Building Suspense

Read the following suspenseful passages and identify where the authors are using story questions and where they are using word referents. Underline the ***story questions*** in **blue** and the ***word referents*** in **red**. Then number *the* ***magic of three*** with a **1/2/3** to identify the steps to the reveal.

1. John strained his eyes to see anything in the dark of the forrest night. He tugged his jacket closer around his body and listened as he moved forward down the path. Just then he heard a low moan “What was that noise?” he whispered “was it just the wind or something …or someone else?”

2. In the sparkling sunlight Micah could see the glint of an object lying off to th side of the path a little ways ahead of him. He blined twice to get a better veiew of it but could not make out what it was. As he walked closer he noticed that the sunlight was shining off of a sort of metal that made rainbow colors reflect off of the water around it. He shaded his eyes to guard from the glare of the sun and stared intently at what was just a few feet ahead. He became excited at the possibility of finding something of value. As he neared the spot where it lay he felt the hair on his neck raise in anticipation. He reached down to move the dirt away and saw a golden colored heart that had been dented on one side. Gently he picked it up and held it up to the sun. That’s when he noticed the letters F.H.P. engraved on the back – Francis Harriett Linch – that was his grandmothers initials!

3. She saw a gentleman walk over to Lucas and engage him in conversation. Her attention was caught. It was the gentleman she had recognized in the grocery store. She felt an uncomfortable chill run down her spine as she saw him look her way. She quickly turned away and began to pack up her books. “Now where have I seen him before?” thought Eleanor as mind became aware of a foreboding sense of dread. For she was sure she had seen the gentleman somewhere before and that her memories were trying to warn her of something. Was it somewhere at the college? Was it at her work? Or was it in a passing moment on the street? She just could not place him.

4. The floorboards creeked as Andy walked across the dusty hallway. This house hasn’t been cleaned for years he stated disgustedly as he kicked a large dustball out of the way. A sound under the coach caught his attention momentarily He paused and gave a backwards look, but barely gave it his attention as he continued to wander through the room. The next moment a door creeked slowly as though it was too much effort to move. Andy stopped and listened trying to hear what caused the movement. Must be an open window he reasoned but felt an unusual urge to get out of the house. My mind is playing tricks on me he reasoned as he moved through the open basement door. Suddenly a surge of wind roared into the house swirling around as though it were on a preordained mission. In an instant Andy realized his predicament – he had forgotten to take the key with him. He rushed upthe stairs but was too late! The basement door slammed shut behind him – trapping him in this dungeon!