Descriptosaurus
Genre Writing Toolkit
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Introduction

To help you take your students' writing to the next level, this FreeBook brings together a handpicked selection of Descriptosaurus story writing resources. Each chapter focuses on a different genre, which we've selected from Alison Wilcox's latest Descriptosaurus writing guides.

The resources have been written to increase children's confidence in combining their descriptions of setting and character, and showing how the two interact. They encourage children to experiment with characters, settings and vocabulary to write their spookiest, most thrilling and most legendary stories ever!

Why action & adventure, ghost stories, myths & legends, and fantasy?

In 2013, Alison Wilcox collaborated with the National Literacy Trust on a descriptive writing competition. The National Literacy Trust then analysed the genres children chose in their descriptive pieces. "It is important that children are given the opportunity to develop their interests and passions," says Wilcox. "To ensure that children are engaged and enthused with creative writing, it is vital that they are, where possible, given a choice."

The four genres that stood out as by far the most popular were: ghost stories; adventure; fantasy; and myths and legends, which is why Wilcox decided to concentrate on these four areas in the latest Descriptosaurus writing guides.

How can the S/C-I-R system encourage exceptional writing?

When Wilcox analysed the entries, she discovered that while many children wrote brilliantly about characters, or settings, the stories was often disjointed. So, to encourage cinematic writing of an exceptional standard, Wilcox developed the S/C-I-R (Setting/Character-Interaction-Reaction) system. Using this system, children produce work that:

- Describes the setting;
- Moves the character through the setting; and
- Describes their reactions to what they see or the events in which they are involved.

A model of the S/C-I-R structure is included at the beginning of each chapter, so you can try the approach with your students.
Your FreeBook includes story writing resources from:

- Descriptosaurus: Action & Adventure
  *Hiding*
- Descriptosaurus: Ghost Stories
  *Eerie Presence*
- Descriptosaurus: Myths & Legends
  *Storms*
- Descriptosaurus: Fantasy
  *Fantasy characters*

**About the author**

Alison Wilcox has extensive teaching experience in schools. Colleagues describe her methods as ‘innovative and inspirational to even the most reluctant of writers.’
Hiding

From Descriptosaurus: Action & Adventure
1. As the sound of footsteps drew closer, a shiver charged down her spine like an electric shock. She ducked back into one of the smaller rooms and stood there, behind the door.

2. They stopped outside the room. He could hear them talking into their phones. As the door slammed open, every nerve in his body warned him not to move, even though his arm was shaking, and pins and needles prickled painfully in his ankle.

3. The two sentries stopped metres from where she was crouched in the reeds. They scanned the area, looking for a trail. Lowering herself to the ground inside the ditch, Kitty was shaking with terror and dread that at any moment they would glance in her direction and she would be discovered.

   A squelch of feet in the mud broke the silence. They were moving away from her hiding place. She held her breath, waited a few minutes longer, and then peered over the muddy lip.

**SECTION 1 – CHARACTERS**

**WORDS**

**Nouns**
- Pursuers, assailants, opponents, enemy
- Guards, sentries
- Presence, shadows, movement
- Sounds, feet, footsteps, boots
- Voices, whispers, murmurs, shouts, screams
- Squelch, rattle, creak, snap
7 Hiding

Twig, branch, stone, gravel, mud
Lock, door, floorboard

**Adjectives**
Low, urgent
Close, near

**Verbs**
Moved, walked, headed, turned, reached
Stopped, paused, waited
Raced, passed
Disappeared, vanished
Searched, stared, scanned
Opened, closed

**PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES**

- Darkness of a blind alley
- Barely noticeable in the shadows
- Beneath their feet
- Outside the room
- Close to where he lay in the shadows
- Any minute . . .
- Unaware of his presence
- Oblivious to his presence below them
- Not aware that he was hidden in the . . .
- Squelch of their feet in the mud
- Thud of boots
- Creak of a floorboard
- Snap of a twig nearby
- Rattle of a lock
- Low, urgent whispers

**PHRASES – VERBS**

- Turned the corner, talking into their phones
- Scanned the yard with their eyes
- Skulking in the shadows
- Stopped outside the room
- Disappeared round the corner
- Stopped at the edge of . . .
- Drew closer
- Passed within metres of where they were . . .
Could hear their voices getting closer
Going to be opened at any moment
Could have reached out and touched him
Didn’t look in his direction
Stared down for a brief second
Hadn’t seen him
Passed directly overhead
Walked straight past him
Raced passed

SENTENCES

They were heading in his direction. He could hear the thud of their boots as they moved close to where he lay in the shadows.

They stopped outside the room. He could hear them talking into their phones. Any minute they would open the door. He had to find somewhere to hide . . . and quick.

They were unaware of his presence, skulking in the shadows behind them. They didn’t look in his direction. If they had looked for more than a few seconds they would have seen him.

The two sentries stopped metres from where he was crouched in the reeds. They scanned the area, looking for a trail. He could hear the squelch of their feet in the mud.

She slipped further into the shadows and flattened herself against the wall.

SECTION 2 – INTERACTION

WORDS

Nouns

Pursuers, assailants, opponents, enemy
Silence, darkness, shadows, candle, torch, light
Head, face, hood, knees, haunches, back, stomach, belly, chest
Mountain, rocks, boulders
Woodland, treeline, trees, branches, trunk, logs, reeds, foliage, leaves, pine needles, shrub, bush, hedge, grass
Floor, ground, ditch, trench, hole
Roof, room, walls, door, window, stairs, steps, staircase, fire escape, banister, crowd
9 Hiding

Couch, seats, chair, curtains, table, desk
Crates, boxes, chests, racks
Bars, grille, mesh
Road, vehicle, car, van
Sounds, feet, footsteps
Voices, whispers, murmurs, shouts, screams

Adjectives
- Metal, steel, iron, stone, brick
- Thick, wide, low, hanging
- Dark, shadowy, enveloping
- Automatic, instinctive

Verbs
- Dug, scooped out, covered, hid, concealed
- Heard, listened
- Saw, watched, looked, glanced, peeped, peered, searched
- Lay, sat, waited, poised, leaned, moved
- Merged, submerged, vanished
- Hugged, pressed, pinned, wedged, flattened
- Lifted, raised, craned
- Inched, edged, eased, slunk, crept, crawled, slithered, rolled
- Slid, slipped, dipped, bowed, ducked, dropped, dived
- Sank, lowered, shrank, sneaked, backed, retreated
- Hit, threw, flung, jerked
- Darted, scurried, scattered, scrambled, stumbled, staggered

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES
- Out of sight of anyone waiting
- Still no sign of them
- With an automatic action
- With every step, he . . .
- Enveloping darkness
- Thick, dark woodland
- Trunk of the tree
- Nearest tree
- Wide trunk
- Hanging willow trees
Hiding

- Pile of logs
- *Muddy lip of the ditch*
- A rocky crag
- *Low brick wall*
- Stone wall
- *Metal grille*
- Steel mesh
- Approaching feet
- Emergency stairs
- First flight of steps
- *Pile of boxes*

### PHRASES – VERBS

- Hid amongst . . .
- Hid when she heard . . .
- Looked around for a place to hide
- Searched the room for a hiding place
- Backed away and set about finding somewhere to hide
- *Slipped into the shadows*
- Lay in the shadows under . . .
- Slunk back into the shadows
- Stuck to the shadows
- Shied away from the flickering street lamps
- Retreated into the shadow behind the . . .
- Had learned to move through the . . . in the dark
- Was able to blend into the shadows
- *Shrank back against the wall, glancing from side to side*
- Backed quietly away towards the . . .
- Staggered back
- Scurried for cover behind
- Stopped, spun around, and dropped onto his belly
- Turned, and melted back into the . . .
- Vanished in the crowd
- *Dipped his head*
- Dropped onto her knees
- Ducked and rolled underneath the . . .
- Ducked back into one of the smaller rooms and stood there
- Ducked down, seeking cover behind the . . .
- Dived backwards into the shadows
- Dived the last few feet into the shelter of the . . .
- *Lowered herself to the ground*
- Sank to her hands and knees
11 Hiding

