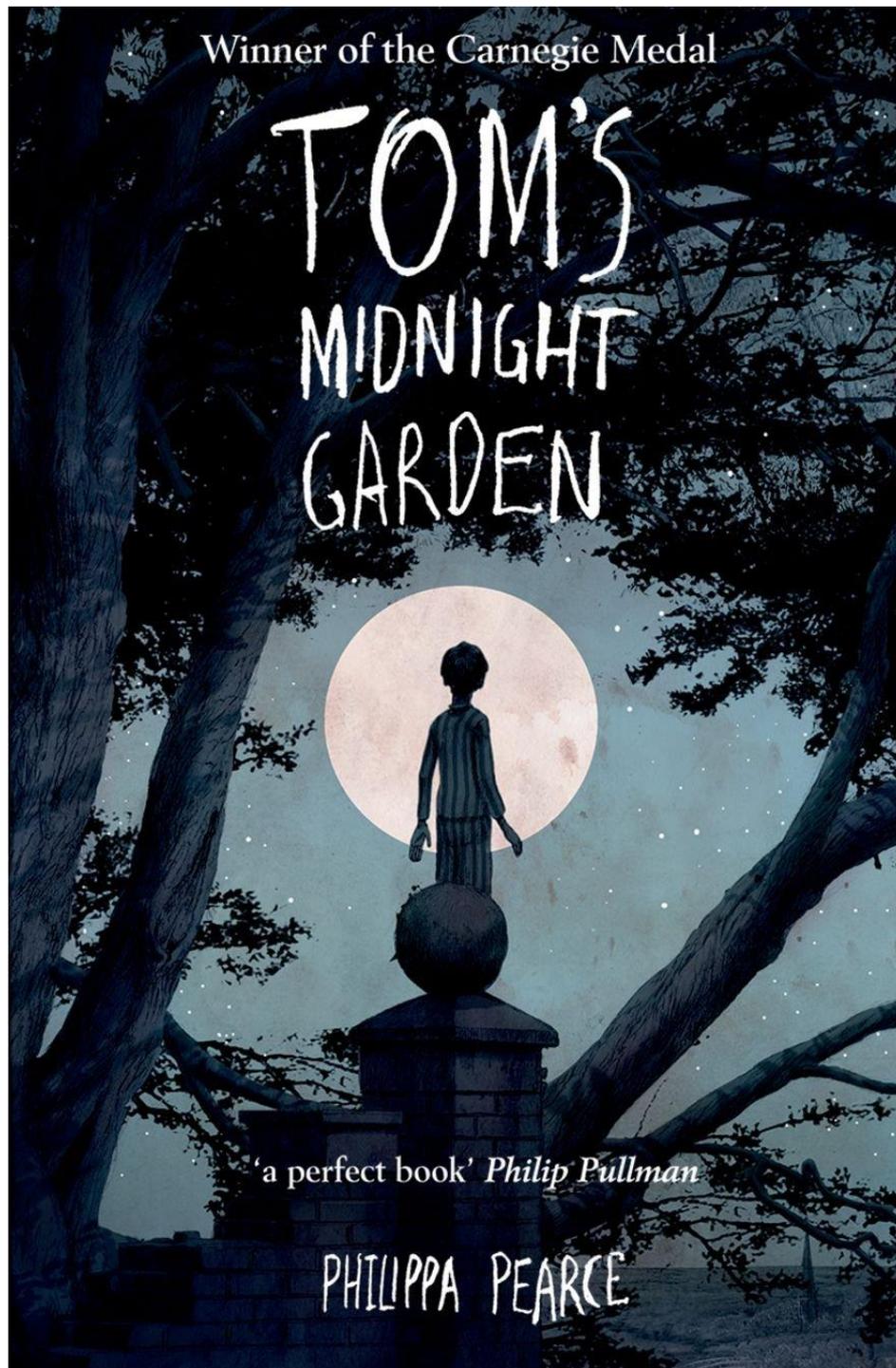


## Prediction

- Look at the front cover of the book and write a paragraph to predict what you think the book will be about. Who will be the main character/s? Where/when will it be set? What genre (type of story) will it be? What might the plot be? What clues does the title give you? Do you think it's important that it is a 'midnight' garden? Why?



Now scroll down to the next page...

- Now read these quotes from the book. Do they change your ideas? Give reasons for your opinions.

*He heard the sound of the grandfather clock from below in the hall. Yes, you could hear it striking, very distinctly; you could count the strokes. Tom counted them, and smiled condescendingly; the clock was wrong again in its striking – senselessly wrong.*

*Hurry! Hurry! the house seemed to whisper round him. The hour is passing... passing...*

*Tom turned from the clock to feel for the electric light switch. Where had it been? His fingers swept the walls in vain: nowhere.*

*He moved down the hall to the door at its far end... Never having had occasion to use the door, Tom had no idea how it might be secured at night, If it were locked, and the key kept elsewhere... But it was not locked, he found; only bolted. He drew the bolt and, very slowly, to make no sound, turned the door-knob.*

*Hurry! whispered the house; and the grandfather clock at the heart of it beat an anxious tick, tick...*

Further tasks:

- Research – What is a grandfather clock. Find pictures on the internet or draw one.
- Research Philippa Pearce – has she written anything else?