

9/11/21

### What's behind the door?

The White family, a family of four, had recently moved in. Miss White works as a single mother. Her eldest son is called Dom, aged 16. Dom is rarely around as he is usually out with his friends. Willow, who's 13, is an inquisitive child, born for adventure. The youngest Tim, aged 7 is obsessed with dinosaurs. They moved into this house, after no longer being able to afford their old home. They got it cheap, despite the fact it needs a lot of work. Willow spends most of her time exploring the house since there are still things they don't know.

F  
F

Whilst exploring, Willow <sup>came</sup> across a door hidden away behind boxes. She called for her mother, wondering what's behind the door but then remembers, her mother was working. Tim heard and shuffled down the stairs, in ~~confused~~ confusion.

F

"11?"  
SS

"What's behind the door?" asked Willow as she took the black door handle and attempted to open it. It rattled, but didn't budge. Tim shrugged but grew interest <sup>ed</sup> and help ~~look~~ helped look for something to open it. After many ~~hour~~ hours of searching, they both grew bored, but just as they were about to quit, Tim found a key, smuggled away under the living room rug. Full of excitement Willow snatched it and ran to the door. She looked back at Tim, but he was already half way up the stairs, worn out by searching. Without thinking, Willow frantically stuck the key, into the door and twisted it. It rattled, but stayed locked, she tried again, it rattled, but once again, didn't unlock. Just as Willow was about to give up, it swung open. Inside she could see dusty and old <sup>case</sup> stairs. She decided to get her torch since <sup>there</sup> was no sign of any light down there. She turned on her torch but as she stepped in, the door

✓

slammed shut behind her. Immediately, she turned around in fear, but regained confidence. Down the stairs, was a room, full with cobwebs, pipes lay along the floor and walls and crates filled the centre. To her surprise, there was something. It scuttled along the shadows, Willow was sure! There it was again! This time it made a noise. A growling noise. Now, Willow was scared.

! ✓  
VSS!

She stumbled into a corner, ~~breath~~ breathing heavily, she waved her

VSS?  
VSS!!

torch around the room, scanning for the creature. What was it? There it was again! It scuttled along the wall. Willow grabbed a stick and put it in the corner. The noises became louder as she heard it scrape its claws along the floor. It pounced at her, but fortunately it missed. She saw it dearer this time. Bright yellow eyes, sharp claws, long and pointy teeth canines. She sat there, waiting. She clutched her weapon and kept it ~~stead~~ steady. Now, all she could do was wait, wait for it to come. She could see it lurking and lost her plan, instead, she ran. Up the stairs and grabbed the door handle.

EXN  
SS

It was locked. She tried again. Still, it didn't budge. "Help!" she wailed, there was no answer. She was stuck there and there and there was nothing she could do. Aggressively she pounded on the door. The growls grew closer and she could still hear the claws scraping along the surface. Again ~~and~~ again she pounded on the door.

✓  
1114  
Good  
Fear

Willow sat there and save her. She was with some traumatic



Your verb tenses are not secure. Check and correct all your verbs to put them in past tense.

Grade 2+		Dec Y7	Pink or green
Key	WHAT WAS BEHIND THE DOOR?		
T5	Punctuate sentences accurately.		
T3	Organise into paragraphs		
1	Paragraphs show understanding of the story mountain.		
1	Foreshadowing is evident in the opening.		
2	Questions are used for suspense. Short sentences are used for tension.		
3	Expanded noun phrases and figurative devices are used in complex descriptive sentences.		
3	Exclamations, speech, ellipses and dashes are used to convey atmosphere.		

Teacher comments / next steps  
Great story - good build to a fearful climax. I enjoyed reading this.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## A film review to Macbeth

I am reviewing Macbeth, the animated film. I would recommend this to the ages, ten or above, this is because the plot can be hard to follow and it's a bit gory. Although, there were some scenes I ~~rather~~ rather enjoyed. If this is intended for children, personally I don't think it checks the standards.

For schools, the length of this film is very suitable, lasting around half an hour, leaving time in class for the task. The speech can ~~confuse them~~ <sup>be confusing</sup>, but for the length, it tells the story well, putting a lot of detail in. It is gory, but not horror movie gory, so it's entertaining.

Personally, some of my favourite the scenes are quite detailed. In the scene with Lady Macbeth receiving the letter, before even finding out, her expressions tells us that the letter will be shocking. Another scene being when Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost, you can clearly see the fear on Macbeth's face, in the same scene you can see the reflection of Banquo in Macbeth's goblet and I find that a really nice detail.

My only problem with this film is the fact that the plot isn't very clear, if you didn't know the story of Macbeth, then I wouldn't ~~see~~ recommend it. Some of the speech is muffled or is drowned out by the sound effects. An example ~~was~~ would be the ~~ear~~ demonic ~~ear~~ cackling of the witches which overlaps the witches speech. Despite this, Lady Macbeth's scream is very clear. The scene with Macduff's family was very unclear, I only understood when we were shown the image of them.

