

# Hour to Midnight

It was the night before Tom's birthday, and Tom's parents were on a vacation, that meant he was in the house, alone! Tom heard a deafening noise from the attic. Slowly creeping to the attic door, his stomach roared with pain forcing him to go back, but he vigorously made his way back to the attic, his body covered in goose bumps. He felt a wind and he heard a scream, "AAAAAGGGGHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!" Tom could go no further.



**BOOM! BOOM!**

Tom awoke in his bed, "It must have been a nightmare," whispered Tom, heavily breathing but then he noticed that he could hear the same noise he heard last night, so again he started walking to the attic as if the noise was beckoning him, and again he felt a pain but much more painfully it roared. He smelt an enormous aroma and followed the smell. It led him to the clock in the attic. There he saw it was an hour to midnight.

Then he heard the noises grow even deafening and a bright light swarmed around him. He tried to run away but he was held back with a strong force. He called for help. But nobody was there. He tried to hold on to a loose floorboard but it came off. The rest of the floorboards lay flat and still. The only noises were the distant cries of Tom. For the night before your birthday the clock will surely chime.

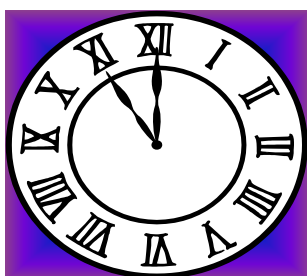
6 years later....

The house was up for sale after Tom's disappearance, they sold it to a family with a daughter and a dog. The girl's name was Katy and the dog was called Charlie. They had not heard about Tom and the clock. It was Katy's birthday that day and they were going to have a big party in the attic. Katy was jumping around like a mad frog. But before they did they threw away all the old things. It came to the party and everyone was singing and dancing. Katy felt a tear run down her warm cheek but not over sadness but over laughter.

It came to 10 o'clock and everybody tiredly drove home. There was a lot of rubbish on the floor so Katy and her dad cleaned up while mum had a long and good look around hoping to find some antiques. She noticed a few boxes they hadn't seen before. She pushed them aside. There she saw a loose floorboard and a clock, the very place of Tom's disappearance. "Oh look Katy there's an old clock here, you could have it in your Bedroom," pronounced mum while checking for batteries. "Ok, I needed a new clock anyway." Replied Katy in an interesting voice. It came to 5 to 11 and Katy staggered to her bed, she put the clock on her bedside table. 11 o'clock and Katy was asleep. When the clock struck 11, the deafening noise came back, in addition Katy awoke.

**BOOM! BOOM!**

Katy sat up on her high soft bed and pushed the clock on the floor thinking it was an alarm clock but it carried on. She stumbled out of bed, jumped violently on top of it constantly crushing it. She caught a spec of glass in her foot, and fell to the ground. Then all of the characters stood on the stage and took a long, low bow, everybody clapped with astonishment-the school play had finished. "Mmm." Murred the school caretaker. "I think I'll borrow that clock for a while..."



*By Charlotte Westaby*

*Year 5*