

# The Curse of the Gloamglozer

*The Curse of the Gloamglozer* is the first book in the fantasy series, *The Edge Chronicles*. It describes the adventures of fourteen-year-old Quint Verginix in the great floating city of Sanctaphrax. This extract from the start of the book describes the strange world of the Edge.

Far, far away, jutting out into the emptiness beyond, like the figurehead of a mighty stone ship, is the Edge. Shrouded in mist and bordered by open sky, it is a place of forests, swamps and rocklands.

- There are many who inhabit its various landscapes; from the trolls, trogs and goblins of the perilous Deepwoods to the phantasms and spectres\* of the treacherous Twilight Woods, from the bleached scavengers of the Mire to the white ravens of the Stone Gardens. While in Undertown — that seething urban sprawl which straddles the Edgewater River — there are creatures from all over the Edge who have travelled there to discover what they hoped would be a better life than the one they left behind.

- Not all the inhabitants of the Edge live with their feet on the ground however. Some — the citizens of the great floating city of Sanctaphrax — live with their heads literally in the clouds. Dwelling and working in their sumptuous palaces and lofty towers, they are academics, alchemists, sub-acolytes\* and apprentices, plus, of course, all those who make their lives of research and study possible: the guards, the servants, the cooks and cleaners.

- Secured by the great Anchor Chain to the centre of Undertown below, the rock upon which Sanctaphrax has been constructed is still growing. Like all other buoyant rocks of the Edge, it started out in the Stone Gardens — poking up from the ground, growing, being pushed up further by new rocks growing beneath it, and becoming bigger still. The chain was attached when the rock became large and light enough to float up into the sky.



An extract from *The Curse of the Gloamglozer* by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell.

## Glossary

phantasms and spectres — ghosts

sub-acolytes — assistants

1 Find and copy one simile from lines 1-3.

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1 mark

2 What do you think the word "perilous" (line 5) means?

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1 mark

3 The people of Sanctaphrax have "their heads literally in the clouds" (lines 12-13). Why do you think the authors chose this phrase?

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2 marks

4 Would you prefer to live in Undertown or Sanctaphrax? Give reasons for your answer.

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2 marks

5 Why do you think the authors chose to start their book with this passage?

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2 marks

6 This book was co-written by two authors. Write down one advantage and one disadvantage of writing a novel with another person.

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2 marks

Total  
out of 10

## Answers

1. “jutting out into the emptiness beyond, like the figurehead of a mighty stone ship”
2. E.g. dangerous; unsafe; hazardous
3. E.g. To emphasise that the people of Sanctaphrax live very high up. The phrase also means that you don't really notice what's going on around you, so they might have chosen it to show that the people of Sanctaphrax don't pay much attention to what's happening below them in Undertown.
4. Any appropriate answer. E.g. I'd prefer to live in Sanctaphrax because it sounds so different to Earth. It floats and the people there live in towers and palaces. OR E.g. I'd prefer to live in Undertown because it's urban and I like cities. It also sounds like you'd get to meet lots of different creatures there.
5. E.g. The passage contains lots of description so it helps to create a clear picture of the setting in the reader's mind. It's important to explain the setting at the start of the book because it's so different to real life.
6. Any appropriate answer. E.g. An advantage is that you'd always have someone to discuss your ideas with if you got stuck. A disadvantage is that you might disagree about what should happen in the story.