

## The night

an old sick man	a clock
a night watchman	a full moon
a robber	a policeman
a boy with an exam the next morning	a lock
an owl	a mother with a sick child
a rat	a statue
an old brass lamp	a pile of dirty plates
an unsent letter	a nurse on night duty
a bear in the zoo	a long distance truck driver
a child waking up from a nightmare	a prisoner in jail

Here are three examples of three twelve year old girls writing about the night from a bird's, a person's and an object's point of view.

### ***I am an owl...***

*I'm an owl. I have big, big eyes. I only come out at night. I live in an old banyan tree. I think many things in the night and I am going to write some of these thoughts.*

*People think I bring bad luck but actually I don't give any problems to people. The whole day I'm asleep in my hole in the tree. Sometimes I open my eyes and people think there is a ghost in the tree. Then the people don't come near because they are scared. But it's convenient for me because they don't disturb me.*

*As I told you before I only come out in the night. I feel sorry about this but in the daylight I can't see so I have to sit in one place. I feel jealous of the other birds and animals who are playing and jumping all through the day. But what can I do? In the daytime I can't see. At least I can see in the night. If I couldn't do that then what would I do?*

*My work begins in the evening when it gets dark. In the summer it gets dark late. I am very hungry but if there's light I can't see properly. I love the cold season best because it will get dark soon and the sun rises late in the morning.*

*I rarely find rats and bandicoots. I just go to catch them but they escape. If I make the slightest sound with my wing or even a sound of leaves then they will be very careful.*

*The bad dogs and cats trouble me. They also want to catch and eat my food. The cats come to catch the rats and bandicoots – and like that dogs come also. If I fly just a little low the dogs and cats will be ready to catch me. That's why I sometimes think I should stop eating meat and become like a sanyasi and eat only fruits but my mind wants meat and if for two days I just eat fruit then again I want to go and eat meat.*

*Sometimes I don't find anything even if I search far away. If I go too far then it becomes light ... and then for the next day I have to fast. If I find something to eat I am lucky.*

*Sometimes I feel I am the happiest creature because people trouble the birds and animals who work in the daytime. At that time I am in my hole in the tree and I am safe and don't have any problems. In the night I have the problem of being hungry or having to face dogs and cats. Now think and tell me whether I am better off than the birds and animals that are about in the day.*

### ***I am a watchman...***

*I am a factory watchman. I stand like a dog at the gate and look at everything closely. What shall I say about myself? ....I'll tell you and you listen. The whole night I have to wait. Nobody is with me. I'm like a ghost. If robbers should come god only knows what would happen. If something gets lost then it is my salary that is reduced.*

*In the night men come for work. I only must write at what time they come and what time they go. Sometimes a lorry comes to bring things for the factory. I have to write and count what things come and how many there are. If I make a mistake because I am sleepy God help me.*

*If I go to sleep and the owner comes he scolds me and frightens me. He says “Do I give you a salary for nothing. I will deduct something from your salary if you do this again. And if you do it again then you will have to leave the job.”*

*I feel sleepy so what can I do? How much can I sleep in the day time. If I sleep in the daytime my wife scolds me and tells me to do some work. In the night the owner scolds me. This is my work. If I don't have this work how can I look after my wife and children.*

*I'm fed up with this work. I want to leave but what can I do? Nobody should have to live like this!*

*I've told you about my work. Now you also go and be a watchman and then you will know whether I am saying what is true.*

*I don't want to fall asleep but somehow I fall asleep and snore. At this time if someone comes without making a noise they will go inside. Sometimes I write the names of people who didn't come for work and that person will get more money but in the office they scold me. Sometimes people come late but if I don't write that they came at the correct time they will scold me because they will get less salary. The office tells me that I will lose my job but I beg them to let me stay – “Don't do that to me swami. I have to look after my family.*

*Sometimes I'm lucky when I'm sleeping nobody comes and there will be no disturbance for my sleep. This is my story.*

### ***I am a window...***

*I am a window. Rich and poor people need me. In some houses windows are big and some small. I am needed for air and light.*

*On summer nights people open my shutters. It's difficult for me because they put the fan on so that the hot air goes out. After some time if they feel cold they close the shutter. Like this they open and close all the time.*

*Sometimes when there is a strong wind my shutters swing and hit me badly. Then I have a lot of pain. Sometimes my hands ( handles) break and then sometimes white ants eat me. Then I am afraid I might be thrown away. I am made of wood and they may burn me. If I make a sound when the wind blows they say, “Why is it making such a noise? We shouldn't keep this window!” Then I can't sleep in the night. But then sometimes when it's hot people wonder why don't they have more windows. Sometimes they praise me and sometimes scold me –what a strange thing!*

*Thieves like me because if they want to steal something they can look through me to see what is happening inside the house. Sometimes they climb through me.*

*All the people – small and big – touch me all the time. Many times birds come and sit on me. They also go through me to get into the house.*

*In the cold nights people close me to keep warm inside. Then I will be cold. And when it is raining water shouldn't get inside so they close me. If it's raining or cold in the daytime I can manage but in the night it is very cold.*

*These people they open and close me whenever they like and I can't do anything. I am like a toy doll in their hands.*

A story written from different characters' point of view could give quite new insights into a story. This is a technique that has been used by a number of modern novelists such as the American writer, William Faulkner with great effect.

Another possibility is to take a simple story like the Panchatantra story of *The Elephants and Mice* and the children could re-write the story from the angle of a child mouse, the queen elephant or the grandfather mouse that went to ask the elephants to take another way round their city or a bewildered hunter.

A part of a story could be taken and an imaginary conversation could be written. For example the story from the Mahabharata could be told and the children asked to imagine what was said between Karna and Kunti.