toa Payoh. Every afternoon, she would sit in her rocking chair in the living room while watching her favourite soap opera on television. Often, she would fall asleep in the rocking chair after the show was over.

One afternoon, Madam Lim settled down to her daily routine. As the sun was blazing outside, it was rather stuffy inside the living room. For added ventilation, Madam Lim left her front door ajar. She did not realize that she had forgotten to lock the metal gate. As the afternoon wore on, Madam Lim was lulled into a restful slumber.

As Madam Lim slept, a burglar took the opportunity to enter her flat. He stealthily crept past the living room and made his way to the master bedroom. Once inside, the burglar ransacked the wardrobe, searching for valuables worth stealing.

Despite her age, Madam Lim had an acute sense of hearing. She was awakened by faint noises coming from her bedroom. She quietly got up from her rocking chair and peeped into the master bedroom. When she saw a stranger rummaging through her belongings, alarm bells went off in her head. Quick-witted Madam Lim tiptoed to the altar cabinet and took out a bunch of keys from the drawer. She then tiptoed to the entrance of the master bedroom and pulled the door shut before turning the key to lock the burglar in.

Trapped in the master bedroom, the burglar had nowhere to escape. Climbing out of the window was not an option since Madam Lim lived on the twenty-first floor. The burglar pleaded with Madam Lim to let him out but she reached for the telephone and dialled '999' instead.

Fifteen minutes later, the door of the master bedroom was finally opened — by the police. The burglar was arrested and taken back to the police station for questioning. He was later charged in court for trespassing on private property and attempted burglary, earning him a prison term of a year. Madam Lim was relieved that she had managed to outwit the burglar and did not suffer any loss. From that day onwards, she was extra careful about home security and never left her main gate unlocked again.