- Dropped his back against the wall
- Sank down at the base of one of the trees
- Slid back against the . . . on to his haunches
- Crouched down behind the . . . so he couldn’t be seen
- Crouched behind the rocks halfway up the slope
- Crouched and peered through the . . .
- All dropped fla
- Went to ground
- Hit the dirt
- Flung herself down behind . . .
- Scrambled for cover behind the . . .
- Threw himself to the floor
- Threw herself to the ground behind the . . .
- Scattered, diving for cover
- Darted behind the . . .
- Stumbled among the rosebushes
- Had frozen in mid-crawl
- Poised on one knee and one muddy hand
- Dug herself in deeply behind a shrub
- Covered herself with leaves and pine needles
- Climbed up the oak until she found a sturdy fork in the tree where she could stay undetected
- Dragged herself into the tangled bushes at the base of the trees
- Scooped out a hollow under the bushes
- Was invisible from just a few metres away
- Waited in edgy silence
- Waited without moving
- Hadn’t moved a muscle for ten minutes
- Waited a few minutes longer
- Waited silently in the shadows until he was sure that . . .
- Waited, motionless, for what seemed like an eternity
- Watched as they hunted for him
- Jerked her head back into the shadows
- Sat cross-legged on the fl or in the shadows
- All he could do was lie there hugging the ground
- Waited on the stairs, sitting down carefully and drawing her knees up against her chest so she couldn’t be seen
- Crept along the fl or against the wall until she was . . .
- Crawled underneath . . . so that she was hidden by . . .
- Crawled to the edge of the bushes and peered out
- Rolled to the ground, flattening himself against . . .
- Rolled into the high grass so that she was out of sight
- Flattened himself against the . . .
- Wedged himself behind . . .
Press her back against the . . .

Pinned herself against a building

Eased himself up behind a . . .

Covered his head with his hands

Wrapped his arms round his head and ducked low

Walked in the shadows of the road

Kept off to the side in case a vehicle passed and spotted him

Kept his head down and face covered by the hood

Merged with the crowd and made his way out of the . . .

Bowed low so that his face would not be seen

Peered over the . . .

Sneaked a glance at . . .

Glanced up and peered through the steel mesh above her

Leaned forward so that she could see around the . . .

Peered through the posts of the banister

Edged carefully along until he was able to peer out

Peered back through the darkness

From where he was crouching he could see . . .

Leaned back out as far as he dared to . . .

Inched her head up to peer over the couch

See what his pursuers were doing without exposing his position

See if they were searching for them

Listened for the sound of . . .

Sat there listening intently

Heard voices coming up the stairs

She ducked – and rolled underneath the van.

Tom flung himself down behind the tree.

He watched from underneath the bush as they hunted for him.

Lowering herself to the ground inside the ditch, she waited a few minutes longer, and then peered over the muddy lip.

She slipped further into the shadows and flattened herself against the wall.

Katie waited silently in the shadows until she was sure that the man wasn’t coming back.

She waited on the stairs, sitting down carefully, drawing her knees up against her chest so she couldn’t be seen.

She sat cross-legged on the floor in the shadows, and listened nervously for the sound of approaching feet.
13  *Hiding*

He crawled underneath the first flight of steps so that he was hidden by the staircase.

He dived for cover and wedged himself behind a crate, and froze, motionless as if carved from stone.

As the sound of footsteps drew closer, she ducked back into one of the smaller rooms and stood there, behind the door, hardly daring to breathe.

Rob scooped out a hollow under the bushes and covered himself with leaves and pine needles.

She ducked down, seeking cover behind the reeds.

She peered through the posts of the banister, checking to see if they had gone.

She was crouched behind the willow tree. She hadn’t moved a muscle for ten minutes. She waited – and still did not move. Still there was no sign of them. She peered through the hanging branches.

Cautiously, Kitty leaned forward so that she could see around the trunk of the tree.

He leaned back out as far as he dared to see what his pursuers were doing without exposing his position.

They all dropped flat, going to ground, and with an automatic action rolled into the high grass so that they were out of sight.

Keeping his head down and face covered by the hood so his face wouldn’t show, he merged with the crowd and made his way out of the shopping centre.

**SECTION 3 – REACTION**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
**Wide**, still, frozen

**Urgent**, low, tight, choked

**Verbs**

**Gripped**, snaked, squeezed, choked

**Surged**, charged, pounded, hammered

**Warned**, dared, felt

**Swallowed**, stifled

**Clasped**, clenched, gritted

**Looked**, strained, blinked, glanced, peeped, peered, darted, closed

**Shook**, stood, waited, remained, froze, paralysed

---

**PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES**

* At any moment . . .
* _Every nerve in his body_
* Tingling sixth sense
* Like an electric shock
* Sound of his own breathing
* Like a coiled spring in the pit of her stomach
* Wide eyes
* _Certain they were somewhere nearby_
* Hardly more than a whisper from the shadows
* _Motionless, alert and ready to move quickly_
* Motionless as if carved from stone

---

**PHRASES – VERBS**

* _Surged through her_
* Enveloped her
* Brain quickened and all her senses were alert
* Warned him not to make a sound
* Until he passed
* Wanted to get up and run
* Knew she couldn’t move
* Didn’t dare move as . . .
* Tried to remain absolutely still
* Only bit of him that was moving was his heart
* Warned him not to move, even though . . .
* Watched in horror as they moved closer to the stairs
Every nerve in his body warned him not to move, even though his arm was shaking, and pins and needles prickled painfully in his ankle.

Kitty was shaking with terror and dread that at any moment they would glance in her direction and she would be discovered.

A tingling sixth sense made him look up. As he turned his head, he froze. They were standing right above him.

She wanted to get up and run, but she knew she couldn’t. She had heard their boots thudding up the stairs.

Panic gripped him, snaking around his windpipe, choking his breath.

The sound of his own breathing was almost deafening in the silence.
As the blood pounded in her temples, her brain quickened and all her senses were alert.

Her heart hammered in her chest as the footsteps came closer and closer, squeaking on the wooden floor.

The only bit of him that was moving was his heart, which pounded so hard it seemed about to break his ribs.

Sweat had collected on his forehead and was trickling down the side of his nose into his eyes. He squeezed them shut and blinked rapidly.

He could hear the voices getting closer. A shiver charged down his spine like an electric shock.

She felt the fear like a coiled spring in the pit of her stomach.

She clenched her teeth so hard her jaw ached.

Clasping her hands in her lap, she moved her lips silently in prayer.

His wide eyes strained to pierce the darkness, darting wildly from side to side, certain they were somewhere nearby.

His voice dropped to an urgent whisper.

He whispered in a tight, choked voice, watching in horror as they moved closer to the stairs.

His voice was hardly more than a whisper from the shadows.

He lingered in the shadows, motionless, alert and ready to move quickly.

She shook from the effort of holding herself still until he passed.

They waited, frozen to the spot, waiting for the thunder of boots on the stairs.
Eerie Presence

From Descriptosaurus: Ghost Stories
Behind her reflection in the mirror was a taller, dark silhouette, standing very still. Watching.

**Her heart thudding in her chest**, she whirled round and was blinded by a ghastly, glinting light flashing onto the wall.

With her wide eyes fixed on the strange shimmering shape, she backed out of the room, slamming the door shut behind her, and bolted down the stairs, taking them two at a time, not daring to look back until she was outside the house.

She turned to look at the house . . . **took a sharp intake of breath**. A face . . . a flickering shadow stared down at her from the first floor window. **Her legs shook uncontrollably**, sweat beaded her forehead and gathered on her upper lip. Every nerve in her body screamed at her to get away from the house.