Using this information, do I think schools should use this? Is it good enough? I say yes! Despite all the downsides, it shows the story of Macbeth with detail and is a good film for the amount of time.

5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## In The Trenches

SS  
V  
It was happening. The deafening wailing, screaming and shouting knocked my focus. A sea of soldiers rushed past me, frantically gathering supplies. The rapid gunshots firing every few seconds, the ear-piercing yelling of the soldiers, the heartbreathing cries as more lives are stolen, all of it, crowding my mind. Everyone lined up, prepared for the worst. I breathe in the bitterly smoke spreading over our heads, I hack and cough as it fills my lungs. I leaned against the wet, cold wood like a filthy rat. That repulsive, damp scent lingered like a never-ending fog as we cautiously stepped along the muddy duck-boards. The trenches were a river; cold, wet swamped with things best unknown. As it began to rain, the sump went into good use. Soldiers standing humbly proud as the rain trickled over their heads. The rain got heavier and was soon a waterfall, towering down and drenching us. Looking upon my team, I could see them straight-faced yet drowning in their own undeniable fear.

m  
"Run! Gas! Put your masks on, hurry!" Soldiers leapt for their masks as if they were there their children. Those awful retching sounds. The traumatising shrieks. Panicked cries were let out as the gas swallowed them whole. Was I to die too? This haunting thought hammered relentlessly through my mind. I hoarsely wheezed in my tight mask, running from this persistent terror. Soldiers staggered helplessly as they fell behind, dropping dead left and right. The wooden boards let out a painful creak as I ran sprinted over them. The wheezing became gasping for a breath as my weak body fought the fatigue. My legs stung with agony. I gazed back to see the deadly gas rising away, being challenged by wagons, sandbags and canons. A defenseless soldier stumbled toward me, limp and ~~distray~~ ~~distray~~ distraught. With no regrets I handed

him my mask and dashed away. I thought I'd get away until I heard, "More gas! More gas!". I was cut sharp. These words making my adrenaline run. A scurry of masked soldiers fled past me. I stood, knowing my fate...

The sweet poison drifted gracefully toward me. I fought for my last breath. I was being buried in a toxic sea. I knew taking a breath would set fire to my lungs. The yellow gas was like the sun, blinding my eyes. As figures became a blur, I was suffocating on my own breath. I let out a painful exhale, realising my mistake. Inhaling the venomous, musty air, my lungs suffered an immediate shock. That infuriating smell sparked up my nose. I felt ignited with failure. My blazing organs whistled with fire. I cried out as my limp duckled knees let out. The cool, moist floor comforted my flaming body. Within minutes, the gas began to glide away; still I knew it'd make no difference. With intoxicated lungs, I took my final breath. A blur of shapes approached, I felt them lift my limp body. Thud. into the wagon, where all the rest go.

This is a great piece of emotive writing -  
Well done.

1	Pink or green
Writing Assessment Recount Narrative "In the Trenches"	
Some ideas appropriate for WW1 topic	Green
Use full stops and capital letters	Green
Use paragraphs	Green
Paragraphs contain relevant content - topic, setting and event.	Green
Use simple and complex sentences for effect. Capital letters and punctuation are mostly accurate.	Green
Use well-chosen vocabulary - especially verbs.	Green
Use a variety of sentence lengths and types for effect	Green
Use a wide range of descriptive techniques - simile, metaphor, adjectives, direct speech, the five senses - to suit audience and purpose.	Green
Use the full range of punctuation accurately and for effect	Green

Your research from the poems has really paid off - your use of verbs and figurative language really brings the whole piece to life.

24th March 2023

## Friendship in Private Peaceful

P Michael Morpurgo demonstrates friendship in Private Peaceful through Tommo and Molly's journey together. They both show kindness and respect toward one another. There are many examples of this, such as when Tommo was feeling 'all miserable and abandoned', we are told 'Molly would sometimes come running back and take my hand.' The kindness is demonstrated because when Tommo was feeling miserable, Molly noticed this and came back for him. This tells us how much she cares about Tommo and doesn't want him to feel left out. She is aware of how close in age she and Charlie are and how Tommo is a few years apart. Her running back shows that she understands Charlie and her can do things Tommo can't and we can tell how thoughtful she is that she cares for Tommo's feelings. All these caring acts Molly does develops the value they both hold in their relationship.

The obvious example of friendship in this novel is the relation shared by Charlie and Tommo. As we read more into the book, we see how their relationship goes beyond being brothers. They value each other dearly and truly care for one another. This is represented in how they talk about each other and speak to each other. As Charlie prepares to be executed, Tommo tells Charlie 'you're the best friend I've ever had, the best person I've

KW ever known.' He uses the word 'best' to express how much Charlie means to him and again, we see how Tommo values Charlie when he says to himself 'What a friend I have in Charlie.' Here, in this quote, Tommo admires Charlie again as a great friend Charlie also cares deeply for Tommo in the way of all the things Charlie does for Tommo. An example could be when Charlie steals Bertha. He knew Tommo loved her, so risked his job and took her. The biggest sacrifice Charlie makes for Tommo is when he tells Ianley 'I can't go with you because I'd have to leave Tommo behind, and I

can't do that.' Charlie refuses to leave Tommo resulting in his execution. The things the boys say and do for each other builds the idea of friendship in *Private Peaceful*.

