

FOREST ROAD



a short story for English reading and speaking

Forest Road

A Fantastic Tales Lesson Plan

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Introductory Questions

Before reading the story, discuss the following questions as a class.

1. Have you ever helped a stranger who seemed to be in trouble? What happened?
2. Do you think it's safer to help someone in need, or to mind your own business and walk away? Why?
3. Werewolves appear in stories and films from many different cultures. What do you already know about werewolves? What do they usually look like, and what happens to them?
4. Think about a job that requires someone to be out very early in the morning, alone, before most people are awake (for example, a milkman, a baker, or a newspaper delivery person). What kinds of unusual things might they see that other people never do?

5. Look at the title of the story: "Forest Road." What kind of story do you expect this to be, just from the title? What could happen on a road like this?

Forest Road

Mac was a milkman.

He had been a milkman all his working life. He liked it.

Mac was a morning person. Getting up early and being outside as the sun rose — that was the best part of the job.

By the time he was finishing work, most other people were just starting their daily grind.

He liked being outside on the streets in his neighbourhood.

No people around. Sometimes a dog sniffing around. Or a cat staring at him from behind a wall or a hedge.

Birds singing and welcoming the new day.

He liked having the streets to himself.

Mac had seen some things when delivering milk to people's doorsteps.

One time he saw a drunk driver. A man had crashed his car into a tree. The driver, so drunk, he had no idea where he was.

Another time, he witnessed two burglars trying to break into someone's house.

Mac had made a call, the police arrived, and they apprehended the two thieves.

At the weekend, Mac often encountered revellers or young people coming home from a nightclub.

They often wanted to talk to him. All happy and high on life.

But on this particular morning, he saw a man lying completely naked in the middle of the road.

This was a first.

What had this man been doing?

Mac pulled his milk cart to the side of the road and got out.

The thought went through his mind that this guy could be dangerous. That was a possibility for sure.

But at the same time, Mac felt he had a civic duty to help.

His mother had instilled this idea in his mind.

Help others and the universe will help you in return, she had told him many times.

Very slowly, Mac approached the man.

He was lying face down on the tarmac. But Mac could see his body was covered in mud and dirt. Like he had been rolling around in a field.

Mac came to the side of the man and leaned down.

‘Excuse me, mate,’ he said. ‘Are you alright?’

The man did not move. He lay on the ground, perfectly still.

Mac looked up and down the street. Maybe another person who could provide some assistance.

But the streets were empty at this time in the morning.

Mac also thought about calling the police. This would be the correct thing to do.

But then what would they do?

Arrest him for breach of the peace?

And the poor guy probably had drunk too much the night before. All he needed was to get home and sleep it off.

No need to involve the law.

Mac spoke to him again. This time with a louder voice.

‘Mate. Are you okay?’

This time the man shifted his weight a little and he groaned softly.

Mac was quite certain this guy was harmless. Just too much to drink and now waking up with a sore head.

Mac leaned in and tapped the guy gently on his shoulder. A slight flinch in response.

‘Listen, old pal,’ he said. ‘I don't think you can lie here in the middle of the street. It's not safe.’

He tapped the guy again and this time he raised his head slightly, then let it fall back to the ground. That must have hurt.

‘Come on, son,’ said Mac. ‘My milk cart is just here. I'll give you a lift home.’

He put his hand on the man's shoulder and tried to turn him over. This time the man shook his body with a start.

The man turned his head and peered up at Mac.

The whites of his eyes were not white at all. Like a dirty kind of yellow colour.

And bloodshot.

This guy had really had a big night. He would pay for it now.

The man smacked his lips, his tongue lolling around inside his mouth. Then he spoke.

‘Where am I?’ he said.

Mac smiled at him.

‘You're on Forest Road,’ he said. ‘Where do you live? I'll give you a lift.’

The man dragged himself to all fours and struggled to get up into a standing position.

The front of his body all covered in mud and dirt.

‘You must have had a really good night,’ said Mac. ‘But I think it's time for you to sleep it off.’

Mac pointed to his milk cart and the man followed him towards it.