**SECTION 1 – SETTING**

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<td><strong>Suits of armour</strong>, portraits</td>
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<td><strong>Mirror</strong>, reflection, shadows, shape, silhouette</td>
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<td><strong>Light</strong>, switch, button, torchlight, candles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sign</strong>, movement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breath</strong>, air, haze, mist, fog, shimmer, vapour, space, vacuum</td>
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<td><strong>Similes/ Metaphors</strong></td>
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## Adjectives

- **Heavy**, thick, hot, suffocating
- **Icy**, chilly, wet, damp
- **Dark**, grey, gloomy, white, yellow, luminous
- **Flickering**, swirling, billowing
- **Glinting**, shimmering
- **Brief**, fleeting, lingering
- **Ugly**, ghostly, eerie, brooding, monstrous, hideous, grotesque

## Verbs

- **Hung**, floated, spread, descended
- **Rose**, crept, flicked, slid, slipped, slithered, prowled, drifted, twisted, swirled
- **Spread**, covered, draped, filled, blanketed
- **Burst**, flooded, blinded
- **Muffled**, smothered, suffocated
- **Saw**, glimpsed, caught sight of
- **Shimmered**, flashed, shadowed
- **Lurked**, watched, waited, trapped

## PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- In the passage ahead of him . . .
- From far off in the house . . .
- Through a gap in the open door
- Over the ruins . . .
- In front of her . . .
- In front of the door
- Close up behind her
- Just ahead . . .
- Onto the opposite wall
- In the flickering torchlight . . .
- Blanket of grey mist
- Coils of mist
- Slinky, grey arms
- Like a misty serpent
- Like an icy breath
- Veil of icy mist
- Brooding mist
- Swirling mist
- Billowing grey mist
Eerie presence

- Like a padded quilt
- Like a dark blanket
- Full of shadows
- Wind-blown candles
- Strange light in the room
- Damp, yellow fog
- Eerie luminous yellow
- Ghastly, glinting light
- Misty haze
- Space in the air
- Shimmering vacuum
- White shape
- Another taller silhouette close behind her
- Only silence and utter stillness
- Lingering stench of...
- Hint of dried blood
- Heavy, hot and suffocating

PHRASES – VERBS

- As the air shimmered in front of him...
- As she moved before the mirror...
- As she glanced in the mirror...
- As she backed into the room...
- Silence. Something was going to happen
- Appeared from nowhere
- Hung over the ruins
- Crept up on the house
- Slid along the window
- Crept along the gravel path
- Floated above the grass outside the window
- Shadowed by a dark and terrible brooding cloud
- Floated above the table
- Hung above the bed
- Hung like a stilled breath on everything that it touched
- Crept along the hall floor
- Descended from the top of the stairs
- Drifted up from the basement
- Crept low through the attic
- Flicked its tongue into every gap of the corridor
- Prowled around them
- Slithered over their feet
- Rose and spread
Drifted through the air
Filled the air with its slinky, grey arms
Flooded the attic, momentarily blinding him
Draped over the room
Smothered all sound and light
Blanketed everything like a padded quilt
Twisted the furniture into monstrous shapes
Burst out at him as it parted
Waited a moment and then slipped back along the passage
Glanced at her reflection
Saw a fleeting movement
Caught a fleeting glimpse of...
Glimpsed something dark
Trapped behind a misty curtain
Flashed in the mirror
Shuddered as she stood there
Shimmered in front of them
Became more distinct
Stood very still in the shadows
Lurking. Watching. Waiting.
Moved with her
Swished out of sight
Seemed to take another step towards him
Played hide and seek with the shadows
Couldn’t see it, but knew it was there

SENTENCES

A billowing grey mist appeared from nowhere, floating above the grass outside the window. It rose and spread, and filled the air with its slinky, grey arms.

As the scent of lavender drifted through the air, a mist like an icy breath descended from the stairs.

A swirling mist had crept along the hall floor, making the stairs, suits of armour and portraits suddenly burst out at him as it parted.

A brooding mist crept low through the attic, prowling around them, slithering over their feet.

It was a clear day, but a damp, yellow fog hung over the ruins and twisted the trees into monstrous shapes.

As he opened the chest, a light flooded the attic, momentarily blinding him.

The ghost was trapped behind a misty curtain, but slowly became more distinct.
Turning towards a space in the air, he saw a sort of shimmering vacuum in front of the door.

A ghastly, glinting light flashed in the mirror onto the opposite wall.

As the air shimmered in front of them, it became heavy, hot and suffocating as if a dark blanket had been draped over the room.

It was like the air had been sucked out of the room, smothering all sound and light until only silence and utter stillness remained. In front of her was a sort of misty haze.

In the flickering torchlight she caught a fleeting glimpse of a white shape just ahead. Standing very still in the shadows. Lurking. Watching. Waiting.

The light in the room was strange; an eerie luminous yellow. The wind was quiet. Silence. Something was going to happen. He could feel it in the air.

Wind-blown candles played hide and seek with the shadows. When another candle went out, the eerie shadows seemed to take another step towards him.

She searched the darkness for any sign, any sound. There was nothing. Just the lingering stench of cigar smoke.

\textit{The mirror shuddered as he stood before it.}

She glanced at her reflection in the mirror and was sure there was another taller silhouette close up behind her.

As she backed into the room, something moved with her. She couldn’t see it, but she knew it was there. The hint of dried blood hung in the air.

Something caught her eye. A face … a flickering shadow in the first-floor window.

Out of the corner of her eye she could see something dark swish out of sight.

As she glanced in the mirror, she thought she saw a fleeting movement through a gap in the open door.

\textbf{SECTION 2 – INTERACTION}

\begin{tabular}{|l|}
\hline
\textbf{WORDS} \\
\hline
\textbf{Nouns} & \textit{House, ruins, tracks, garden, hedge, ground, wall} \\
& \textit{Corridor, room, bedroom, stairs, banister} \\
& \textit{Window, curtain, condensation, bed, covers, door, key} \\
& \textit{Light, lamp, switch} \\
& \textit{Clock, stroke, midnight} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
Head, shoulder, side, neck, hand, palm, fingers, feet, muscle, eyes, mouth, breath

Mist, shadow, shape, silhouette, reflection

**Movement**

**Similes/ Metaphors**

Like a rabbit caught in the headlights

**Adjectives**

Alarmed, startled, nervous, anxious, frightened, scared, terrified

Certain, unsure

Frozen, numb, clumsy

**Creeping**

**Verbs**

Chimed

Woke, shot upright

Spread, shivered, trembled, quaked

Steadied, controlled

Waited, paused, stopped, halted, rooted, glued

Dropped, rolled, crouched, huddled

Moved, edged, inched, manoeuvred

Shuffled, scrambled, stumbled

Clambered, leaped

Fell back, pulled away, backed away, retreated

Shut, slammed, jammed, locked, leaned against, pressed

Lifted, raised, strained, looked back, glanced

Watched, stared, squinted, scanned, searched, probed

Darted, flickered, peered, peeked

Spotted, saw, glimpsed, caught sight of

Felt, reached, thrust, groped, picked up, pulled, grasped, clutched, clung

Held, gritted, clenched, gasped, screamed

**PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES**

★ Too frightened to . . .

★ Not sure which way
Like a rabbit in the headlights
With the palm of his hand . . .
Towards the window
Just beyond the corner of the house

