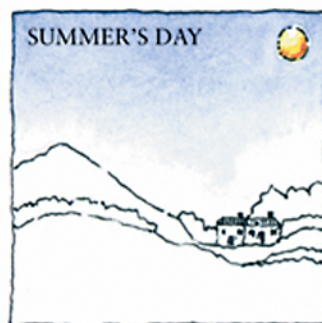
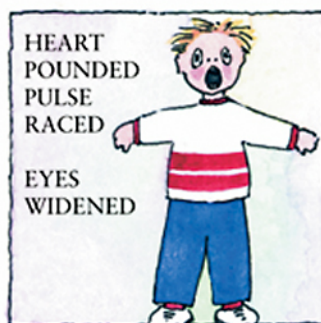
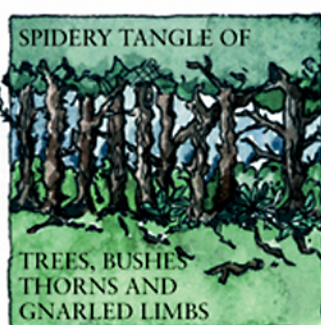


ALISON WILCOX

Descriptosaurus

Supporting Creative Writing
for Ages 8–14



‘A real “godsend” to hard-pressed teachers,
parents and pupils’

DENIS HAYES, AUTHOR OF
FOUNDATIONS OF PRIMARY TEACHING

Descriptosaurus

Descriptosaurus is the first book for creative writing that is a thematic expansion of a dictionary and a thesaurus. It provides children with a comprehensive resource that will help them to expand their descriptive vocabulary, experiment with language and sentence structure and build up narratives based around the following areas:

- ★ Settings – landscapes, settlements and atmosphere
- ★ Characters – appearance, emotions and personality
- ★ Creatures – appearance, abilities and habitats

This model was created as a result of feedback from children about what resources they required to inspire and assist them with their writing. For reluctant writers or those faced with blank page syndrome, *Descriptosaurus* provides invaluable starting points to encourage putting pen to paper. Using *Descriptosaurus* will not only inspire children, it will build their confidence and dramatically improve the content of their writing.

Alison Wilcox has extensive teaching experience at schools in England and Scotland. Colleagues describe her methods as 'innovative and inspirational to even the most reluctant of writers'.

Descriptosaurus

Supporting Creative Writing for Ages 8–14

Alison Wilcox

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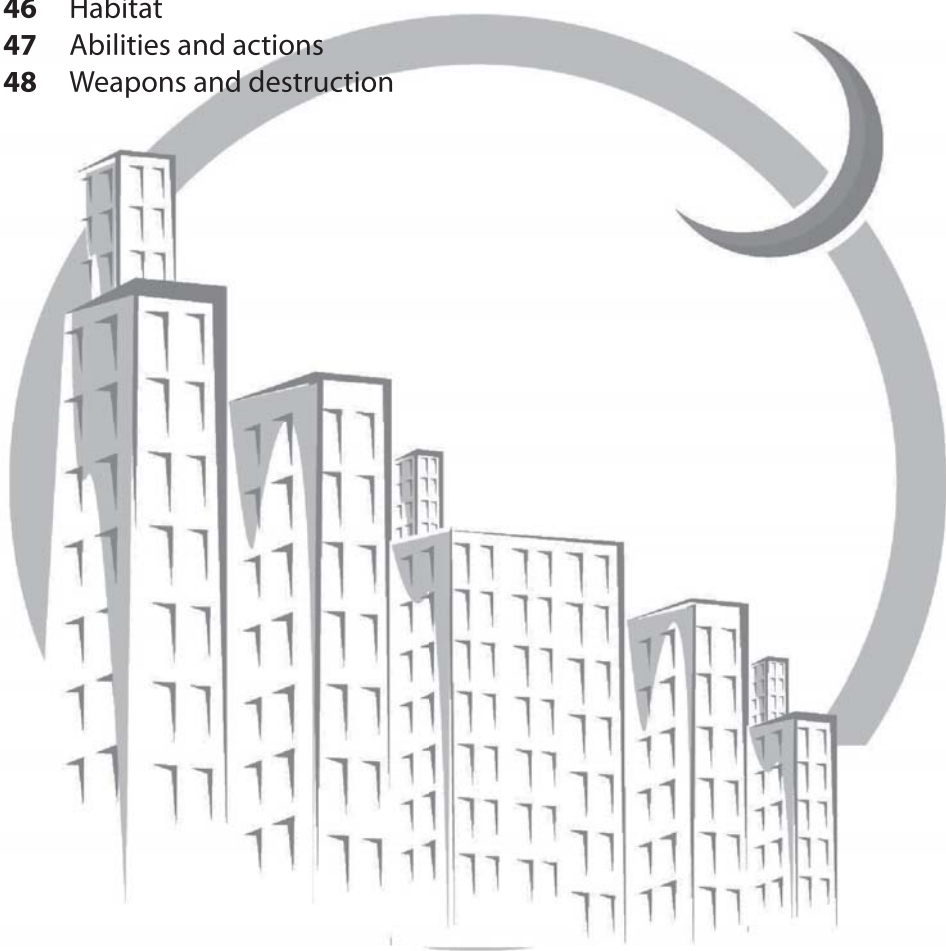
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Acknowledgements and dedication