Mac got in one side and the man got in the other.

‘So where do you live then?’ Mac asked him.

The man looked confused.

And the smell coming from him. Like something metallic. Or copper.

Must be all the dirt on him.

Mac waited for the man to respond.

‘I don't know where I live,’ he said.

Mac raised his eyebrows.

Great. Now he had a problem.

What to do with this guy now?

Looked like he had no choice but to take him to the police station.

They could deal with him.

‘Alright,’ said Mac, and started the cart engine. ‘Let's get you somewhere safe.’

The man pulled his arms around his body.

As he did so, Mac caught sight of his hands. His fingernails were filthy, nearly black. And the longest nails he had ever seen.

Like nothing he had seen before.

‘What exactly did you do last night?’ asked Mac.

The man's head lolled from side to side.

And that smell... Not just on his hands. On his mouth too.

Then it dawned on Mac.

The dirt on the man's body. It was not mud.

It was something else. A dark red colour.

And all over his fingernails.

Fingernails like claws.

And there, low over the rooftops, hung a full moon — round, bright, and still shining, even as the sun began to rise.

Forest Road — Story and Reading Comprehension Questions

Section 1

Mac was a milkman.

He had been a milkman all his working life. He liked it.

Mac was a morning person. Getting up early and being outside as the sun rose — that was the best part of the job.

By the time he was finishing work, most other people were just starting their daily grind.

He liked being outside on the streets in his neighbourhood.

No people around. Sometimes a dog sniffing around. Or a cat staring at him from behind a wall or a hedge.

Birds singing and welcoming the new day.

He liked having the streets to himself.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the main character?
2. What is his job?
3. What are some of the reasons why Mac likes his job?

Section 2

Mac had seen some things when delivering milk to people's doorsteps.

One time he saw a drunk driver. A man had crashed his car into a tree. The driver, so drunk, he had no idea where he was.

Another time, he witnessed two burglars trying to break into someone's house.

Mac had made a call, the police arrived, and they apprehended the two thieves.

At the weekend, Mac often encountered revellers or young people coming home from a nightclub.

They often wanted to talk to him. All happy and high on life.

But on this particular morning, he saw a man lying completely naked in the middle of the road.

This was a first.

What had this man been doing?

Reading Comprehension Questions

4. What kind of strange things has Mac seen while working?

5. What does he see this morning while working?

Section 3

Mac pulled his milk cart to the side of the road and got out.

The thought went through his mind that this guy could be dangerous. That was a possibility for sure.

But at the same time, Mac felt he had a civic duty to help.

His mother had instilled this idea in his mind.

Help others and the universe will help you in return, she had told him many times.

Very slowly, Mac approached the man.

He was lying face down on the tarmac. But Mac could see his body was covered in mud and dirt. Like he had been rolling around in a field.

Mac came to the side of the man and leaned down.

‘Excuse me, mate,’ he said. ‘Are you alright?’

Reading Comprehension Questions

6. Does Mac stop his milk cart to help?
7. What concern does Mac have about the man?
8. Whose advice does Mac think of as he decides to help?
9. What is covering the man's body?

Section 4

The man did not move. He lay on the ground, perfectly still. Mac looked up and down the street. Maybe another person who could provide some assistance.

But the streets were empty at this time in the morning.

Mac also thought about calling the police. This would be the correct thing to do.

But then what would they do?

Arrest him for breach of the peace?

And the poor guy probably had drunk too much the night before. All he needed was to get home and sleep it off.

No need to involve the law.

Mac spoke to him again. This time with a louder voice.

‘Mate. Are you okay?’

This time the man shifted his weight a little and he groaned softly.

Reading Comprehension Questions

10. Are there any other people on the street at this time?

11. Who does Mac think about calling?

12. What reason does Mac give himself for not calling the police?

13. When Mac calls out to the man, how does he respond?

Section 5

Mac was quite certain this guy was harmless. Just too much to drink and now waking up with a sore head.

Mac leaned in and tapped the guy gently on his shoulder. A slight flinch in response.

‘Listen, old pal,’ he said. ‘I don't think you can lie here in the middle of the street. It's not safe.’

