



Rumblestar: Chapter 18

Where we meet Zip, the talking
hot air balloon!



Q1: Why are the Midnights watching the moorland?

Now he saw a cluster of black shapes zipping through the sky, but they were far below the hot air balloon. The griffins were patrolling the moorland, not the skies at all. Of course! Casper thought. *The Midnights will be expecting me to follow Utterly on foot across the heath! But here we are sneaking past them in the sky . . .*



Q2: Casper is in awe of the beautiful view he can see from Zip, the hot air balloon. Can you think of a time - and describe it - when you felt in awe of something amazing? It could be a sunset or a view from very high or a very special moment in your life when you felt astonished at something.

settle their nerves. Casper popped the empty glass back in the hatch, then he ventured a glance over the edge of the basket.

There was a whole kingdom at his feet: rivers reduced to scribbles, a forest no bigger than a matchbox and moor-upon-moor rolling into the distance. On seeing it all, Casper realised that very few people got to look at the world in the way he was now. There were aeroplanes back home, of course,

but in them you had to look out through a window. Here, there was nothing separating him from the endless skies. And though he was scared still he could feel something new fizzing through his veins. Awe. This was a kingdom full of unpredictable things, but it was mind-spinningly beautiful, too, even though its magic was fading in parts, and Casper couldn't help wondering whether his own world, which had seemed so small and glum before, might in fact be a little bigger and more interesting than he had realised. Perhaps he would have to address the amount of time spent hiding in Lost Property baskets, if he ever got home ...

