

A ROUTLEDGE FREEBOOK

Descriptosaurus Genre Writing Toolkit



Routledge
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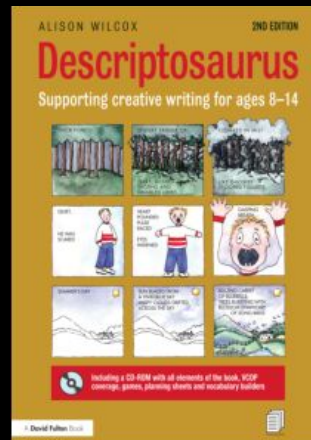
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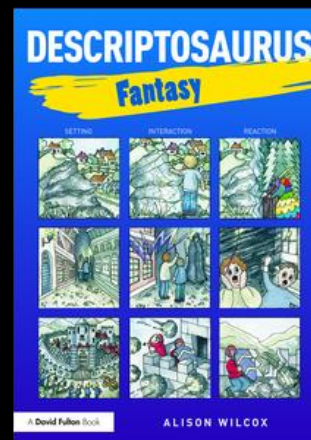
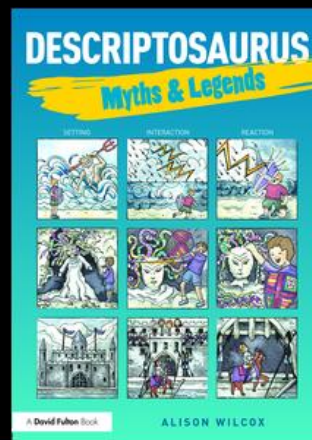
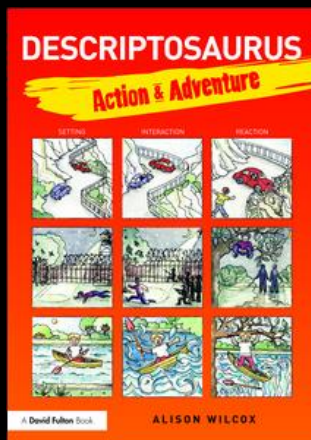


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To help you take your students' writing to the next level, this FreeBook brings together a handpicked selection of Descriptosaurus story writing resources. Each chapter focuses on a different genre, which we've selected from Alison Wilcox's latest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





CHAPTER

1

Hiding

From Descriptosaurus: Action & Adventure



1

Hiding

THE S/C-I-R STRUCTURE

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



- ★ 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 flat*
- ★ 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 floor 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 floor 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 . . .





- ★ Pressed 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

SENTENCES

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

WORDS

Nouns

Fear, dread, panic, terror, shock, horror

Senses, sensation, nerves, brain, breathing, windpipe

Danger, menace, darkness, shadow

Thunder, squeak, snap

Prayer

Sound, voice, footsteps

Body, spine, arm, ankle, chest, stomach

Head, eyes, throat, temples, nose, lips

Adjectives

Tingling, electric, coiled, alert



	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





15 *Hiding*

- ★ *Hammered in her chest as . . .*
- ★ *Was almost deafening in the silence*
- ★ *Pounded in her temples*
- ★ *Pounded so hard it seemed about to break his ribs*
- ★ *Held his breath*
- ★ *Hardly dared to breathe in case he was discovered*
- ★ *Stifled a gasp*
- ★ *Swallowed hard*
- ★ *Kept his voice low*
- ★ *Gripped him, snaking around his windpipe, choking his breath*
- ★ *Closed her eyes*
- ★ *Peeped round the . . .*
- ★ *Started to shake*
- ★ *Shaking with terror and dread that . . .*
- ★ *Shook from the effort of holding herself still*
- ★ *Collected on his forehead*
- ★ *Trickled down the side of his nose into his eyes*
- ★ *Panic flooded her face*
- ★ *Squeezed them shut and blinked rapidly*
- ★ *Strained to pierce the darkness*
- ★ *Darted wildly from side to side*
- ★ *Clenched her teeth so hard her jaw ached*
- ★ *Moved her lips silently in prayer*
- ★ *Dropped to an urgent whisper*
- ★ *Whispered in a tight, choked voice*
- ★ *Clasped her hands in her lap*
- ★ *Prickled painfully in his ankle*

SENTENCES

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.