He tapped the guy again and this time he raised his head slightly, then let it fall back to the ground. That must have hurt.

‘Come on, son,’ said Mac. ‘My milk cart is just here. I'll give you a lift home.’

He put his hand on the man's shoulder and tried to turn him over. This time the man shook his body with a start.

Reading Comprehension Questions

14. What does Mac decide about the man's condition?

15. How does the man react when Mac touches his shoulder?
16. What does Mac advise the man not to do?
17. What does the man do when Mac taps him a second time?
18. What does Mac assume happened when the man's head fell back?
19. What offer does Mac make to the man?
20. What does the man do when Mac tries to turn him over?

Section 6

The man turned his head and peered up at Mac.

The whites of his eyes were not white at all. Like a dirty kind of yellow colour.

And bloodshot.

This guy had really had a big night. He would pay for it now.

The man smacked his lips, his tongue lolling around inside his mouth. Then he spoke.

‘Where am I?’ he said.

Mac smiled at him.

‘You're on Forest Road,’ he said. ‘Where do you live? I'll give you a lift.’

The man dragged himself to all fours and struggled to get up into a standing position.

The front of his body all covered in mud and dirt.

Reading Comprehension Questions

21. Does the man look at Mac?
22. What does Mac notice about the man's eyes?
23. What does the man do with his lips and tongue?
24. What question does he ask Mac?
25. What does Mac tell the man about where he is?
26. Does the man stand up?

Section 7

‘You must have had a really good night,’ said Mac. ‘But I think it's time for you to sleep it off.’

Mac pointed to his milk cart and the man followed him towards it.

Mac got in one side and the man got in the other.

‘So where do you live then?’ Mac asked him.

The man looked confused.

And the smell coming from him. Like something metallic. Or copper.

Must be all the dirt on him.

Mac waited for the man to respond.

‘I don't know where I live,’ he said.

Mac raised his eyebrows.

Great. Now he had a problem.

What to do with this guy now?

Looked like he had no choice but to take him to the police station.

They could deal with him.

Reading Comprehension Questions

27. Do Mac and the man get into the milk cart?
28. What does Mac notice about the smell coming from the man?
29. Does the man know where he lives?
30. What does Mac decide to do next?

Section 8

‘Alright,’ said Mac, and started the cart engine. ‘Let's get you somewhere safe.’

The man pulled his arms around his body.

As he did so, Mac caught sight of his hands. His fingernails were filthy, nearly black. And the longest nails he had ever seen.

Like nothing he had seen before.

‘What exactly did you do last night?’ asked Mac.

The man's head lolled from side to side.

And that smell... Not just on his hands. On his mouth too.

Then it dawned on Mac.

The dirt on the man's body. It was not mud.

It was something else. A dark red colour.

And all over his fingernails.

Fingernails like claws.

And there, low over the rooftops, hung a full moon — round, bright, and still shining, even as the sun began to rise.

Reading Comprehension Questions

31. Where does Mac suggest taking the man?
32. What does Mac notice about the man's fingernails?
33. What does the man do with his head?
34. What does Mac realise about the 'mud' on the man's body?
35. What does Mac see in the sky at the end of the story?

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the main character?
2. What is his job?
3. What are some of the reasons why Mac likes his job?
4. What kind of strange things has Mac seen while working?
5. What does he see this morning while working?
6. Does Mac stop his milk cart to help?
7. What concern does Mac have about the man?
8. Whose advice does Mac think of as he decides to help?
9. What is covering the man's body?
10. Are there any other people on the street at this time?
11. Who does Mac think about calling?
12. What reason does Mac give himself for not calling the police?
13. When Mac calls out to the man, how does he respond?
14. What does Mac decide about the man's condition?

15. How does the man react when Mac touches his shoulder?
16. What does Mac advise the man not to do?
17. What does the man do when Mac taps him a second time?
18. What does Mac assume happened when the man's head fell back?
19. What offer does Mac make to the man?
20. What does the man do when Mac tries to turn him over?
21. Does the man look at Mac?
22. What does Mac notice about the man's eyes?
23. What does the man do with his lips and tongue?
24. What question does he ask Mac?
25. What does Mac tell the man about where he is?
26. Does the man stand up?
27. Do Mac and the man get into the milk cart?
28. What does Mac notice about the smell coming from the man?
29. Does the man know where he lives?
30. What does Mac decide to do next?

