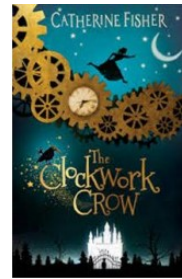


## The Clockwork Crow

### Chapter 1 - Seren Rhys is freezing

A clock ticks,

frost is white.



Stars travel through the night. The railway station was deserted. The only thing that moved in its silent shadows was the big hand on the clock as it crept towards the hour of eight. Seren stared up at it, hypnotised and weary. How could it go so slowly? Had she really only been waiting half an hour? It seemed like forever. She was muffled in a heavy coat, a woollen hat, scarves and a shawl, but she had never been colder in all her life. Even with thick gloves thrust deep in her pockets she couldn't feel her fingers. In fact, if she didn't move right now she would probably freeze to the spot, so she jumped to her feet and began to stamp up and down the bare platform, the thump of her clumsy boots ringing in the bitter night.

She stamped fourteen steps to the wall.

Fourteen steps back.

To the wall. And back.

Over everything – the benches and the roof and the railway posters – a thin layer of frost shimmered like crushed diamonds in the light from the lamp. The night was so silent it scared her. She breathed out a cloud and then turned quickly as the stationmaster's door opened.

### Response to Reading

Read the opening extract of the text – as you read make notes:

- Do you have any questions?
- – Is there any vocabulary you don't understand?
- – What does it remind you of?
- – How does it make you feel?

Read the text again before you answer the following questions:

1. Where is Seren?
2. How do you know time is passing slowly?
3. The author says the frost 'shimmered like crushed diamonds' what does this mean?
4. List 3 different things that tell you Seren is freezing:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_