**PHRASES – VERBS**

As the clock chimed the last stroke of midnight . . .
With his eyes fixed on the shape in front of him . . .
Woke with a start
Shot upright
Sat bolt upright in bed
Edged out of her bed
Clambered out of bed
Leaped out of bed
Galvanised by her panic
Tried to control the creeping terror that was spreading through her
Shivered with fear
Certain that she didn’t want to stay there
Didn’t know which way to run
Couldn’t move
Stopped dead in his tracks
Steadied herself against the wall
Glued to . . .
Rooted to the ground
Hadn’t moved a muscle for five minutes
Waited, watched . . . still did not move
Paused at the end of the corridor
Shuffled his feet n ervously
Scrambled to his feet
Rolled onto her side
Dropped to his knees
Crouched on all fours
Crouched behind the curtain
Clung to each other
Began to move
Edged towards the window
Made her way slowly towards . . .
Groped her way towards the main light
Manoeuvred around her bedroom
Stumbled towards the light
Fell back slowly
Backed into the room
Pulled back through the strange shadows to her bed
Slammed the door shut behind her
Pressed her back against the door
Pressed closer to the window until his nose was touching the glass
Peered down the corridor
Squinted his eyes
Squinted through the mist
Stared straight ahead
Peered outside
Stared through the window
Peered out from behind the curtain
Peeked through the posts of the banister
Peered through the hedge at the house
Glanced round the room
Spotted a silhouette
Caught sight of a shadow
Scanned the shadows
Probed the garden for a flicker of movement
Stared upwards
Darted left and right
Looked again
Searched the darkness for any sign, any sound
Lifted her head above the sill
Strained her neck upwards
Dared a peek around the side of the wall
Kept looking back over his shoulder
Glanced over her shoulder again
Thrust his hand out in front of him
Clutched his hand to his mouth
Pulled the covers up as high as they would go
Reached across to switch on the lamp beside her bed
Felt along the wall for the light switch
Ran it along the wall until he located the light switch
Pressed the button – nothing happened
Flipped on the outdoor light
Slapped on the main bedroom light switch
Cleared the condensation from the window
Tried to pick up the key
So scared his fingers felt frozen, numb, clumsy
Grasped the key and twisted it
Locked herself in
Held his breath
Gritted her teeth
Stopped himself screaming out
She stopped dead in her tracks, staring upwards.
He couldn't move. His eyes were glued to the reflection in the mirror.
He stood rooted to the spot like a rabbit caught in the headlights. He didn't know which way to run.
She was crouched behind the curtain. She hadn't moved a muscle for five minutes. She waited, watched . . . still did not move.
They clung to each other, too frightened to move.
As her curtain billowed into the room, she shot upright and glanced at the window.
As the clock chimed the last stroke of midnight, he woke with a start, sat bolt upright in bed, his eyes scanning the shadows.
She felt along the wall for the light switch.
He thrust his hand out in front of him, and ran it along the wall until he located the light switch.
Robert reached out to switch on the bedside lamp. It was dead. He clambered out of bed, gritting his teeth and made his way towards the door.
It was dark and the room was full of shadows. She reached across to switch on the lamp beside her bed, but as she pressed the button nothing happened. Gingerly, she edged out of her bed and groped her way towards the main light. She pressed the switch. Nothing.
*Galvanised by his panic, he leaped out of bed and ran to the door, slapping on the main bedroom light switch on the wall next to it.*
Shivering with fear, she edged towards the window.
Crouching on all fours, Kitty manoeuvred around her bedroom towards the window. Slowly, she lifted her head above the sill and peered out from behind the curtain.
Quickly rolling onto her side, Katie strained her neck upwards to peer through the window.
She cupped her hands against the glass of the door and peered outside, her eyes scanning, squinting through the dark. She flipped on the outdoor light and spotted a white shape just beyond the corner of the house.
He pressed closer to the window until his nose was touching the glass. His breath misted the thin glass barrier between himself and the storm.
Using the palm of his hand, he quickly cleared the condensation from the window and, holding his breath, squinting his eyes, he looked again.
He watched and waited. Slowly, he peered out and squinted into the darkness. His eyes darted left and right, probing the garden for a flicker of movement.

Dropping to her knees, she peered through the hedge at the ruins.

She paused at the end of the corridor, peering down through the mist, trying to control the creeping terror that was spreading through her.

She scrambled to her feet, and began to move, not sure which way to go, only certain that she didn’t want to stay there.

*With his eyes fixed on the strange shadowy shape by the door, he backed away to his bed, and pulled the covers up as high as they would go.*

Alarmed, she backed into the room, slamming the door shut behind her, and pressed her back against it.

He tried to pick up the key, but he was so scared his fingers felt frozen, numb, clumsy.

She grasped the key and twisted it, locking herself in.

*He clutched his hand to his mouth to stop himself screaming out.*

### SECTION 3 – REACTION

### WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Passage, corridor, hall, stairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gap, corner, edge, background, direction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Room, walls, door, window, curtains, bed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Torch, brightness, darkness, shadow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sign, events, instincts, senses, sensation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fear, horror, dread, courage</td>
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<td>Body, nerves, skin</td>
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<td>Head, forehead, eyes, blink</td>
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<td>Heart, chest, stomach, neck</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mouth, cheeks, jaw, breath, lips, teeth, tongue</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arms, cheeks, jaw, breath, lips, teeth, tongue</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noise, stammer, murmur, squeak, shout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Similes/ Metaphors | Like an electric current pulsing beneath the skin, like a coiled spring, like crashing waves pounding the shore, like castanets, phantom flickers of light |
Adjectives

*Sure*, certain, alert, wide awake
*Approaching*, imminent, impending, forthcoming
*Strange*, difficult, baffling, mystifying, mysterious
*Sudden*, unexpected
*Intense*, fierce, strong, powerful
*Dark*, gloomy, shadowy, misty
*Afraid*, scared, desperate, frantic, panic-stricken
*Cold*, icy, tingling, prickling, spider-like
*Wide*, staring, bulging, narrowed
*High-pitched*, shrill, sharp, piercing
*Outstretched*

Verbs

*Warned*, urged, screamed
*Felt*, buzzed, tingled, prickled, pulsed, beaded, crawled, heaved, ran, erupted, slammed, gathered, enveloped
*Looked*, fixed, stared, glued, darted, scanned, searched, strained, squinted, peered, squeezed, blinked
*Jerked*, jolted, recoiled, flinched, lurched, floundered
*Opened*, closed, held, blew out, clenched, chewed, gnashed
*Falterered*, murmured, stammered, screamed, shrieked, screeched, yelled

Adverbs

*Nervously*, uncertainly, unsteadily, painfully
*Quickly*, frantically, wildly

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

★ Frantic with horror of the approaching darkness
★ Fear of the long, dark corridor down to his room
★ Sudden intense brightness
★ *All his instincts*
★ Every nerve in his body
★ Every bone in his body
★ Like an electric current beneath the skin
★ Chest was heaving
★ *Out of the corner of her eye*
★ To his left
Through a gap in the... Against the passage walls
Wide eyes
Wide, staring eyes
Wide with horror
Shaking hands
Frozen to the spot
Frozen in horror

Strange events had been happening lately
Certain there was someone in the room
As his eyes fell on the shadow prowling in the background...
As the truth dawned on her...
As the torch flickered and died...
As she peered over the top of the bed...
When the shadow shifted...
When she stared out of the window...
Still holding on to the door
Warned him to be alert
Warned him not to climb the stairs
Urged him not to go any further
Screamed at him to get away
Nerves buzzed
Buzzed along his limbs
Tingled at the back of his neck
Felt a cold, spider-like sensation
Could feel the panic as a prickle in her neck
Crawled down his back
Ran down her body
Beaded her forehead
Erupted from her skin
Trickled down the side of his nose into his eyes
Collected on his forehead
Gathered on her upper lip
Beat painfully fast
Slammed against her ribs
Slammed in his chest as...
Twisted inside her chest
More afraid than she had ever been in her life
Enveloped by a sense of dread
Could feel the fear like a coiled spring in the pit of her stomach
Eerie presence

Slammed through her body like crashing waves pounding the shore
Forced herself to find the courage to . . .
Tried to make sense of what she had just seen
Tried to dampen the sense of impending doom
Tried to ignore the fear he had never felt before
Put one foot in front of the other
Fought her natural instinct to flee
Knew she had to get to the bottom of . . .
Folded her arms across her chest
Felt his way with his outstretched hands
Left floundering around in the dark
Shook uncontrollably
Clenched his jaw
Chewed nervously on her tongue
Bit her lip to stop her teeth chattering like castanets
Gnashed his teeth against each other
Held his breath
Unable to breathe
Took a sharp intake of breath
Drew a rasping, jagged breath
Blew out her cheeks
Faltered and took a deep breath
Too scared to make a noise
Opened his mouth as if he was about to speak, but closed it again
Nothing would come out however hard she tried
Sank to a murmur
Managed to stammer in a high-pitched squeak
Squeezed them shut
Found it difficult to look
Made her blink
Blinked rapidly
Darted to and fro
Darted wildly from side to side
Darted back and forth uncertainly
Scanned the windows
Kept their eyes glued to the window
Kept his head down and his eyes fixed to the floor
Strained to pierce the shadows
Searched for any sign of movement
Gazed up at the narrow stairway
Peered into the darkness of the shadowy hall
Saw only as far as the bend
Saw something move
Could see the dark corridor was filled with phantom flickers of light
When she stared out of the window, her heart twisted inside her chest.

As the shadow shifted once more, her nerves buzzed like an electric pulse beneath her skin.

Every bone in his body was tensed and the skin tingled at the back of his neck, warning him to be alert.