31. Where does Mac suggest taking the man?
32. What does Mac notice about the man's fingernails?
33. What does the man do with his head?
34. What does Mac realise about the 'mud' on the man's body?
35. What does Mac see in the sky at the end of the story?

Essential Vocabulary

milkman	breach of the peace	fingernails
morning person	sleep it off	filthy
daily grind	groaned	loll
neighbourhood	harmless	dawned on
sniffing	sore head	claws
hedge	flinch	rooftops
doorsteps	shook	tarmac
drunk driver	bloodshot	civic duty
crashed	smacked his lips	instilled
burglars	lolling	assistance
apprehended	dragged himself	confused
revellers	all fours	metallic
nightclub	struggled	copper

high on life	naked	dirt
tongue	tried	night

Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

1. Write each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook.
2. Look up the meaning of each word in your dictionary. Write a clear and simple definition next to the word.
3. Create your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Try to make the sentence meaningful and connected to your own life or experiences.

Examples

Fingernails — *the hard, flat coverings that grow on the ends of your fingers.*

Example sentence: *I need to cut my fingernails, they've grown quite long this week.*

Harmless — *not dangerous; unable to cause damage or injury.*

Example sentence: *The spider in the bathroom looked scary, but it was completely harmless.*

Why do this?

Doing this regularly will help you improve all areas of your English — reading, writing, speaking, and listening. By writing definitions and making your own examples, you are actively using the language, which helps it stick in your memory.

True or False

Read the statements below and decide if they are True or False. You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

1. Mac has worked as a milkman for only a few months.
2. Mac prefers working when the streets are busy with people.
3. Mac has witnessed a drunk driver crash into a tree in the past.
4. Mac calls the police as soon as he sees the naked man in the road.
5. Mac's mother taught him that helping others is important.
6. When Mac first touches the man's shoulder, the man does not react at all.
7. The man tells Mac that he knows exactly where he lives.
8. Mac notices a metallic smell coming from the man.

9. Mac realises that the dirt on the man's body is actually blood.
10. At the end of the story, the sky is completely dark with no moon visible.

What is the Correct Synonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the word on the left with the correct synonym on the right.

A synonym is a word of similar meaning.

Words	Synonyms
filthy	arrested
groaned	pulled
flinch	ingrained
struggled	moaned
dragged	help
confused	wince
harmless	puzzled

instilled	dirty
apprehended	safe
assistance	strained

What is the Correct Antonym?

Look at the table below.

Match the word on the left with the correct antonym on the right.

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning.

Words	Antonyms
filthy	released
groaned	hindrance
flinch	pushed
struggled	dangerous
dragged	clean
confused	removed
harmless	laughed

instilled	stand firm
apprehended	relaxed
assistance	clear

Words and Meanings

Look at the words below.

Match each word with the correct meaning underneath.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

Word Bank

milkman • daily grind • revellers • breach of the peace • sleep it off • bloodshot • civic duty • tarmac • lolled • claws

Meanings

- a) the hard road surface used for streets and pathways
- b) people who are enjoying themselves at a party or celebration, often late at night
- c) a person who delivers milk to people's houses
- d) sharp, curved nails found on an animal's paw
- e) the boring, repetitive routine of daily work

- f) a sense of responsibility to help and serve the community
- g) hung loosely and moved from side to side
- h) red and swollen, often due to tiredness or strain
- i) to rest until the effects of alcohol wear off
- j) a criminal offence involving disorderly or violent behaviour in public

Gap Fill Exercise

Look at the word bank below.

Use each word from the word bank to complete the sentences below.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

Word Bank

milkman • neighbourhood • burglars • revellers • sore head •
confused • harmless • fingernails • rooftops • dirt

Sentences

a) The _____ delivered fresh bottles to every doorstep before sunrise.

b) After the party, she woke up with a terrible _____ and could barely remember the night before.

