

Tuesday 18th January 2022

LT use dictionaries to find meanings of words

Zelda Claw and the Rain Cat

Thunder growled overhead. Zelda crouched in the darkness - staring. Wind lashed the glittering tarmac and the street lights flickered, casting shadows across the darkened road. Rusted dustbins rattled in the wind, fences creaked and the rain drummed on car roofs. Zelda shivered. Where could she escape from the downpour?

At that moment, Zelda sensed something crawling. It was creeping along the pavement, hugging close to the shadows and moving eerily. Silently, a vague shape slipped into a doorway and Zelda was sure that she had glimpsed the flicker of a green eye. She could just hear a low growl, even though the rain danced a thousand deaths on the pavement. Her fur prickled as she tensed herself. What was it?

Without thinking, Zelda ducked under a lorry and tucked herself into a space near the engine. It was still warm. She could just make out what looked like an enormous cat pacing through the rain, like a shadow moving silently along the rain-washed pavements. Its white, needle-teeth jutted out of a scarlet mouth. Power surged through every step. Zelda flinched, crouching as still as stone.

Beneath the lorry, Zelda waited but the great rain-cat drew closer and closer. Emerald eyes glittered and Zelda could hear its claws scratching on the tarmac. Nearer it came until the great cat paused by the lorry's engine and sniffed. Could it smell Zelda's fear?

She could bear it no longer. Leaping out from under the lorry, Zelda shot back across the rain-swept road and leapt onto and over the wall. Landing on the other side, she paused. Alone! The rain cat had not followed but Zelda could hear it. It was a sound that seemed to tear the night in half. Zelda shuddered with relief. She was safe - for now.

Q: What type of text is this?

Q: Is it fiction or non-fiction?

Q: What does that mean?

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Crouched

Definition - a position with bent knees and low body

Synonym - squatted

(Challenge): Sentence - The boy crouched behind the tree to hide from his friends

Wednesday 19th January 2022

LT use inference to show comprehension of a text

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Re-read the story extract

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1. What was the weather like in the extract above? Which words tell you that?
2. How was Zelda feeling? How do you know?
3. What do you think the 'something' is? Why do you think that?
4. Can you summarise what the first paragraph is telling the reader?
5. Why do you think the author used the phrase '...street light flickered'?
6. What type of atmosphere does this create?
7. Why do you think the writer uses the word 'slipped' to describe the movement of the 'vague shape'?
8. What do you think might happen next? Why?

1. The weather was stormy. I know this because thunder growled, wind lashed and rain drummed on car roofs.

Thursday 20th January 2022

LT use description to set the scene

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LT use description to set the scene

Focus on the 1st paragraph, which describes the scene.

Thunder growled overhead. Zelda crouched in the darkness - staring. Wind lashed the glistening tarmac and the street lights flickered, casting shadows across the darkened road. Rusty dustbins rattled in the wind, fences creaked and the rain drummed on car roofs. Zelda shivered. Where could she escape from the downpour?

- what is the writer describing?
- how is this better than saying 'The weather was stormy?'

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LT use description to set the scene

Look at each sentence in turn, verbally changing them into simple, boring statements:

E.g. 'Thunder growled overhead' is a much better way to describe than 'There was thunder.'

- Can we think of another phrase or sentence to say the same thing?

E.g. 'A deep, low rumble of thunder rolled overhead.'

Continue with 'Zelda crouched in the darkness - staring'

E.g. 'Zelda stooped low in the darkness - her eyes scanning the surroundings.'

Friday 21st January 2022

LT use description to set the scene

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Re-read the story extract

Friday 21st January 2022

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Use modelling and teaching from yesterday's lesson to innovate each sentence, choosing alternative phrases but keeping the meaning the same