She was frozen to the spot, unable to breathe, the mist swirling around her.

As she peered over the top of the bed, goosebumps erupted from her skin.

Through the gap in the door, she could see the dark corridor was filled with phantom flickers of light.

Out of the corner of her eye, she saw something move. She took a sharp intake of breath. Someone was standing in the doorway, staring at her.

*All his instincts screamed at him to get away.*

Every nerve in his body warned him not to go any further.

Every bone in his body warned him not to climb the stairs.

Blowing out her cheeks, she drew a rasping, jagged breath and tried to dampen the sense of impending doom.

She was suddenly more afraid than she had ever been in her life.

Her heart was beating painfully fast and thudded against her ribs.

Emotions slammed through her body like crashing waves pounding the shore.

She could feel the panic as a prickle in her neck. Terrified, she forced herself to find the courage to put one foot in front of the other.

She could feel the fear like a coiled spring in the pit of her stomach.

Robert felt a cold, spider-like sensation crawl down his back.

His chest was heaving, his hands, one still holding on to the door, were shaking, and his eyes were wide with horror.

A shudder ran down her body and she felt her legs begin to quiver.

He tried to ignore the fear he had never felt before – the fear of walking down the long, dark corridor to his room.

*She folded her arms across her chest and chewed nervously on her tongue.*

She opened her mouth to shout but nothing would come out, however hard she tried.
She faltered and took a deep breath.
Her voice sank to a murmur.
She managed to stammer in a high-pitched squeak.
As his eyes fell on the shadow prowling in the background, his smile faded. Clenching his jaw, he gnashed his teeth against each other. He was too scared to make a noise.

*He found it difficult to look and kept his head down and his eyes fixed to the floor.*

His eyes darted back and forth uncertainly.
Sweat had collected on his forehead and was trickling down the side of his nose into his eyes. He squeezed them shut and blinked rapidly.
The sudden intense brightness made her blink.
They kept their eyes glued to the window, searching for any sign of movement.
Her wide, staring eyes scanned the windows.
He turned to look in the direction in which she was staring. He peered into the darkness of the shadowy hall and recoiled . . . now he saw it too.

*She tensed, fighting her natural instinct to flee. She knew she had to get to the bottom of these strange events that had been happening lately.*

She tried to make sense of what she had seen. And as the truth dawned on her, a sense of dread enveloped her. Her legs shook uncontrollably, sweat beaded her forehead and gathered on her upper lip.
CHAPTER 3

Storms

From Descriptosaurus: Myths & Legends
A sheer rock face rose up to her right, and to her left, cliffs dropped away into a dark abyss. She glanced back one more time and then continued to climb into the unknown. **Even though she knew she had taken a step towards something sinister and final, there was no going back now.**

* A cold, shivering wind blew on the back of her neck and ears like the touch of cold finger. Suddenly, the whole world seemed unnaturally dark, as if it had been drained of all light before a terrible storm broke. She looked up to see a dark cloud that wasn’t there moments before. Above her, a distant rumble like thunder grew louder, and the ground beneath her feet started to shake. Stones cracked and exploded, sending fragments in every direction. It was as if the mountain itself was being shaken. She couldn’t stay upright and was thrown violently backwards, teetering precariously on the edge of the path. For a dreadful moment she was hanging in the air, **her legs flailing and her eyes widening in fear** as she lunged with her right hand. **Her heart raced** as she felt her hand beginning to slip, her frozen fingers scrabbling as her body swung perilously over the drop. Her shoulders were burning. She was losing her grip. Her fingers slid towards the edge.

**Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Menace, force, fury</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Scene</em>, image, vision, spectacle</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Thunder</em>, lightning, sky, clouds, air, horizon, heavens, nature, elements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Whirlwind</em>, vortex, maelstrom</td>
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</table>
**Bolt**, fork, flash, flare, flicker, spears, arrows, blade, trails, guillotine blade

**Clap**, crash, crack, creak, groan, roar, screech, explosion

**Voice**, shouts, echo

**Mountainside**, mountain, hill, slope, cliff

**Rock**, gravel, mud, dirt

**Forest**, trees, trunks, branches, roots, leaves

**Land**, city, street, ground, building, castle, battlements, towers, courtyard, roof, windows, shutters, doors, room, hall

**Water**, sea, ocean, river, lake, current, waves, crests, foam

**Ship**, boat, raft

**Rain**, raindrops, showers, downpour, torrent

**Wind**, breeze, gust, gale, hurricane

**Skin**, neck, ears, legs, feet, stride, skull, hair, face, eyes, clothes, cloak, hood

**Similes/**

**Like an exploding firework**; like camera flashes; like the echo of a drum; a bulging blister of grey water; as big as telephone poles; grated together like broken teeth; like the touch of a cold finger; like a gust of icy wind; like an avalanche of cold; like being buffeted by a whirlwind; burst like waterfalls; misty haze like a veil; like an inky black finger; like some giant, invisible hand; like a huge fist pounding the sky; like wooden tentacles searching for prey; like a fist against the roof; tickled his ear like a feather; hunted him like a beast; tore with its invisible hands; like stabbing fingers; like they were being fired from a cannon; hissed and spat like a bonfire; like a writhing nest of vipers

**Metaphors**

**Adjectives**

**Great**, torn, jagged, forked

**Bright**, white, brilliant, dazzling, flickering, shimmering

**Silver**, grey, murky, misty, blurred, dark, black

**Cold**, icy, bitter, harsh

**Huge**, enormous, massive, gigantic

**Heavy**, dense, leaden

**Thunderous**, pulsing, powerful, dangerous, fierce, savage, vicious, ferocious, menacing, ominous, monstrous

**Boiling**, swirling, whirling, surging
**Eerie**, sinister, unnatural

**High**, sharp, piercing, ear-splitting

**Sickening**, dreadful, hideous

**Verbs**

**Gathered**, massed, grew, swelled

**Darkened**, blotted, shadowed

**Lit**, streaked, flooded, blinded, blurred, flickered, seared, illuminated, spattered, flecked

**Clung**, snaked, swallowed, blanketed, enveloped, encircled

**Split**, cut, ripped, forked, pierced

**Blew**, rose, blasted, gusted, strengthened

**Hit**, smashed, thudded, beat, pounded, hammered, shuddered, shook

**Drifted**, rushed, tore, dashed, wound, twisted, whirled, churned, writhed, swirled, flurried

**Bent**, wound, arched, shoved, pushed, tugged, pulled, yanked, dragged, forced, pressed, crushed, swept away

**Tickled**, prickled, tore, whipped, thrashed, buffeted

**Struggled**, staggered, trudged, gripped, clung

**Whispered**, whistled, sighed, moaned, hissed, spat, howled, screamed, shrieked, boomed, pulsed

**Rumbled**, rattled, creaked, groaned, grated, banged, thudded, echoed

**Opened**, parted, burst

**Rained**, poured

**Foamed**, churned, thundered, broke, crashed, slammed, battered, rocked, pitched, showered

**PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES**

★ **At the mercy of** . . .