I dedicate this book to Andrew, Robert, Kitty and Geli. If it had not been for their inspiration and enthusiasm, *Descriptosaurus* would never have been started, let alone finished. I would like to thank my parents, Ann and John, for always encouraging me to follow my dreams and for their tireless support along the way. The publication of this book would not have been possible without the vision, encouragement and invaluable advice of Bruce Roberts and his team at Routledge. Thanks to Catherine Vacher and Barfield School for their support and to Jamie Stewart for his advice on creatures.

Preface

The importance of children being able to express their ideas using good, descriptive language is widely accepted, not just for creative writing but also for non-fiction. Developing descriptive language to communicate effectively is an essential skill across the curriculum. History is concerned not merely with dates and facts, but with describing and interpreting past events. In Geography, children need to be able to describe the world around them. In Science, they need to observe carefully and then be capable of describing what is happening in an experiment. In all areas of the curriculum, children need the vocabulary to enable them to interpret and describe.

The aim of *Descriptosaurus* is to assist children in their search for words and phrases to enliven their writing and to encourage them to experiment with language and sentence structure. For the reluctant writers and those stuck for an idea, faced with the blank page syndrome, *Descriptosaurus* provides starting points to help them to put pen to paper.

To be able to describe effectively, we first need to be taught how to look and listen. We need to learn the vocabulary to use in order to express our ideas. As well as encouraging children to use interesting language, *Descriptosaurus* aims to improve children's observation skills, both in their own environment and their reading. It is an introduction to sights, sounds, smells, emotions and body language and not intended as an encyclopaedia of descriptive vocabulary. To keep it to a manageable size and accessible for use by children independently, I have tackled only those areas they are most likely to meet as they start their creative writing journey.

We describe sights and events differently because we see and interpret things differently. To any situation or piece of writing we bring our own personality, experiences and imaginations. I wanted to banish the fear of the blank page, open children's eyes to the world around them, stimulate their imaginations and sow the seeds of effects that can be achieved in their writing. With the nurture of teachers, parents and their own reading, children can grow in confidence to experiment and develop their own style of writing. I want *Descriptosaurus* to guide and encourage children to become observers and language detectives and, above all, to enjoy playing with words to achieve different effects.

At the end of each academic year, I used to reflect on what my teaching had brought to the children in my care. Every year brought a new group of children with different needs, abilities and interests, and every year I endeavoured to inspire, encourage and guide them to improve their writing. Using books, scripts, drama and films, developing word and phrase webs, I attempted to show them



how to bring their writing to life. Was it worth going the extra mile? Without a doubt! Watching children develop their confidence and their writing, and in some cases getting them to write, has over the years given me immense satisfaction, and on some occasions reduced me to tears. I have seen children panic when asked to add description to their writing and I have seen children motivated and inspired when shown the way. There is no greater satisfaction for a teacher than a classroom first buzzing with ideas and then quiet with endeavour as the pens fly over that once blank piece of paper. This model was created as a result of the feedback from children about what resources they required to inspire and assist them with their writing. I have seen the results that can be achieved through its use, both in the classroom and with individual children, including my own, and I wanted to share it with other parents and teachers.