- c) The old spider in the corner looked frightening, but it was completely _____.
- d) The police were called after _____ were seen breaking into the warehouse.
- e) Snow settled quietly on the _____ of the houses as the town slept.
- f) Her _____ were caked in _____ after a long afternoon spent gardening.
- g) The tourists looked _____ when the map didn't match any of the street signs.
- h) A group of _____ stumbled home from the nightclub, laughing loudly in the empty streets.
- i) Everyone in the _____ knew each other and looked out for one another's homes.

Discussion Questions

1. Mac feels a "civic duty" to help the naked man rather than walk away. Do you think most people would do the same in his position, or would they keep walking?
2. Mac's mother taught him that "if you help others, the universe will help you in return." Do you believe this is true in real life?
3. Mac considers calling the police several times but talks himself out of it each time. Why do you think he keeps finding reasons not to call?
4. If you saw a stranger lying naked and confused in the street, what would you do?
5. Mac assumes the man is simply drunk, even as the clues suggesting something worse keep appearing. Why do you think people often choose the simplest explanation, even when it doesn't fully make sense?

6. Do you think Mac was being brave, foolish, or simply kind by approaching the man?
7. At what point in the story did you first suspect something supernatural was happening? What was the clue that convinced you?
8. The story never uses the word "werewolf." Do you think it's more effective to leave this unsaid, or would you have preferred the story to state it clearly?
9. Mac notices the man's animal-like behaviour — dragging himself on all fours, his tongue lolling, his head lolling from side to side. Why do you think the writer chose to show these details instead of simply telling the reader what the man is?
10. The story ends with Mac driving the man away in his milk cart. What do you think happens next?
11. Do you think Mac is now in danger? Why or why not?
12. Should Mac have trusted his instincts earlier, when he first felt the man "could be dangerous"?

13. The story is set at dawn, with the sun rising and a full moon still visible. Why do you think the writer chose this specific time of day for the story?
14. Have you ever ignored a warning sign or a bad feeling because you wanted to believe everything was fine? What happened?
15. Do you think Mac's kindness is his greatest strength, or could it also be seen as a weakness in this situation?
16. Werewolf stories often explore the idea of a "monster" hiding inside an ordinary person. What do you think this story is really about, beyond just the werewolf reveal?
17. If the man really is a werewolf, do you think he is aware of what he did the night before, or has he lost his memory of it?
18. Mac has seen strange things before on his milk round — a drunk driver, burglars, drunken revellers. How does this history affect the way he reacts to the naked man?
19. Do you think this story would be scarier if it was set at night instead of early morning? Why or why not?

20. If you were writing a sequel to this story, would you focus on what happens to Mac, or on the identity and past of the mysterious man?

Find the Clues: A Detective's Reading

The story **Forest Road** never actually tells you what the man is — instead, the writer hides a trail of small clues throughout the story for careful readers to notice.

Read back through the story like a detective and find as many clues as you can. For each clue, write down what you think it might suggest about the man.

The first one has been done for you as an example.

Clue from the story	What might this suggest?
The man's body is covered in mud and dirt, "like he had been rolling around in a field"	He may have spent the night outdoors, away from people

Bonus Questions

1. At what point in the story did you personally realise something strange was happening to the man? Which clue convinced you?

2. The story never uses the word "werewolf." Why do you think the writer chose to hide the truth using small clues instead of stating it directly?
3. The title of the story is "Forest Road" rather than something like "The Milkman Meets a Werewolf." How does this title choice affect the way you read the story?

Role Play: Do We Get Involved?

You and your friend are walking home together. You come across the situation described on your card. One of you wants to stop and do something. The other wants to walk away. Talk it through and decide together what you'll do.

The two roles (swap after each scenario so everyone plays both):

Student A — "The Helper": You feel you should get involved — offer help, call the police, or check what's happening.

Student B — "The Cautious One": You think it's safer, wiser, or simply not your responsibility to get involved.