★ **An awesome spectacle**

★ **From out of nowhere**

★ **One moment . . . the next . . .**

★ **At other times**

★ **Within minutes**

★ **In front of him**
37  Storms

- Behind him
- Above them
- Directly overhead
- From the heavens
- Ahead and below them
- Ground around him
- Down the slope
- *Unnaturally dark sky*
- Murky black
- Boiling, black clouds
- Dark, storm clouds
- Funnel cloud
- Gigantic bank of dark cloud
- Layers of heavy, black clouds
- Fingers of swirling black cloud
- Swirling vortex of black and silver
- Maelstrom of cloud and rain
- Menacing whirl of grey and white
- Grey, ominous and threatening
- Powerful, dangerous and menacing
- Misty haze like a veil
- *Breath of wind*
- Cold breeze
- Bitter winds
- Cold, shivering wind
- Like the touch of cold fingers
- Surging wind
- Violent wind
- Ferocious wind
- Like an inky black finger
- Swirling cone of black vapour
- Like a gust of icy wind
- Icy shards
- Like some giant, invisible hand
- *Lightning bolt*
- Flash of lightning
- Savage crack of lightning
- A great flare of lightning
- A fork of lightning
- Flash of brilliant white lightning
- Flickering white light
- Trails of lightning
- Jagged spears of lightning
- Dazzling arrows of lightning
Huge, guillotine blade of lightning
Eerie light
*Clap of thunder*
Like an exploding firework
Like the echo of a drum
Thunderous echo
*High branches*
With a sharp crack
Sickening creak
Ear-splitting crash
Sudden screech of anger
*A trickle of water*
Showers of heavy rain
Wall of the storm
*Far out at sea*
Over the shore
*A bulging blister of churning grey water*
Dark, grey sea around them
Menacing crests
Huge wall of water
Swirling current
*Trunks as big as telephone poles*

**PHRASES – VERBS**

*As if the world had been drained of all colour*
Brought a feeling of dread and menace
*As darkness fell, the storm worsened*
*As night approached, the wind strengthened*
*Looked up to see . . .*
Wasn't there before
*Dark clouds gathered*
Massed above her
Drifted across the sky
Whirled up in strange clouds
Darkened the air with boiling clouds of dust
Cast long shadows down the mountainside
Blotted out the sun
Clung to the hill
Blanketed the city
Formed a misty, silver veil
*Grew and swelled as if it was alive*
Seemed to come from all directions at once
Storms

- Did not just come from one direction
- Gained power all the time
- Grew to a thing of force and fury
- Grew stronger by the minute
- *Writhe and twisted*
- Flurried and swirled around her
- Like being buffeted by a whirlwind
- Whirled around her
- Hit like an avalanche of cold
- *Whistled and sighed*
- Shrieked towards them
- Howled in the courtyard
- Deepened its roar as it pounded against the doors
- Rattled the bare branches of the shivering trees
- Grated together like broken teeth
- Banged wildly in the sudden gust of wind
- Roared through the hall
- Filled with the sound of its roar
- Screamed through the trees
- Howled over the castle
- Shrieked through the courtyard
- Heard the crack and groan of the falling tree
- Echoed down the mountains
- *Bent the trees*
- Whipped and stabbed at the forest
- Thrashed and writhed against the fierce gale
- Arched from side to side
- Wound itself round the ancient trunks
- Tore at the bark
- Made the branches writhed
- Like wooden tentacles searching for prey
- *Rushed towards the mountain*
- Beat like a fist against the roof
- Swirled like a hurricane from wall to wall, floor to ceiling
- Flung itself at the battlements
- Twisted round the towers
- *Carried her voice away*
- Stole their shouts
- *Whispered across her skin*
- Blew on the backs of their necks and ears
- Tickled his ear like a feather
- Made the skin on his neck prickle with foreboding
- *As the wind shoved and tugged fiercely at him...*
- Slowed his stride
Pushed him along
Crushed her to the rock
Pressed her body close to the slope
Clung on with all her might
Forced him back inside the building
Staggere d back and forth, side to side
Struggled to stay on his feet
Hunted them like a beast
Thrashed at his hair
Tore at their cloaks with its invisible fingers
Whipped his cloak
Tugged at their hoods
Whipped at his clothes, his hair, his face
Felt the vicious whip of the wind
Lashed their skin
Stung their skin
Battered his eyes shut
Flew across his path
Bent branches which slashed at his face
Would have blinded him if he had not...
Tore at her face like stabbing fingers
As if they were deliberately trying to blind him
Lashed their legs and faces with dirt and gravel
Blasted at the shutters
Smashed back and forth against the wall
Gusted against the windows, against the doors
Echoes bounced through the room
Rumbled in the distance
Rumbled closer and closer
Followed almost immediately
Crashed and howled overhead
Boomed menacingly
Struggled and howled in fits and starts
Pulsed and rumbled ominously
Shuddered with a crack of thunder
Shook the house to its core
Like a huge fist was pounding the sky
Felt as if the ground beneath his feet was being ripped apart
Streaked across the horizon
Tore through the night sky
Streaked through the streets like an exploding firework
Forked through the huge, boiling clouds
Spattered with lightning
Pierced the sky
Storms

★ Torn apart by the jagged spears of lightning
★ Burst across the crest of the oncoming storm
★ Lit up the whole scene
★ Split the sky
★ Cut through the darkness like camera flashes
★ Flooded the land
★ Touched the roof of the cave
★ Lit up the sky above the mountain
★ Illuminated the sky with a stark, blue-whiteness
★ Seared his vision
★ Blinded him as it flickered in and out
★ Clouds parted
★ A hole opened in the clouds
★ Crashed together, boiling and shrieking
★ Began to swell and pour down in streams
★ Rushed through the trees
★ Burst like waterfalls from the mouth of the darkening sky
★ Shrieked through the forest
★ Began to pound his skull
★ As though the huge raindrops were fired from a cannon
★ Hissed and spat like a bonfire
★ Ran into his eyes and blurred his vision
★ Churned into a swirling, miniature hurricane
★ Snaked its way down the hill
★ Swallowed the mountain
★ Encircled the forest
★ Trudged on through the wet and mud
★ Soaked to the skin
★ Ran down his hair
★ Followed the line of his spine to his waist
★ Trapped by the black blanket of sea and sky
★ Looked as if the sea was boiling
★ Began to swirl and churn fiercely
★ Had become a surging torrent
★ As the lake boiled and churned . . .
★ Foamed as the waves dashed against the rocks
★ Churned the spray into foam
★ Rolled and rushed, churned and boiled
★ Hurled white crested waves at the shore
★ Thundered towards them from the sea
★ Swallowed trees and land, spread and swirled
★ Battered the ship
★ Broke against the sides of the boat
★ Rocked and pitched in the heavy swells
Storms

★ Slammed head-on into the monstrous, black waves
★ Showered them with icy seawater
★ Twisted around them as if trapped by a writhing nest of vipers
★ Tore whole trees out of the ground
★ Exposed the enormous balls of the roots
★ Swept away whole trees
★ Hurtled past
★ Reached out to grab the raft
★ Dragged the raft along with them

SENTENCES

The whole world seemed unnaturally dark, as if it had been drained of all light before a terrible storm broke.

She looked up to see a dark cloud that wasn’t there moments before.

Above the ridge, dark clouds were gathering, casting long shadows down the mountainside.

Layers of heavy black clouds clung to the hill and blanketed the city.

A gigantic bank of dark cloud was massing above her. It seemed to writhe and twist, growing and swelling as if it were alive.

Dark storm clouds sped over the waves to blot out the sun.

The clouds rushed towards the mountain, trailing veils of rain in their wake.

The storm was an awesome spectacle, but powerful, dangerous and menacing.

A hole opened in the clouds – a swirling vortex of black and silver.

Fingers of swirling black cloud came down from the sky to whip and stab at the forest.

The storm churned into a swirling, miniature hurricane, which blocked their way, pushed them back down the slope.

A funnel cloud snaked its way down the hill like an inky black finger.

The storm swallowed the hill in a swirling cone of black vapour.

The thunder struggled and howled in fits and starts, until it rumbled closer and closer, and crashed overhead.

Thunder boomed through the city, shaking it to its core, and streaking through the streets like an exploding firework.

The air shook as the loud, booming wind hammered at the trees, and thunder crashed and roared overhead.
Thunder rumbled in the distance, the sky continued to darken, and the wind blew harder, gusting against the walls, screaming through the ruins.

The branches, then the whole tree shuddered with a crack of thunder. Another explosion, but much bigger this time. It felt as if the ground beneath his feet was being ripped apart.

*Lightning tore through the sky, blinding him as it flic ered in and out.*

An immense, dazzling, guillotine blade of lightning streaked across the night sky, illuminating it with a stark blue-whiteness and flooding the land.

Flickering white light burst across the crest of the oncoming storm.

White bursts of light, one after another, cut through the darkness like camera flashes.

Overhead, lightning ripped through one of the dark clouds, and the thunder crashed around them like a huge fist pounding the sky.

*The cold breeze caught their cloaks, tugging at their hoods.*

The breeze was cold, the sky grey, ominous and threatening, the misty haze like a veil drifting across the sky, bringing with it a feeling of dread and menace.

*From out of nowhere, a violent wind began to blow from the sea.*

The wind seemed to grow in strength and was soon screaming through the trees.