Children need to be taught how to structure their writing and there are numerous 'How to' books on the subject of creative writing and excellent frameworks available. However, no comprehensive resource existed previously to provide specific assistance with vocabulary for settings, atmosphere, characters, emotions etc. A dictionary teaches children the meaning of words and a thesaurus expands their vocabulary. *Descriptosaurus* will teach them how to describe using their senses to add detail, depth and colour. It is a thematic expansion of a dictionary and a thesaurus. It positions the words – be it appearance, expression, landscape, smell or sound – classifies them as nouns, adjectives and verbs, zooms in to examine their meaning and then expands them into phrases and sentences. ('Phrase' is used in the context of this book to mean a group of words.) It shows how they can be used and provides alternative sentence structures.

Descriptosaurus is aimed at teachers, student teachers, parents and pupils. The text has built-in progression in the words, phrases and sentences, so that children can access the text, and use and apply it at their own level.

Notes for parents and teachers

We all agree that there is no substitute for reading to improve children's writing. However, we live in a world dominated by the moving image, be it television or game consoles. How then can we develop children's writing when there is a reluctance to read or engage with a text? The answer is to feed their imaginations with pictures, sounds, games and role play, and use *Descriptosaurus* to extend children's vocabulary to describe what they see, hear, smell and touch.

As a parent and a teacher, I found that, although a dictionary was useful to find the meaning of a new word and a thesaurus to find an alternative, there was no comprehensive, thematic resource that gave children the vocabulary to use in their descriptive writing. They were reliant on their reading or on an input from the teacher or parent.

Descriptosaurus is designed for use in school and at home, and across all areas of the curriculum. Parents, teachers and children can use it and work together to improve descriptive writing. Using *Descriptosaurus*, we can expand children's vocabulary by developing word and phrase webs and then applying these in practical writing exercises. Here are a few ideas:

- ★ Planning

When planning a story, *Descriptosaurus* can be used to collate words and phrases to answer the questions 'who', 'where' and 'when'. It can be used to look at the effects of sound and light for atmosphere, and expressions, voice and body language for emotions and personality.

- ★ Photo albums and scrap books

Following an outing or a holiday use the pictures, leaflets etc. to produce an album, centring the pictures and using words and phrases from *Descriptosaurus* to describe the setting, activities etc. Scour newspapers, magazines, travel brochures and leaflets for interesting pictures of settings and characters to produce a scrapbook.

- ★ Films

Study how films achieve atmosphere and suspense. Look and listen carefully to the weather, sound and light effects used in a film to provide atmosphere and suspense. How are the body language and tone of a character used to express emotion? This can be done in the classroom or at home whilst watching a family movie. Use *Descriptosaurus* to see how these effects can be achieved using words.



★ What happened next?

Pick one of the sentences from *Descriptosaurus* and answer the question 'what happened next?'

★ Use traditional stories or myths and legends

Take a traditional tale such as 'Red Riding Hood', in which the structure is already in place, and get the children to fill in the descriptive detail. For example, they can start off with a bright atmosphere with Red Riding Hood happy and excited to be going to visit her grandmother and then change the atmosphere and her mood as she gets deeper into the forest. This would then include looking at vocabulary to describe emotions, including body language, and weather, light and sound to build suspense. Myths can also be used, for example the journey through the tunnel to meet the Minotaur.

★ History

I have not included settlements from the past, but webs can be used to describe a medieval village or a Roman town etc. When studying the Egyptians, children can describe a journey down the River Nile; for Romans, a journey across the Empire.

★ Music/sounds

Listen to a sound effects recording. Use *Descriptosaurus* to describe the sounds. Choose a selection of sounds from *Descriptosaurus* and make your own sound effects recordings.