CHAPTER

2

Eerie Presence

From Descriptosaurus: Ghost Stories



2

Eerie presence

THE S/C-I-R STRUCTURE

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

WORDS

Nouns

Path, house, ruins, corridor, passage, hall, attic, basement, floor, wall, door, window, curtain

Suits of armour, portraits

Mirror, reflection, shadows, shape, silhouette

Light, switch, button, torchlight, candles

Sign, movement

Breath, air, haze, mist, fog, shimmer, vapour, space, vacuum

Similes/ Metaphors

Slinky, grey arms, like a misty serpent, like an icy breath, like a padded quilt, like a dark blanket



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



20 *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.



22 *Eerie presence*

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.

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.

SECTION 2 – INTERACTION

WORDS

Nouns

House, ruins, tracks, garden, hedge, ground, wall

Corridor, room, bedroom, stairs, banister

Window, curtain, condensation, bed, covers, door, key

Light, lamp, switch

Clock, stroke, midnight



	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





24 *Eerie presence*

- ★ 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 nervously*
- ★ 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
- ★ Graspd the key and twisted it
- ★ Locked herself in
- ★ *Held his breath*
- ★ Gritted her teeth
- ★ Stopped himself screaming out



26 *Eerie presence*

SENTENCES

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

Nouns

Passage, corridor, hall, stairs

Gap, corner, edge, background, direction

Room, walls, door, window, curtains, bed

Torch, brightness, darkness, shadow

Sign, events, instincts, senses, sensation

Fear, horror, dread, courage

Body, nerves, skin

Head, forehead, eyes, blink

Heart, chest, stomach, neck

Mouth, cheeks, jaw, breath, lips, teeth, tongue

Arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet

Noise, stammer, murmur, squeak, shout

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



28 *Eerie presence*

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 Faltered , 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

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ 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





30 *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



- ★ *Turned to look in the direction of . . .*
- ★ Recoiled . . . he saw it too

SENTENCES

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.



32 *Eerie presence*

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



3

Storms

THE S/C-I-R STRUCTURE

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

Nouns

Menace, force, fury

Scene, image, vision, spectacle

Thunder, lightning, sky, clouds, air, horizon, heavens, nature, elements

Whirlwind, vortex, maelstrom



35 Storms

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/ Metaphors

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

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



Verbs

Eerie, sinister, unnatural

High, sharp, piercing, ear-splitting

Sickening, dreadful, hideous

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



39 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
- ★ *Writhed 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 writhe
- ★ 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
- ★ Staggered 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



41 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
- ★ Hurling 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



- ★ 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.





43 Storms

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 flickered 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.



45 *Storms*

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



4

Height and shape

THE S/C-I-R STRUCTURE

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



48 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

Nouns

Goblin, gnome, dwarf, elf, faerie, merfolk, mermaid, sprite, troll, wizard, witch, demon

Look, appearance, expression, mask

Forehead, brow, cheeks, cheekbones

Skull, jaw, temples, mouth, lip, eyes, eyebrows, nose, nostrils, hair

Skin, flesh, tissue, lumps, patches

Freckles, veins, shadows, bags

Wrinkles, lines, slashes, folds, flap

Sores, blisters, burns, bruise, wound, scabs

Scar, tattoo, mark, brand, pattern, design

Circles, crescents, moon, stars, pentagram, whorls, swirls, spirals, coils

Mole, wart

Neck, gills, scales, ridges

Snarl, squint, stare, smile

Width, length

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



52 *Head and face*

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*





54 *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.



56 *Head and face*

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.