The bitter winds and harsh whispers rattled the bare branches of the trees, which grated together like broken teeth.

The tops of the trees were bending, arching from side to side, whistling and sighing as the wind wound itself around the ancient trunks, through the tangle of leaves, tearing at the bark.

The forest seemed to thrash and writhe against the fierce gale – creaking and groaning as the wind rushed through the trees, twisting branches, making them flail like the arms of monsters searching for prey.

The wind was ferocious, gaining power all the time, until it screamed over the castle and beat like a fist against the walls, flung itself against the battlements, howled into the courtyard, twisted round the towers, blasted the doors, smashing them back and forth against the wall with a thud, roared through the hall, swirling like a hurricane from wall to wall, floor to ceiling.

*A cold, shivering wind blew on the backs of their necks and ears like the touch of cold finger*

A breath of wind ghosted past him, tickling his ear like a feather and making the skin at the back of his neck prickle with foreboding.

The wind carried her voice away unanswered into the dark night.
The wind swirled around her, then tugged at her, pushed her and crushed her to the rock: she pressed her body close to the slope and clung on with all her might.
The wind grew stronger, whirling up in strange clouds, flurrying and swirling, tugging at them, lashing their legs and faces with dirt and gravel.
The wind shoved against him as though some gigantic, invisible hand was forcing him back inside the building.
The wind started to howl, growing stronger by the minute, whipping at his clothes, his hair, his face. The bending branches tore into his face like stabbing fingers, as if they were deliberately trying to blind him.
The wind did not just come from one direction: one moment it was in front of him, slowing his stride, pushing him back. Within minutes, it was behind him, pushing him forward in another direction. At other times, it appeared to come from all directions at once to whirl around him.
The wind had grown to a thing of force and fury, darkening the air with billowing clouds of dust and tearing at their cloaks with its invisible fingers. Hunting them like a beast. They staggered back and forth, side to side, struggling to stay on their feet.

The sky darkened and showers of heavy rain poured from the heavens.
All he could see was a maelstrom of cloud and rain.
The rain battered the dry leaves that clung to the branches of the trees like dead hands.
The rain fell harder, forming a misty, silver veil; the castle a blurred shadow behind it.
They trudged on through the wet and mud, wretched in the cold and soaked to the skin. A trickle of water ran down from his hair and followed the line of his spine to his waist.
Rain began to pour down in streams, bursting like waterfalls from the mouth of the darkening sky.
Rain began to pound his skull as though the raindrops were being fired from a cannon.
The ground around him hissed and spat like a bonfire.
As fast as he wiped the rain from his eyes, water ran back into them again, blurring his vision.

They were at the mercy of the wind and waves. Ahead and below them it was dark. They were trapped by the black blanket of the deep, swirling sea and stormy sky.

As the wind rose, the light dimmed across the sky and the sea grew as dark as the sky; there was a rumbling as the waves grew, their menacing crests visible far out, churning the spray into foam.
As darkness fell, the storm worsened. It looked as if the sea was boiling. Then it began to swirl and churn fiercely, and foam as the waves dashed against the rocks. The ship rocked and pitched in the heavy swells. It slammed head-on into the monstrous black waves. The foaming crests battered the ship, breaking against its sides and relentlessly showering them with icy seawater.

Lightning flashed across the surging water that rolled and rushed, churned and boiled, hurling white crested waves at the shore.

The river had become a surging torrent, a bulging blister of churning, grey water. It had torn whole trees out of the ground, and swept them away. Trunks as big as telephone poles hurtled past, their root-balls exposed, their branches reaching out to grab the raft and drag it along with them.

With a great flare of lightning, the sky rumbled and roared. A huge wall of water came thundering towards them from the sea, over the shore, swallowing trees, and land, spreading and swirling.

As the lake boiled and churned, the swirling currents twisted round them like a writhing nest of vipers.
CHAPTER 4

Fantasy Characters

From Descriptosaurus: Fantasy
As Monty approached the ancient oak, he hoped he wasn’t too late. With a sigh of relief, he noticed that the air was filled with swirling, golden motes that flitted like moths above his head. For a moment, he thought he could see a head, just visible through the dancing sprites. He squinted into the sunlight, but he was not sure. It was too late to turn back now, so he slumped down onto the ground, leant against the tree and waited.

He didn’t have to wait long before the sprites vanished, and he spotted the elf sitting on a branch, his round face and leaf-shaped ears now clearly visible. In the shadow of the tree, his skin seemed to have a purplish tinge. Monty scrambled to his feet, beaming from ear to ear.

When he spotted Monty, the elf opened his mouth in a wide smile and shinned down the tree. Monty chuckled. The elf was wearing his billowing, rainbow-coloured trousers and a sleeveless, leather vest he knew showed off the muscles on his arms and chest. His blond hair was even more wild than normal and fluffed out from his head like a dandelion.

**WORDS**

**Nouns**
- Faerie, elf, dwarf, gnome, goblin, sprite, giant, troll
- Magician, wizard, witch, demon
- Build, stature
- Body, back, legs, hips, shoulders, chest, stomach, belly, arms, hands
- Chin, neck, face
- Skin, pouch, folds, muscles
## Height and shape

### Similes/ Metaphors

- Like a well-padded cushion; as broad as a bull; built like a wrestler; as strong as an ox; straight-backed like a soldier; like a ballet dancer; like a china doll; scrawny like a plucked chicken; crooked as a walking stick; hunched like a question mark

### Adjectives

- **Short**, small, little, tiny, elfin, diminutive
- **Average**, medium
- **Tall**, big, large, lanky
- **Huge**, massive, enormous, gigantic, towering
- **Broad**, square, burly, strong, powerful, muscular
- **Squat**, stocky, thickset, sturdy, solid
- **Chubby**, plump, dumpy, pot-bellied, flabby, fleshy, obese
- **Slim**, slender, slight, petite, dainty
- **Athletic**, graceful, fast
- **Bony**, skinny, weedy, scrawny, spindly, skeletal, gaunt, emaciated, haggard
- **Stooped**, hunched, crooked, disfigured
- **Upright**, straight-backed

### Verbs

- **Towered**, loomed
- **Stood**, walked, moved, ran
- **Shuffled**, hobbled, limped
- **Hung**, wobbled, flapped, slumped
- **Hunched**, stooped

### PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- Short and squat
- Tiny man with stumpy little legs
- Tiny, elfin girl
- Diminutive man, no taller than Kitty’s forearm
- *Slim and dainty*
- Delicate form of a faerie
- Like a ballet dancer
- Small, slight body
- Petite, dainty sprite
- Like a china doll
- *Tall and lanky*
Tall figure
A towering figure
An enormous giant of a man
Legs like tree trunks
As broad as a bull
Burly men in chain mail
A figure of menacing power
Square shoulders
Built like a wrestler
Strong and muscular
As strong as an ox
Powerful, with broad, muscular shoulders
Heavily muscled arms and legs
Athletic build
Tall and slender
Straight-backed soldier
Short, pot-bellied dwarf
Small and dumpy
Short and plump
Like a well-padded cushion
Like an enormous, skin pouch
Thin as a rake
Tall and scrawny
Painfully thin
Tall, thin stick of a man
Scrawny like a plucked chicken
Spindly arms and legs
Emaciated and gaunt-looking
Crooked as a walking stick
Old and stooped
Hunched like a question mark

PHRASES – VERBS

Stood on his outstretched hand
Towered above him
Loomed over him
Stepped out of the shadows
Wielded a double-edged sword
Air of someone who was used to being obeyed
Wobbled when he walked
Hung over his trousers
Built for speed
50 Height and shape

- Walked gracefully
- Looked like a walking skeleton
- Looked like a gust of wind would bend him in half
- Hips stood out like tusks
- Skin hung in folds
- Looked as if he had shrunk inside his skin
- Stooped badly
- Could only walk with the aid of a staff

SENTENCES

The troll was an enormous giant of a man, with huge, powerful shoulders and legs like tree trunks.

He shivered as he looked up at the human pyramid towering over him.

The tiny, elfin girl was small enough to stand on Katie's outstretched hand.

The dwarf was short and plump, and cosy like a well-padded cushion.