- T**  
**R.** The author represents friendship in his novel, *Private Peaceful* with the adorable friendship between Big Joe and Bertha. Through the early chapters of the novel, the loving bond between the two is established. Big Joe adores and admires Bertha and she is like a support animal for him. Bertha, when meeting Big Joe for the first time, attached to him instantly. The quote 'she followed him everywhere,' shows us Bertha loved Big Joe, another example is now 'she even slept on his bed at night - Big Joe insisted on that no matter how much Mother protested.' This quote demonstrates how the value they have is reciprocated. Their friendship is clearly stated when Tommo tells us 'Big Joe had found a new friend and he was in seventh heaven.' All these quotes show the healthy and positive relation they have. When Bertha goes missing, Tommo tells us 'She hadn't wandered off at all until now; she'd always stuck close to Big Joe.' The semi-colon in this quote links the bold importance in both sentences. Michael Morpurgo uses this to identify how unusual it was that Bertha had been gone so long. It also helps develop the reader's understanding of how Bertha never left his side. So when Bertha dies, the reader feels sympathy for Big Joe because of their valued relationship. How much these two characters care for each other allows the author to build a representation of friendship.

Another idea of friendship in '*Private Peaceful*' is expressed through the family bond that continues to grow as you read into the novel: Mother and her sons, the Peacefuls. Mother is very protective of her sons, I believe she is so because of her husband's tragic death. Mother is particularly protective over Big Joe, refusing to give up on him, despite his brain damage

and the loss of Father. After Charlie and Tommo trick him into eating rabbit droppings, Mother forces them to eat one each and tells them 'Don't you treat Big Joe like that ever again.' We can also see her comforting him and singing 'Oranges and Lemons' to him when he's stressed. You really see how much she cares when Big Joe goes missing, she goes quiet and pale in the face. She also makes sacrifices and spends money on her sons' interests. When the Colonel yells and lectures Charlie over the thievery of Bertha, Mother sticks up for him and pays sixpence for the dog which leaves the Colonel 'dumbfounded'. Again, when Charlie has been secretly meeting up with Molly, she still defends him. She tells Molly's mother 'Charlie's seventeen now and Molly sixteen. Old enough, I'd say. She even welcomes Molly into the family when she turns up to her door, pregnant. Mother allows her to stay and takes care of her. The things Mother does for her family creates a strong trusting friendship through the family. Mother is a bold representation of a Mother loving mother. All her actions help the boys develop their own friendships, ~~they~~ through *Private Peaceful*.

10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

How does Zephanian create sympathy for Alem in chapter 6?

In the book 'Refugee Boy', Benjamin Zephanian creates sympathy for Alem while he is at the refugee camp. In chapter 6 so far, we see sympathy built up the most during Sweeney and Alem's fight. On page 73, in the text we see the dialogue of Sweeney threatening Alem. 'I'll Kill you, ya bastard - ya don't mess with me and get away with it - I'll turn ya lights out - you are dead - ya understand - ya dead meat - I mean really dead.' There is a lot of figurative language and effective devices in this quote which creates an intimidating atmosphere. The quote contains metaphors and a large amount of negative language which summarises how Sweeney behaves and how he feels toward Alem.

This quote supports the idea that Alem isn't in a safe atmosphere. Sweeney's speech contains harsh threats made of metaphors which helps establish a sympathetic feel for Alem. 'You are dead' is a metaphor used to explain to the reader the severe hatred Sweeney holds against Alem. Alem is not literally dead but in Sweeney's perspective Alem is dead to him. Another metaphor which conveys a similar view is 'I'll turn ya lights out.' This phrase is a saying for beating someone up/knocking someone out. These two metaphors demonstrate the violence in Sweeney's character. Zephanian places these metaphors in a fast paced blur of threats so the reader immediately understands what the metaphor means with the context of the moment. Having several threats collectively grouped together holds the tension of the scene which is why Zephanian chose to use it.

Peer	PEEL Marking Ladder	Teacher
P	An introduction which answers the question - use the writer's name and the device they've used.	
Ev	Use evidence from the text, make sure you have used quote marks.	
KW	Pick out one word from the quotation and explain why it is effective	
R	Offer more than one way the reader might feel	
PU	Explain how the punctuation has helped the idea	
T	Explain why the writer might have chosen this technique	
L	Link the explanation back to the point you are making	
	Accurate spelling, punctuation, capital letters and paragraphing.	

What could I do to improve next time?  
An excellent evaluation of the novel - Well done