



“Your front door was open. We were worried you might be ill, Mrs Uns Dorf.” Jack stammered.

“How do you know my name?” asked the old woman. She looked terrified and her hands trembled as she came  
 5 up to them. Marin felt guilty that they had scared the old lady so badly.

Jack explained to Mrs Uns Dorf that they were part of the community action program. He said the school should have contacted her to say they were coming. Marin was  
 10 relieved when she saw the old lady relax as she learned the reason for their visit.

Mrs Uns Dorf finally smiled and said, “Oh yes, it must have slipped my mind that it was tonight.” Mrs Uns Dorf  
 15 laughed, “My memory isn’t what it was. You gave me quite a fright. I thought you were burglars!”

Marin thought her laughter had a sort of music in it, like a tinkling bell. She felt stupid that she had been frightened of this gentle old lady. As Mrs Uns Dorf talked to them, Marin forgot all about her bad dream of this house.

20 Mrs Uns Dorf **apologized** for scaring them, too. She explained that she’d been in the garden and the lock on her back door was broken, it was stuck shut – that was why