We are all learners and educators. I have received a lot of input for this book from other teachers, parents and children. There are many more ways of encouraging children to write and explore their world. These are but a few suggestions. I hope *Descriptosaurus* is the beginning of an exciting journey for us all.

How to use this book

A. WORDS

Lists nouns, adjectives and verbs that will give you ideas and vocabulary to describe your setting and characters.

Example: A forest where the character is in danger.

If you think of **thick, dark, trapped**, your description could be:

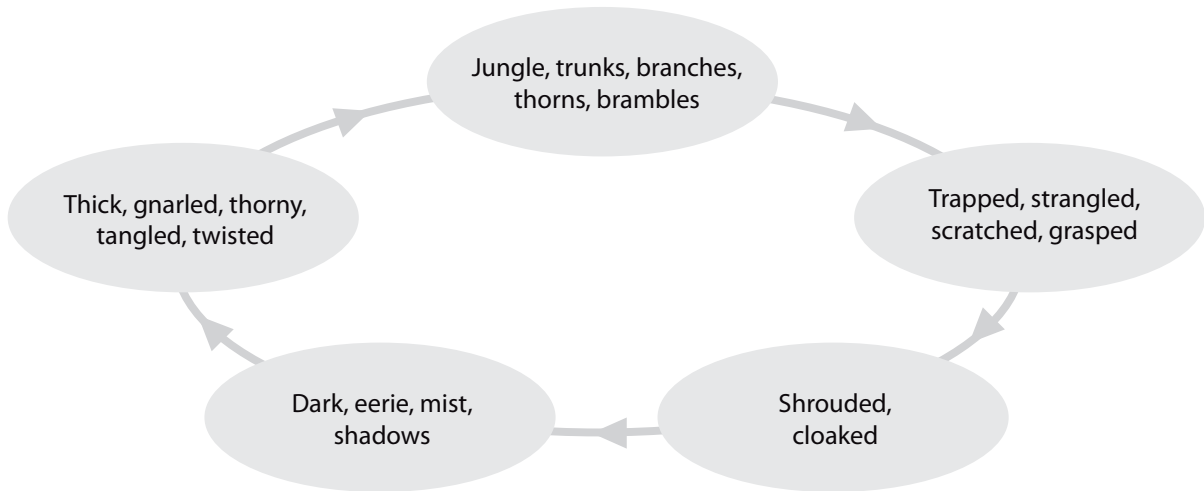
He was trapped in the thick, dark forest.

Does this sentence paint a vivid picture for the reader? No. How can it be improved?

- ★ Imagine you are looking at your setting through a camera. Zoom in and describe to the reader what you can see.
- ★ Use the words in the book to search for vocabulary to paint a more detailed picture.

WORDS

Nouns	Forest, jungle, woodland, trees, treetops, trunks, branches, roots, logs
	Sky, ceiling, canopy, umbrella, blanket
	Floor, carpet, paths, tunnels
	Leaves, buds, berries, blossoms, flowers, petals, stems, vines, creepers, ivy, brambles, thorns, twigs
	Bluebells, snowdrops, daffodils, poppies, gorse, heather, hawthorn, rhododendrons
Adjectives	Sun, wind, dew, icicles, mist, fog, shadows
	Tall, huge, vast, towering
	Beautiful, majestic, stunning, spectacular, magnificent
	Brown, yellow, green, emerald, pink, red, scarlet, crimson, fiery, orange, bronze, purple, blue, white, silver
	Bright, vivid
	Dark, black, gloomy, shadowy, misty, eerie, ghostly
	Thick, dense, spidery, impenetrable
	Rough, sharp, thorny, spiky, barbed, gnarled, twisted, bent
	Dead, rotting, decaying
	Stood, rose, spread, stretched, arched
Verbs	Knotted, tangled, twisted, choked, strangled
	Blocked, trapped, grasped, scratched
	Burst, erupted, crept, wriggled, writhed
	Hung, swayed, tossed, danced, hopped, floated, fluttered
	Lit, painted, covered, cloaked, shrouded



B. PHRASES

- ★ **Nouns and adjectives:** ideas on how to combine nouns and adjectives.
- ★ **Verbs:** ideas on how to use verbs.

