

Clive and the Missing Finger

- By Sarah Garland

Read this text carefully and try to fill in the missing words. When you have finished read it through to check that it makes sense.

Weeds grew up around Mr Tibbald's house. I _____ a hole under the fence and began to use the overgrown _____ for games and as my secret place. I didn't mean to go _____ the house, but I kept fiddling with the planks the police had used to board up the windows. One day a plank came _____ in my hand, the next day another slid sideways, and on the _____ day my curiosity became so strong that it seemed to push me through the kitchen window. Empty tins rolled from under my feet, making a shocking noise, and I _____ with my back against the wall while my eyes got _____ to the gloom. A little breeze _____ through the gap in the _____ and stirred the rubbish on the floor. A scrap of newspaper began to float slowly downwards, until it settled at my _____. I picked it up and held it to the light from the window. This is what it said:

DIAMOND THIEF ON THE RUN.