

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Speaking: Fears

A. Complete the questions using the word in bold in the correct form.

1. Did you have any phobias during your _____? What? **CHILD**
2. When you were young, did you have any _____ fears? **RATION**
What were they?
3. What makes personal _____ disturbing? **POSSESS**
4. Describe one of your toys that you found _____? **SETTLE**

B. Discuss the questions in pairs, giving reasons for your answers.

C. Look at the pictures below and rank them (1-4) from the most disturbing to the least disturbing.



Photos courtesy of Unsplash



D. Watch this film.

What is the business and what do they like about the dolls that they collect?

READING

E. Read the text below and match the following headings to the paragraphs. There is one extra heading that you don't need to use.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| A step too far | Child's play: A business model | A quest to unite |
| A home for everyone | The biggest mistake | |

A. _____

In the heart of Portland, a husband and wife couple 1. ____ about their usual day rifling through the cast-off toys which have caused many a child to grimace. Stumbling 2. _____ something which makes its owner shudder, Sara and Brian are the first to leap into action and remove the offending item from the grips of its owner. Their entire business is built upon the desire to exploit unsettling toys and rehouse 3. _____ to people who get their kicks from unconventional or broken toys.

B. _____

While clowns and demonic looking dolls are enough to plant the seed of fear into 4. _____ the most stoic of children, there are some toys whose very presence in our homes puts the fear of god into us. And it's precisely this heart-racing predicament that spurs Sara and Brian 5. ____ to continue their endeavour into the world of disturbing memorabilia. The premise behind Unsettling Toys is to adopt personal possessions that people can't bring themselves to be around and try to rehouse them to others 6. ____ are a little more accommodating.

C. _____

So what on earth encouraged this couple to set up shop with the world's most unwanted toys? Well, it actually started with a joke on Brian's 50th birthday and then just snowballed from 7. _____. Their collection of misfits comes from either deep-rooted, inexplicable discomfort on the part of their owners or from the creepy effect manifested by a broken doll. You 8. _____ be surprised by how troubling something as simple as a doll's broken neck can be to the average collector. Luckily for the toys, Sara and Brian are 9. ____ hand to scoop them up, do them up and redistribute them to happier homes.

D. _____

But even Sara's unflinching attitude comes into question from time to time as even she admits that there are a few items in the collection that creep her out and have been relegated to the safety of their locked basement. Proving that even the bravest of adults can't 10. _____ to kick the fears of their childhood!

F. Now read the text again and complete the missing words (1-10).

VOCABULARY FOCUS



G. What do the following terms from the text mean? Match the word with its definition.

A	Rifle through (pv)	To enjoy something	
B	cast-off (adj.)	To grow at a fast rate	
C	Shudder (v)	Without emotion	
D	Get your kicks from (idiom)	Brave and not frightened	
E	Stoic (adj)	To shake with fear	
F	Snowball (v)	To put something in a less important position or place	
G	Scoop up (pv)	To search	
H	Unflinching (adj)	Unwanted	
I	relegated	To collect something that has been left behind	

SPEAKING

H. Discuss the following questions in pairs.

- How do you feel about the business?
- Do you think the business will snowball over the next few years? Why (not)?
- What kind of people do you think get their kicks from toys such as these?
- Do you think a business like this would be successful in your town? Why (not)?

I. Think about your own childhood toys.



Imagine you wanted *Unsettling Toys* to rehouse one. How would you convince them?

You have 5 minutes to prepare a persuasive plea. Pitch it to your partner. Will they agree to take it?