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Magnificent forest of tall trees
- ★ Like a crowd of vivid green umbrellas
- ★ Huge canopy of treetops like a green blanket
- ★ Emerald green leaves
- ★ Fiery scarlet autumn leaves
- ★ Vivid green stems
- ★ Beautiful, green cloaks
- ★ Like fluttering, emerald ribbons
- ★ Brightly coloured creepers like party streamers
- ★ Blazing carpet of bluebells
- ★ Clumps of snowdrops
- ★ Clusters of purple blossoms
- ★ Red and orange berries
- ★ Spikes of quivering, yellow petals
- ★ Bright red rhododendron flowers
- ★ Like a carpet of jewels – rubies, sapphires and opals
- ★ Glistening icicles
- ★ Dew-soaked grass like a field of liquid diamonds
- ★ Thick jungle of dense forest
- ★ Dark, tangled maze of tunnels and secret paths
- ★ Spidery knot of trees and bushes
- ★ Thick, gnarled trunks
- ★ Huge, thick limbs
- ★ Bleached skeletons of dead trees
- ★ Roots like enormous, wooden tentacles
- ★ Like ghostly, stooped figures
- ★ Like feathery shadows
- ★ Sharply pointed tips like fingernails
- ★ Carpet of decay
- ★ Rotting leaves and dead branches
- ★ Writhing carpet of buzzing, crawling insects
- ★ Blanket of fog
- ★ Eerie, greenish gloom



How to use this book

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Spread out above him
- ★ Stretched as far as the eye could see
- ★ Framed the deep blue sky
- ★ Impossible to find a way through
- ★ Couldn't tell one part of the forest from the rest
- ★ Formed dark tunnels
- ★ Created secret paths
- ★ Hid many secrets
- ★ Swayed to the rhythm of the wind
- ★ Danced on gusts of frosty air
- ★ Tossed their branches
- ★ Flung their leaves up to the sky
- ★ Arched in the wind
- ★ Trailed their leaves on the ground
- ★ Hung like swaying feathers
- ★ Waved like hundreds of tiny hands
- ★ Floated to the ground
- ★ Creepers hung between the branches
- ★ Alive with splashes of red and orange berries
- ★ Covered in butterflies
- ★ Stretched like a carpet of jewels
- ★ Lay like a carpet of confetti
- ★ Cloaked with purple heather
- ★ Dotted with red poppies
- ★ Sun danced on the leaves
- ★ Bathed in light
- ★ Dripped stalactites of colour
- ★ Shone with patches of misty light
- ★ Painted the ground with flickering shadows
- ★ Branches spread and twisted together like a prehistoric beast
- ★ Ivy choked the twisted tree
- ★ Thorns knotted amongst the trees and bushes
- ★ Twisted and grated against each other like rusty hinges
- ★ Blocked the path
- ★ Strangled the paths
- ★ Littered the ground
- ★ Burst from the ground
- ★ Wiggled across the forest floor
- ★ Shrouded in mist
- ★ Cloaked in a blanket of darkness
- ★ Tore at their arms and legs
- ★ Grasped at her ankles like bony fingers
- ★ Pressed in on him on all sides
- ★ Trapped her in its thorny grasp

Use these ideas to think of other ways of using the words, perhaps in your own similes and metaphors.

Example: Brambles were thorny spiders' webs

Tore at her ankles like barbed spikes on a trap.



Jungle, trunks, branches, thorns, brambles, thick, tangled	Dark, eerie, mist, shadows, shrouded, cloaked, covered	Trapped, strangled, grasped
Thick jungle of dense forest Thick, gnarled trunks Huge, thick limbs Spidery knot of trees and bushes Spread and twisted like some prehistoric beast	Cloaked in mist Like ghostly, stooped figures	Strangled the paths Impossible to find a way through Trapped in their thorny grasp Pressed in on her from all sides Tore at her arms and legs Grasped at her ankles like bony fingers

C. SENTENCES

These model how:

- ★ to combine the phrases in sentences;
- ★ to vary the type and length of sentences to make your writing more interesting.

