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LO: To create a descriptive setting

Extract from *The Railway Children* by Edith Nesbit

But father did not seem to be able to get rid of the gentlemen at all quickly.

'I wish we HAD got a moat and a drawbridge,' said Roberta; 'then, when we didn't want people, we could just pull up the drawbridge and no one else could get in. I expect Father will have forgotten about when he was a boy if they stay much longer.'

Mother tried to make the time pass by telling them a new fairy story about a Princess with green eyes, but it was difficult because they could hear the voices of Father and the gentlemen in the Library, and Father's voice sounded louder and different to the voice he generally used to people who came about testimonials and holiday funds.

Then the Library bell rang, and everyone heaved a breath of relief.

'They're going now,' said Phyllis; 'he's rung to have them shown out.'

But instead of showing anybody out, Ruth showed herself in, and she looked queer, the children thought.

'Please'm,' she said, 'the Master wants you to just step into the study. He looks like the dead, mum; I think he's had bad news. You'd best prepare yourself for the worst, 'm – p'raps it's a death in the family or a bank busted or –'

'That'll do, Ruth,' said Mother gently; 'you can go.'

Then Mother went into the Library. There was more talking. Then the bell rang again, and Ruth fetched a cab. The children heard boots go out and down the steps. The cab drove away, and the front door shut. Then Mother came in. Her dear face was as white as her lace collar, and her eyes looked very big and shining. Her mouth looked like just a line of pale red – her lips were thin and not their proper shape at all.



Reading

Warm up



- 1 What buildings had moats and drawbridges, like Roberta refers to? (1 mark)
- 2 What did Mother do to try to pass the time? Choose **one** answer from the options below. (1 mark)
 - Told a joke about a princess with green eyes.
 - Told a story about a princess.
 - Cooked the children some dinner.
 - Listened to the voices in the library.

Test yourself



- 3 Why did everyone 'breathe a sigh of relief' when the library bell rang? (1 mark)
- 4 Find and copy a simile used in the text and explain why the author has used it. (2 marks)
- 5 Why does Mother interrupt Ruth by telling her, 'That'll do'? (1 mark)

Challenge yourself



- 6 How would you describe Ruth? What does this tell you about the time period that the story is set in? (2 marks)
- 7 From what Roberta says about her father forgetting, what might the family have been talking about before the visitors arrived? (1 mark)

Answers

Pages 4–5

1. castles (**1 mark**)
2. Told a story about a princess (**1 mark**)
3. They thought the men were ready to be shown out (leave) (**1 mark**)
4. 'Her dear face was as white as her lace collar' or 'Her mouth looked like just a line of pale red' (**1 mark** for quoting either simile); the author is showing the reader how pale Mother has gone to emphasise how bad the news is (**1 mark** for explaining why the author has used the simile)
5. She wants to stop her saying any more in front of the children about what the bad news could be (**1 mark**)
6. Ruth is a servant as she comes when the bell rings and she calls Mother 'mum' (**1 mark**); it tells us that it is set in a time when people in large houses had servants and rang bells to call them (**1 mark**)
7. Father must have been telling them about what he did or what it was like when he was a boy (**1 mark**)



This is a survival room.

What do you notice?
What can you see?





What things would you need to survive?

How is your room laid out?

If it helps: draw your survival room

Where is the room?



Survival room Vocabulary

Create a list of vocabulary things you would find - see.
How you would describe them. Use a thesaurus and dictionary.

Create a RAG table using the words you have collected - underline at least 3 Red and Amber words you are going to try and use in your setting description. Cross out at least 3 green words that you are not going to use in your setting description.

Red - Words I don't really use- (found in thesaurus)	Amber words - I use occasionally	Green words - I use them often
musty dingy claustrophobic	cobwebbed cluttered cramped	old dusty

Grammar - subordinating clauses

Two clauses linked by a **subordinating conjunction** - a good way to remember a lot of **them** is: ISAWAWABUB

If
Since
As
When
Although
While
After
Before
Until
Because

Identify the conjunction in the sentences below:

1. While Sam was at the dentist, his brother played with his game.
2. He had forgotten his PE kit again even though he had written himself a note.
3. Because she was late, she walked quickly towards the school gate.
4. He had been frightened to walk down the alley since the incident the previous week.

How many different ways can you link these sentences using different subordinating conjunctions. Is it possible to change which clause comes first?