Scenario 1 — The Man in the Street

You see a man lying on the pavement. He's drunk, and there's an empty bottle next to him. He's not moving.

Scenario 2 — The Break-In

You see someone trying to force open the door of a parked car late at night. They haven't noticed you.

Scenario 3 — The Lost Child

In a supermarket, you notice a young child crying alone by the tills. No parent or guardian is anywhere in sight.

Scenario 4 — The Injured Dog

You see a dog lying at the side of a busy road. It looks hurt and isn't wearing a collar.

Scenario 5 — The Stranded Driver

Late at night, a stranger flags you down, saying their car has broken down and asking to borrow your phone.

Functional Language Bank

Persuading someone to help:

"I really think we should stop and check."

"We can't just walk past — what if something's seriously wrong?"

"It'll only take a minute to make sure they're okay."

Persuading someone to walk away:

"I'm not sure that's a good idea, because..."

"We don't actually know what's going on — it's safer to leave it."

"It's not really our problem, is it?"

Reaching a decision together:

"Okay, how about we just...?"

"Fair enough, but what if we at least...?"

"Let's compromise — we'll [call the police / keep walking / check from a distance], and that's it."

Debate: Should We Always Help Others?

Background reading (for students, before the debate):

In 1964, a young woman named Kitty Genovese was attacked and killed near her apartment building in New York City. The case became famous because early newspaper reports claimed that dozens of neighbours heard her cries for help and did nothing. This story led psychologists to study what's now called the "bystander effect" — the idea that people are less likely to help in an emergency when other people are present, because everyone assumes someone else will act.

Later investigations showed the original reports were exaggerated — some neighbours did call the police, and one person did come to her aid — but the case still raises a real question that shapes how we think about public life today: in an emergency, do we have a responsibility to act, even when it's risky, inconvenient, or someone else's problem?

In the age of smartphones, this question has taken a new form. Today, when something dangerous or shocking happens in public, many people reach for their phone to record video before — or instead of — helping.

Motion:

"This house believes that people have a moral duty to help strangers in danger."

Debate Structure

- a) Divide the class into two teams: For the motion (people must help) and Against the motion (helping is a personal choice, not a duty).
- b) Give each team 10 minutes to prepare their strongest 3–4 arguments using the points bank below (or their own ideas).
- c) Each team presents an opening statement (2 minutes per side).
- d) Open floor: teams respond to each other's points.

- e) Closing statements (1 minute per side).
- f) Class vote: has the debate changed anyone's mind?

Points Bank — For the Motion (we have a duty to help)

- a) If everyone assumes "someone else will help," in the end no one does — this is exactly what the bystander effect describes.
- b) A society where people ignore each other's suffering is a colder, more dangerous place for everyone, including the people who choose not to help.
- c) Filming an emergency instead of acting treats another person's suffering as content, not a crisis.
- d) Small acts of help (calling the police, alerting others) carry little risk and can make a life-or-death difference.
- e) Historically, communities have survived by looking out for one another — ignoring that instinct weakens the social bonds that protect us all.

Points Bank — Against the Motion (helping is a personal choice, not a duty)

- a) Not every situation is what it seems — some "victims" are actually running scams, and getting involved can put the helper in real danger.
- b) People aren't trained professionals; badly judged intervention can make a dangerous situation worse.
- c) Personal safety has to come first — no one can be morally obligated to risk their own life for a stranger.
- d) Legal responsibility (calling the police) is different from a moral demand to physically intervene — reporting a problem may be enough.
- e) In practice, people already do help in the ways that are realistic for them (calling for help, alerting others) — expecting more sets an unrealistic standard.

Useful Debate Language

Making a point: "Our first point is that..." / "It's clear that..."

Responding to the other side: "That's a fair point, but..." / "I'd disagree, because..." / "That doesn't take into account..."

Concluding: "In summary, we believe..." / "For all these reasons, we urge you to..."

Follow-up Discussion (after the debate)

How does this debate connect to Mac's decision in "Forest Road"?

Do you think Mac's choice to help would have been the "right" one if the man really had turned out to be dangerous?

Has your smartphone ever changed how you reacted to something happening around you?