There are three main types of sentence, which, when used together, produce different effects and make your writing more interesting.

- ★ **Simple sentence:** has one **clause**. (A clause has a **subject** and a *verb*.)

Example: The **forest** was *cloaked* in mist.

They are useful because they can create suspense, mystery and excitement.

- ★ **Compound sentence:** two or more simple sentences joined by a **conjunction** (*and, or, but, so, for, yet*), or separated by a comma, semi-colon (;) or colon (:).

Too many simple sentences can make your writing sound very jerky and boring to read.

Example: The forest was a dark, tangled maze. It was impossible to find a way through. The dead branches rose up out of the mist. They grasped her ankles like bony fingers.

It is important to join sentences together to add variety and make your writing flow.

If we join some of these simple sentences together, the writing will flow more easily.

The forest was a dark, tangled maze and it was impossible to find a way through. The dead branches rose up out of the mist, grasping at her ankles like bony fingers.

- ★ **Complex sentence:** has a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses (information added to the main clause, but does not make sense on its own).

- ★ Example: Subordinate clause is at the beginning of the sentence.

Rising out of the mist, the branches grasped at her ankles like bony fingers.



How to use this book

These are important because they can create variety and different effects and can be used to add detail or description.

- ★ Example: Subordinate clause is in the middle of the sentence.

The branches, ***which rose out of the mist***, grasped at her ankles like bony fingers.

CAUTION

Do not just copy a sentence from the book, as it may not fit into the rhythm of your writing or produce the intended effect.

SENTENCES

The majestic trees stood tall and proud.

The trees were joined together like a crowd of vivid green umbrellas.

The magnificent trees flung their branches up to the sun to frame the deep blue sky.

A white blanket of snowdrops danced on gusts of frosty air.

They were welcomed by wave after wave of the gently nodding heads of daffodils.

The ground was painted with red poppies and yellow gorse.

The hedge was alive with splashes of red and orange berries.

Hanging from every branch were icicles that glistened like liquid diamonds.

The branches swayed to the rhythm of the wind and their leaves fluttered like graceful butterflies.

The petals had been shaken off the bush and lay like a carpet of pink confetti on the floor.

As they entered the wood, they were greeted by the bowed heads of a blazing carpet of bluebells.

It was impossible to move quickly through the spidery tangle of trees and bushes.

The brambles and thorns tore at their arms and legs.

The forest floor was a writhing carpet of buzzing, crawling insects.

An eerie, greenish gloom filled the clearing.

Patches of misty light shone through the gaps in the trees.

The leaves glowed in the early morning light like hundreds of tiny hands.

The bonfire blazed in the background. A thousand flickering shadows painted the ground.

Rotting leaves hid the roots that wriggled across the ground.

The forest was a dark, tangled maze and it was impossible to find a way through.

The branches of the thick, tangled trees had spread and twisted to form dark, overhead tunnels and created secret paths.

The ceiling of thick branches shut out the sky and covered the path in darkness.

The dead branches rose up and grasped at her ankles like bony fingers.

The branches twisted and grated against each other like rusty hinges.

Like some prehistoric beast, the huge, twisted limbs of the tree guarded the entrance.

Pressing in on her from all sides, it seemed that the forest was trying to trap her in its thorny grasp.

As it drifted through the forest, the fog made eerie shapes and shadows.

Cloaked in mist, the trees looked like ghostly, stooped figures.



RESULT

'She was trapped in a thick, dark forest' could now become:

The forest was cloaked in mist. She was trapped. She was surrounded by a thick jungle of tangled trees, gnarled branches and thorns. They had spread and twisted together. It was impossible to find a way through. She tried to pass. The thorns grasped at her ankles. They tore at her arms and legs.

or

The forest was cloaked in mist and she was trapped and surrounded by a thick jungle of tangled trees, gnarled branches and thorns, which had spread and twisted together, so it was impossible to find a way through and, as she tried to pass, the thorns grasped at her ankles and tore at her arms and legs.

or

Cloaked in mist, the trees were like ghostly, prehistoric creatures. It was impossible to find a way through. She was trapped in a thick jungle of tangled trees, gnarled branches and thorns that had spread and twisted together. Grasping at her as she tried to pass, they tore at her arms and legs, clutching her in their thorny grasp.