1. the school is popular
the Academy of Magic has many problems

5. one person must be in charge
Sentence Wizard will carry all the keys

2. wizards are careless with potions
there are many mishaps

6. flying lessons will be stopped
children are scared of heights

3. spells go wrong
antidotes cannot be found

7. a sick room will be built
children can recover from old experiments

4. cupboards need to be unlocked
keys are often missing

8. new spells will be forbidden
changes can be made

Pick up to 10 objects in the room write a descriptive sentence about each object that includes a subordinate clause.

Examples:

Although the white board hung limp and helpless, he knew one day it would spring to life again.

The musty box had been wedged into a corner **since** the room had become so cramped.

Extract from *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

One of my last thoughts was of the captain, who had so often strode along the beach with his cocked hat, his sabre-cut cheek, and his old brass telescope. Next moment we had turned the corner, and my home was out of sight.

The mail picked us up about dusk at the Royal George on the heath. I was wedged in between Redruth and a stout old gentleman, and in spite of the swift motion and the cold night air, I must have dozed a great deal from the very first, and then slept like a log up hill and down dale through stage after stage; for when I was awakened at last, it was by a punch in the ribs, and I opened my eyes to find that we were standing still before a large building in a city street, and that the day had already broken a long time.



Reading

Warm up



- 1 In the context of this extract, what does the word 'mail' mean? Choose **one** answer from the options below. (1)

letters post coach armour

- 2 Explain the meaning of the word 'broken' in the words 'the day had already broken a long time'. (1)

Test yourself



- 3 Who had a cocked hat? Choose **one** answer from the options below. (1)

Jim the captain Redruth George

- 4 Where is the Royal George? Choose **one** answer from the options below. (1)

on the heath by a large building near his home

- 5 What time of day were they travelling and how do you know? (2 r)

- 6 The word 'stage' is used in the phrase 'stage after stage'. Write the meaning of the word 'stage' as used in the extract. Give another meaning of the word. (2 r)

Challenge yourself



- 7 Describe the 'cocked hat' that the captain wore. (1)

- 8 Rewrite the second paragraph of the extract using modern words to replace the older style text (for example: fat instead of 'stout'). (2 r)

Answers

Pages 6–7

1. coach (**1 mark**)
2. The day had already started (i.e. the sun had risen over the horizon) (**1 mark**)
3. the captain (**1 mark**)
4. on the heath (**1 mark**)
5. They were travelling overnight, as they got on the coach at dusk (evening) and he was woken when it was morning (**1 mark** for stating at night; **1 mark** for using evidence from the text)
6. Meaning 1: a point in a journey/process (**1 mark**); meaning 2: a platform where actors perform (**1 mark**)
7. A triangular hat without a brim with points at the front, back and top (e.g. a pirate hat) (**1 mark**)
8. Text should be written in a modern style but contain the same details about what was seen and what happened (max. **2 marks**)

Drafting the setting description



Write two sentences to describe the picture:

- one using an expanded noun phrase
- one using a simile

How do the writers create their settings?

Wolf Wilder- Katherine Rundell

She lived in a wooden house made of timber taken from the surrounding forest. The walls were layered with sheep's wool to keep out the Russian winter and the inside was lit with hurricane lamps. Feo had painted the lamps in every colour in box of paints, so the house cast out light into the forest of reds and greens and yellows. Her mother had cut and sanded the door herself, and the wood was eight inches thick. Feo had painted it snow blue. The wolves had added their claw marks over the years which helped dissuade unwelcome visitors.

Gulliver's Travels- Jonathan Swift

I awaked, and found myself alone in a vast room, between two and three hundred feet wide, and above two hundred high, lying in a bed twenty yards wide. The bed was eight yards from the floor. Some natural necessities required me to get down. While I was under these circumstances, two rats crept up the curtains, and ran smelling backwards and forwards on the bed. One of them came up almost to my face, whereupon I rose in a fright, and drew out my hanger to defend myself. After this exploit, I walked gently to and fro on the bed, to recover my breath and loss of spirits.



Write your survival room setting: max word limit 500 words.

Editing and Final copy

Editing steps:

1. Read through and check there are no missing words.
2. Read backwards a word at a time - Underline all words you are unsure of the spelling (check and correct using a dictionary).
3. Check that you have included at least 3 sentences with subordinate clauses - if not edit and find a place where this can be added.
4. Check punctuation - Especially commas.
5. Look for vocabulary/sentences that can be improved - use thesaurus or RAG table to help you.

Write a final version in best handwriting with all amendments included.

