

Petronius

There is one more **creature** in the Sandman's house. This is Petronius, the oldest and smallest **owl** (*Athene nocturna*) in the world. He sleeps (1) _____ the day. Roberta has not been able to get him **house trained**- he's far (2) _____ learned. Every day she simply **lays a mat** under him and **beats it out** later, **muttering** (3) _____ herself.

At night, he flies silently through the **corridors of the castle** and catches black spiders and sometimes (4) _____ a **silly** lost beetle. This is the only food that he likes. He can **predict** the weather, and he knows what time it is (5) _____ in the world, even in the smallest village, which is harder than memorizing a **complex** railway timetable.

(6) _____ the Sandman knows all about sleeping sand, Petronius knows every **detail** of what goes (7) _____ in people's and animals' minds while they are asleep. He knows what sleep is, which is something no **human (8)** _____ has yet **figured out**. But Petronius won't give anything away. He (9) _____ tell you a few **well-known facts**, such as "REM sleep (that is, sleep during which Rapid Eye Movements happen) **occurs** four times a night," or "The *formatio reticularis* is the cerebral cortex's **main source of wakefulness**." You **feel sure that** he must know **all there is to** know, but you must be content (10) _____ **whatever he chooses** to discuss. If you ask too many questions he will simply close his eyes, and he won't open them again for hours.

❖ Also

❖ Anywhere

❖ Being

❖ During

❖ Even

❖ Might

❖ On

❖ That

❖ To

❖ Too

❖ While

❖ With