Which one is easiest to read and paints the best picture?

TIPS

The key to good writing is careful planning. When thinking about who, when and where, using *Descriptosaurus* will give you ideas and vocabulary to

- ★ use your senses to paint a vivid picture of your setting – sights, sounds, smells and touch;
- ★ describe a character using appearance, voice, movement and emotions.



Part 1

Settings



Landscapes



1

Forests and woods

WORDS

Nouns	Forest, jungle, woodland, trees, treetops, trunks, branches, roots, logs Sky, ceiling, canopy, umbrella, blanket Floor, carpet, paths, tunnels Leaves, buds, berries, blossoms, flowers, petals, stems, vines, creepers, ivy, brambles, thorns, twigs Bluebells, snowdrops, daffodils, poppies, gorse, heather, hawthorn, rhododendrons Sun, wind, dew, icicles, mist, fog, shadows
Adjectives	Tall, huge, vast, towering Beautiful, majestic, stunning, spectacular, magnificent Brown, yellow, green, emerald, pink, red, scarlet, crimson, fiery, orange, bronze, purple, blue, white, silver Bright, vivid Dark, black, gloomy, shadowy, misty, eerie, ghostly Thick, dense, spidery, impenetrable Rough, sharp, thorny, spiky, barbed, gnarled, twisted, bent Dead, rotting, decaying
Verbs	Stood, rose, spread, stretched, arched Knotted, tangled, twisted, choked, strangled Blocked, trapped, grasped, scratched Burst, erupted, crept, wriggled, writhed Hung, swayed, tossed, danced, hopped, floated, fluttered Lit, painted, covered, cloaked, shrouded



1 *Landscapes: forests and woods*

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Magnificent forest of tall trees
- ★ Like a crowd of vivid green umbrellas
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- ★ Eerie, greenish gloom

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Spread out above him
- ★ Stretched as far as the eye could see
- ★ Framed the deep blue sky



- ★ Impossible to find a way through
- ★ Couldn't tell one part of the forest from the rest
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- ★ Strangled the paths
- ★ Littered the ground
- ★ Burst from the ground
- ★ Wriggled across the forest floor
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- ★ Grasped at her ankles like bony fingers
- ★ Pressed in on him on all sides
- ★ Trapped her in its thorny grasp



1 *Landscapes: forests and woods*

SENTENCES

The majestic trees stood tall and proud.

The trees were joined together like a crowd of vivid green umbrellas.

The magnificent trees flung their branches up to the sun to frame the deep blue sky.

A white blanket of snowdrops danced on gusts of frosty air.

They were welcomed by wave after wave of the gently nodding heads of daffodils.

The ground was painted with red poppies and yellow gorse.

The hedge was alive with splashes of red and orange berries.

Hanging from every branch were icicles that glistened like liquid diamonds.

The branches swayed to the rhythm of the wind and their leaves fluttered like graceful butterflies.

The petals had been shaken off the bush and lay like a carpet of pink confetti on the floor.

As they entered the wood, they were greeted by the bowed heads of a blazing carpet of bluebells.

It was impossible to move quickly through the spidery tangle of trees and bushes.

The brambles and thorns tore at their arms and legs.

The forest floor was a writhing carpet of buzzing, crawling insects.

An eerie, greenish gloom filled the clearing.

Patches of misty light shone through the gaps in the trees.

The leaves glowed in the early morning light like hundreds of tiny hands.

The bonfire blazed in the background. A thousand flickering shadows painted the ground.

Rotting leaves hid the roots that wriggled across the ground.

The forest was a dark, tangled maze and it was impossible to find a way through.

The branches of the thick, tangled trees had spread and twisted to form dark, overhead tunnels and created secret paths.

The ceiling of thick branches shut out the sky and covered the path in darkness.