Writing

Choose ONE of the five prompts below. Write between 150–250 words.

1. Continue the story.

Write what happens next, immediately after the final line of "Forest Road." What does Mac do? What does the man do? Try to keep the same tone and pace as the original story.

2. Rewrite the ending from the man's point of view.

The story is told entirely through Mac's eyes. Rewrite the final scene — from the moment he wakes up in the road to the ending — from the man's own perspective. What does he remember? What does he understand about what's happening to him?

3. Write Mac's police statement.

Imagine Mac reports the encounter to the police the next day. Write his official statement describing exactly what he saw and did, in his own voice.

4. Write a short diary entry.

Imagine the man wakes up the following morning in an unfamiliar place, with no memory of the night, and writes a diary entry trying to piece together what might have happened to him.

5. Write your own "false alarm" story.

Using "Forest Road" as a model, write a short story (in a similar style) about a character who discovers something that seems dangerous or supernatural — but give it your own twist ending.

ANSWER KEYS — FOR TEACHER USE

Reading Comprehension Questions — Model Answers

1. The main character is Mac.
2. He is a milkman.
3. Mac likes being a morning person and getting up early to be outside as the sun rises, working without other people around, seeing animals like dogs and cats, hearing the birds sing, and having the streets to himself.
4. Mac has seen a drunk driver who crashed his car into a tree and had no idea where he was, and he has witnessed two burglars trying to break into someone's house, which led to their arrest.
5. He sees a man lying completely naked in the middle of the road.

6. Yes, Mac pulls his milk cart to the side of the road and gets out.
7. Mac is concerned that the man could be dangerous.
8. Mac thinks of his mother's advice that if you help others, the universe will help you in return.
9. The man's body is covered in mud and dirt.
10. No, the streets are empty at this time in the morning.
11. Mac thinks about calling the police.
12. He tells himself the man probably just drank too much the night before and only needs to get home and sleep it off.
13. The man shifts his weight a little and groans softly.
14. Mac decides that the man is harmless and has simply had too much to drink.
15. The man gives a slight flinch.
16. Mac advises the man not to lie in the middle of the street because it is not safe.
17. The man raises his head slightly, then lets it fall back to the ground.

18. Mac assumes that it must have hurt.
19. Mac offers to give the man a lift home in his milk cart.
20. The man shakes his body with a start.
21. Yes, the man turns his head and peers up at Mac.
22. Mac notices that the whites of his eyes are not white at all, but a dirty yellow colour, and bloodshot.
23. The man smacks his lips and lets his tongue loll around inside his mouth.
24. He asks, "Where am I?"
25. Mac tells him he is on Forest Road.
26. Yes, the man drags himself to all fours and struggles to get up into a standing position.
27. Yes, Mac gets in one side and the man gets in the other.
28. Mac notices a smell like something metallic, or copper, coming from the man.
29. No, the man says he does not know where he lives.
30. Mac decides he has no choice but to take the man to the police station.

31. Mac suggests taking the man somewhere safe.
32. Mac notices that the man's fingernails are filthy, nearly black, and longer than any he has seen before.
33. The man's head lolls from side to side.
34. Mac realises that the dirt on the man's body is not mud, but something else, a dark red colour.
35. Mac sees a full moon hanging low over the rooftops, still bright even as the sun begins to rise.

True or False — Answers

1. False. In fact, Mac has been a milkman all his working life.
2. False. In fact, Mac prefers working in the early morning when the streets are empty.
3. True.
4. False. In fact, Mac decides not to call the police and instead tries to help the man himself.
5. True.
6. False. In fact, the man gives a slight flinch when Mac touches his shoulder.
7. False. In fact, the man says he doesn't know where he lives.
8. True.
9. True.
10. False. In fact, a full moon hangs low over the rooftops, still bright even as the sun begins to rise.

