

Letters and the Lamp

Davy's and Stephenson's letters

Answers

1. Did Davy think Stephenson's safety lamp was safe?

No. Davy wrote 'I do not think it safe', and 'I fear [Stephenson] may endanger the lives of the workmen'.

2. What does Davy call Stephenson? Underline three answers: his friend; a thief; generous; ignorant; a pirate; knowledgeable.

3. Why is the word 'pirate' used?

Piracy is 'The unauthorized reproduction or use of an invention or work of another' (*OED*).

4. What did Stephenson say in his letters? Underline three answers: Stephenson did not have as much money as Davy to buy 'beautiful instruments' (scientific equipment); Stephenson copied Davy's ideas; Davy had the same idea as Stephenson; somebody told Stephenson about Davy's ideas; Stephenson did not receive any hint about Davy's experiments; Stephenson had enough money to buy scientific equipment of his own.

5. Have you ever written any letters? What is your favourite way of communicating today?

Personal response.