

An extract from 'A Little Princess', by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Sara, a rich and privileged girl, has just gone to her room and found Becky, the scullery maid, asleep in a chair.

When she entered the room, she floated in with a few of the butterfly steps — and there sat Becky, nodding her cap sideways off her head.

"Oh!" cried Sara, softly, when she saw her. "That poor thing!"

It did not occur to her to feel cross at finding her pet chair occupied by the small, dingy figure. To tell the truth, she was quite glad to find it there. When the ill-used heroine of her story wakened, she could talk to her. She crept toward her quietly, and stood looking at her. Becky gave a little snore.

"I wish she'd waken herself," Sara said. "I don't like to waken her. But Miss Minchin would be cross if she found out. I'll just wait a few minutes."

She took a seat on the edge of the table, and sat swinging her slim, rose-coloured legs, and wondering what it would be best to do. Miss Amelia might come in at any moment, and if she did, Becky would be sure to be scolded.

"But she is so tired," she thought. "She is so tired!"

A piece of flaming coal ended her perplexity for her that very moment. It broke off from a large lump and fell on to the fender. Becky started, and opened her eyes with a frightened gasp. She did not know she had fallen asleep. She had only sat down for one moment and felt the beautiful glow — and here she found herself staring in wild alarm at the wonderful pupil, who sat perched quite near her, like a rose-coloured fairy, with interested eyes.

She sprang up and clutched at her cap. She felt it dangling over her ear, and tried wildly to put it straight. Oh, she had got herself into trouble now with a vengeance! To have impudently fallen asleep on such a young lady's chair! She would be turned out of doors without wages.

1. Read each statement and **tick** whether it is true or false.

Sara is angry to find Becky asleep in her room.

Sara feels sorry for Becky.

Sara wakes Becky up so she won't get into trouble.

Becky's cap is falling off her head.

True False

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

1 mark

2. Look at the paragraph beginning *It did not occur to her...*
Find and **copy** a word or phrase from this paragraph which makes you feel sorry for Becky.

.....

1 mark

3. What can you tell about Sara from the paragraph beginning *It did not occur to her*? Circle **one** option.

She is
small.

She is
kind.

She is
tired.

She is
loud.

1 mark

4. What moves to make Becky wake up?

.....

1 mark

5. ...ended her *perplexity* for her that very moment.
What does the word *perplexity* mean in this phrase?

Tick **one** box.

distress

☐

confusion

☐

panic

☐

perception

☐

1 mark

6. Why is Becky scared when she wakes up?

.....

.....

1 mark

7. What do you think Sara will do next?
Mention **two** things.

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.....

.....

2 marks