For someone so short and dumpy, he was very fast on his feet.

The elf was slim and dainty.

She may have had a slim body, but she had broad, powerful shoulders and muscular arms and legs.

She was old, stooped and painfully thin. Every step, every painful shuffle, took every ounce of her strength.

An old, frail figure of a white-haired man stepped out from the shadows.

He was tall and scrawny like a plucked chicken, with horrid, bony hands and long, clawed fingers.

He was frail, crumpled and hunched like a question mark.

She stood erect, her head held high, with the air of someone who was used to being obeyed.
# Head and face

## Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Goblin, gnome, dwarf, elf, faerie, merfolk, mermaid, sprite, troll, wizard, witch, demon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Look</td>
<td>appearance, expression, mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forehead</td>
<td>brow, cheeks, cheekbones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skull</td>
<td>jaw, temples, mouth, lip, eyes, eyebrows, nose, nostrils, hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>flesh, tissue, lumps, patches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freckles</td>
<td>veins, shadows, bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrinkles</td>
<td>lines, slashes, folds, flap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sores</td>
<td>blisters, burns, bruise, wound, scabs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scar</td>
<td>tattoo, mark, brand, pattern, design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circles</td>
<td>crescents, moon, stars, pentagram, whorls, swirls, spirals, coils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mole</td>
<td>wart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>gills, scales, ridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snarl</td>
<td>squint, stare, smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>length</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Similes/Metaphors

- Long, pointed face like a raven; like a walrus; hamster cheeks; ferret-like features; bags like giant suitcases; face like thin, crumpled paper; like a china doll; as pale as bone; yellow skin like candle wax; as hard as leather; like beaten leather; like the skin of a lizard; creased like parchment; wrinkles like cruel slashes; cheekbones as sharp as blades; like a lightning bolt
Adjectives

**Oval,** round, square, rectangular, heart-shaped

**Wide,** broad, full, plump, fleshy

**Narrow,** thin, long, high, lean, bony, sunken, hollow

**Pointed,** sharp, angular, vertical

**Drooping,** sagging

**Pale,** grey, ashen, white, pallid, deathly, colourless, translucent, sallow

**Red,** pink, ruddy, bronze-coloured, sunburned, tanned, black, brown, olive-skinned

**Purple,** blue, green, yellow

**Tough,** leathery, rock-like

**Bald,** smooth, shiny, slick

**Scarred,** seared, burned

**Jagged,** gnarled, crooked

**Skull-like,** battle-scarred

**Huge,** enormous

**Ugly,** horrible, grisly, grotesque, hideous, deformed

**Strange,** curious, haunted

**Angry,** swollen, festering

**Dry,** peeling, papery, flaking, blotchy

Verbs

**Looked,** gave, appeared, changed, transformed

**Scrubbed,** glowed

**Lined,** creased, wrinkled, crumpled

**Etched,** inked, tattooed, marked, branded

**Hung,** sagged, drooped

**Scarred,** scabbed, marred, pocked

**Ran,** covered, stretched, bisected, zigzagged

**Bulged,** oozed

**Pulled,** dragged, tugged, narrowed, fixed, closed, twisted, puckered, disfigured

**Burnt,** scorched, singed, seared, blistered, shrivelled
**PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES**

- Square, wrinkly face
- Rectangular-shaped face
- *Narrow, pointed face*
- Oval, bony face
- Long, pointed face like a raven
- Thin, sunken face
- Sallow, scarred face
- Thin, angular face
- Hollow cheeks
- High cheekbones, as sharp as blades
- Ferret-like features
- *Broad, round face*
- Round-faced goblin
- Plump, hamster cheeks
- Wide, heart-shaped face
- *High, bald forehead*
- Bald, human-like face
- *Deathly pale*
- Pale like a porcelain doll
- Pale, almost colourless skin
- Pallid, deathly grey colour
- Pale, translucent skin
- Skin as pale as bone
- Yellow skin like candle wax
- Sickly, grey colour
- *Smooth, brown skin*
- Like beaten leather
- Tough, rock-like skin
- Ruddy, glowing face
- Round, pinkish look of a prize pig
- Deep, laughter lines in the corners of his eyes and mouth
- *Huge, pink mole*
- Enormous, wrinkled wart on her lip
- *Dark circles*
- Purple shadows under his eyes
- Bags like giant suitcases
- *Face like thin, crumpled paper*
- Papery dry skin
- Sharp, vertical lines
- Like the skin of a lizard
- Slick, green flesh as hard as leather
- *Black eye*
### Head and face

- Purple bruise
- Flaking skin
- Swollen, red blisters
- Mass of angry sores around his lips
- Festering, green wound
- *Thin, jagged scar*
- Hideous scar
- Ugly, wide scar
- Pattern of scars
- Crooked ridge of scar tissue
- Scarred cheekbones
- Scar above his left eyebrow
- Scarred and twisted lip
- Singed hair and eyebrows
- Mass of seared, scarred skin
- Blotched, horribly stretched skin
- Puckered, fleshy folds
- Gnarled lump of flesh
- *Black and white tattoo*
- Patterns of whorls, swirls, spirals and coils
- Circles, crescents, pentagrams
- Five-pointed star
- *Hideous, masked figure*
- Red executioner’s mask
- *Flap of skin on her neck over her gills*

### PHRASES – VERBS

- As his hood fell back a little way . . .
- Became visible across his cheek
- Only sign that she was from the merfolk
- Seemed to take on a purplish tinge
- *Looked like a fragile, china doll*
- Looked like a walrus
- *Creased like parchment*
- Formed slashes across his cheeks
- Stretched tight over her face
- Gave him a haunted look
- Gave him a skull-like appearance
- Sagged with wrinkles beneath her eyes
- *Sprouted two gristly hairs*
- *Etched on the side of his neck*
- Inked with a multitude of designs
Had a battle-scarred face
Ran from his temple to his jaw
Ran across her cheek and eyebrow
Stretched the width of his jaw
Bisected his face
Marred her face
Pocked with craters
Zigzagged across his head like a lightning bolt
Ran the length of one side of his face
Was just visible above his left eyebrow
Covered his face and skull
Disfigured by fire
Oozed creamy pus
Puckered around the wound
Scorched into huge, pink patches
Shrivelled into a twisted lump of flesh
Pulled into a permanent snarl
Closed in the puckered folds of a scar
Pulled his eye into a curious squint
Narrowed his eye in a drowsy squint
Fixed his eye in a stare
Twisted his lips
Dragged his lip to meet his nostril
Tugged her lip into a crooked smile

SENTENCES

She had a long, pointed face like a raven.
The huge, black mole on her upper lip sprouted two, long, gristly hairs.
The gnome had a very round face and plump, hamster cheeks.
The sun and wind had burned laughter lines into the skin around his eyes and mouth.
His face was oval-shaped and he had a high, bald forehead.
Her cheeks looked hollow and the flesh was wrinkled and sagging.
Her cheeks were so high, they formed two slashes across her face.
Bald, with a thin, angular face, his high, sharp cheekbones gave him a haunted look.
He was painfully thin and his face deathly pale.
Her skin was a sickly, grey colour.
His skin was yellow and creased like parchment.
He looked like a walrus with huge folds of sagging skin drooping from his face.
His pale skin was translucent. It was almost purple under her eyes and limp and sagging with wrinkles.
He had a sallow, scarred face and the haunted look of someone who had seen many battles.
With her pale, almost colourless skin, she looked like a fragile, china doll.
His colourless skin was stretched tight over his face and gave him a skull-like appearance.
The troll had tough, rock-like skin.
A sense of invincibility surrounded him.
*A thin, jagged scar was just visible above his left eyebrow.*
The skin around one eye had been pulled out of shape and gave her a curious squint.
As he pulled his hood back a little way, a dreadful scar became visible across his cheek.
*A rough scar zigzagged like a bolt of lightning across the man’s shaved head.*
*As the shadows lengthened, his skin seemed to take on a purplish tinge.*
His face and bald head had been inked with a multitude of designs: whorls and swirls, spirals and coils, stars and moons.
Etched on the side of his neck in faded ink were two five-pointed stars.
The only sign that she was from the merfolk was a small flap of skin on her neck that covered her gills.