What is the Correct Synonym? — Answers

Words	Synonyms
filthy	dirty
groaned	moaned
flinch	wince
struggled	strained
dragged	pulled
confused	puzzled
harmless	safe
instilled	ingrained
apprehended	arrested
assistance	help

What is the Correct Antonym? — Answers

Words	Antonyms
filthy	clean
groaned	laughed
flinch	stand firm
struggled	relaxed
dragged	pushed
confused	clear
harmless	dangerous
instilled	removed
apprehended	released
assistance	hindrance

Words and Meanings — Answers

Words	Meaning
milkman	c) a person who delivers milk to people's houses
daily grind	e) the boring, repetitive routine of daily work
revellers	b) people who are enjoying themselves at a party or celebration, often late at night
breach of the peace	j) a criminal offence involving disorderly or violent behaviour in public
sleep it off	i) to rest until the effects of alcohol wear off
bloodshot	h) red and swollen, often due to tiredness or strain

civic duty	f) a sense of responsibility to help and serve the community
tarmac	a) the hard road surface used for streets and pathways
lolloped	g) hung loosely and moved from side to side
claws	d) sharp, curved nails found on an animal's paw

Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

Words	Sentence
milkman	a
sore head	b
harmless	c
burglars	d
rooftops	e
fingernails	f
dirt	f
confused	g
revellers	h
neighbourhood	i

Find the Clues — Answer Key

Note for teacher: Students may find these clues in a different order, phrase them differently, or notice additional small details (e.g. "tongue lolling," "smacked his lips") not listed below — award credit for any reasonable clue with a sensible explanation, not just an exact match.

Clue from the story	What it suggests
His body is covered in mud and dirt, "like he had been rolling around in a field"	He may have spent the night outdoors, away from people
The whites of his eyes are "not white at all... a dirty kind of yellow colour," and bloodshot	His eyes look unnatural, not simply tired or hungover
His tongue "lolling around	Animal-like mouth

inside his mouth" and he "smacked his lips"	movements
He drags himself onto "all fours" to get up	Moving like an animal rather than a person
A strange "metallic" smell, "like copper," coming from him	This is the smell of blood
His fingernails are "filthy, nearly black" and "the longest nails he had ever seen"	His nails look more like claws than human fingernails
His head "lolloped from side to side"	Another animal-like, uncontrolled movement
The smell is "not just on his hands... on his mouth too"	Suggests he has been biting, not just touching, whatever caused the blood
The dirt on his body "was not mud... it was something else.	Confirms the "mud" was actually blood

A dark red colour"	
A full moon is "still shining, even as the sun began to rise"	The classic sign of a werewolf's transformation

Discussion after the exercise: Ask students to compare how many clues they found before checking the key. Did anyone notice all of them on a first read, or did most only become clear on a second look? This reinforces how the writer builds tension gradually rather than revealing everything at once.

Role Play Reveal Cards — Teacher's Answer Key

Note for teacher: Read the relevant reveal aloud after each pair/group has finished their role-play and made a decision. These are not "correct answers" to the role-play itself — both positions (helping and walking away) are reasonable given the information available. The reveals are only meant to fuel the follow-up discussion about uncertainty and decision-making, echoing the theme of "Forest Road." Avoid framing either student's choice as right or wrong.

Scenario 1 — The Man in the Street: He's a regular at the local pub who's fallen asleep after one too many. He wakes up embarrassed but completely fine.

Scenario 2 — The Break-In: It's the car owner — they've locked their keys inside and are trying to get back in themselves.

Scenario 3 — The Lost Child: The child's parent had stepped away for less than a minute to grab a forgotten item and is now rushing back, visibly panicked.

Scenario 4 — The Injured Dog: The dog isn't hurt at all — it's simply resting in a cool, shady spot on a hot day, and belongs to a nearby house.

Scenario 5 — The Stranded Driver: This one really is a scam — a common trick used to get close enough to steal a phone or a bag.

Post-activity class discussion (after all five reveals):

- Were you surprised by any of the reveals?
- Did the "Helper" make the right choice in every scenario?
Did the "Cautious One"?

- Is it possible to make the wrong decision for the right reasons — or the right decision for the wrong reasons?
- Like Mac in "Forest Road," we often have to decide how to act with incomplete information. Is there a "safe" general rule for these situations, or does it always depend on the details?

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