The dead branches rose up and grasped at her ankles like bony fingers.

The branches twisted and grated against each other like rusty hinges.

Like some prehistoric beast, the huge, twisted limbs of the tree guarded the entrance.

Pressing in on her from all sides, it seemed that the forest was trying to trap her in its thorny grasp.

As it drifted through the forest, the fog made eerie shapes and shadows.

Cloaked in mist, the trees looked like ghostly, stooped figures.



2

Mountains

WORDS

Nouns	Top, peak, summit
	Slope, climb, drop, ascent, descent
	Rock-face, rocks, slabs, boulders, pillars, arches, ridges, humps
	Snow, ice, clouds, mist, fog, blanket, cloak, veil
	Streams, waterfalls, valleys, meadows
Adjectives	Tall, high, huge, soaring, enormous, massive, gigantic, towering
	Amazing, majestic, magical, spectacular, breathtaking, enchanting, magnificent, picturesque, snow-capped
	Sharp, pointed, rough, stony, rocky, uneven, rugged, jagged, savage, shark-finned
	Steep, vertical, sheer
	Dangerous, deadly, harsh, hostile, imposing, lethal, perilous, threatening, ominous, menacing, treacherous
	Black, dark, gloomy, inky, creepy, ghostly, shadowy, eerie, haunting
	Slippery, polished, shimmering, glinting
Verbs	Rose, fell, soared, towered, framed, surrounded
	Burst, thundered, erupted, pierced, slashed, gashed
	Carved, worn, sculpted, split, torn, ripped, cracked, shattered
	Sparkled, shimmered
	Covered, hidden, wrapped, enveloped, swathed, shrouded
	Climbed, crawled, crept, edged, slid, scrambled, slithered

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Majestic mountains
- ★ Huge, snow-capped mountains



2 *Landscapes: mountains*

- ★ Magical world of shimmering snow
- ★ Spectacular views
- ★ Paths of shimmering pillars and arches
- ★ Cascading waterfalls
- ★ Lush, green meadows
- ★ Green valleys
- ★ Streams like silver ribbons
- ★ Wooden chalets
- ★ Picturesque mountain village
- ★ Black, deadly mountains
- ★ Huge, hostile mountains
- ★ Towering peaks
- ★ Savage summits
- ★ Bleak, perilous peaks
- ★ Shark-finned ridges
- ★ Snow-capped summit
- ★ Like gigantic spearheads
- ★ Like the humps of a gigantic dinosaur
- ★ Like menacing, black daggers
- ★ Enormous peaks like arrowheads
- ★ Hunched shoulders of the craggy mountain
- ★ Black boulders of jagged rock
- ★ Haunting maze of glinting ice and rock
- ★ Inky black maze of steep, rugged paths
- ★ Shattered, jagged boulders and unstable rock-falls
- ★ Steep, rocky slopes
- ★ Sheer drop
- ★ Veil of mist
- ★ Ghostly blanket of dark clouds

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Rose to meet the sky
- ★ Surrounded by breathtaking summits
- ★ Soared above her
- ★ Towered above the village
- ★ Framed by the mountain's majestic peaks
- ★ Had a spectacular view
- ★ Split, cracked and carved by the magic of nature
- ★ Thundered towards the sky
- ★ Pierced the sky
- ★ Slashed the land
- ★ Loomed ahead
- ★ Burst out of the forest



- ★ Rose like a black beacon
- ★ Erupted in sharp points
- ★ Huddled tightly together
- ★ Crowded in on them
- ★ Crushed them in its stony mouth
- ★ Walls glistened with damp
- ★ Polished into dangerous, slippery slopes
- ★ Shattered by nature into jagged blades
- ★ Blocked the path
- ★ Shrouded in mist
- ★ Enveloped in thick storm clouds
- ★ Hostile peaks jumped out of the mist
- ★ Gloomy, brooding summit lay in wait
- ★ Wound his way over
- ★ Edged their way to the top
- ★ Scrambled up the sheer, rugged slopes
- ★ Slithered down the bare slopes
- ★ Tore their hands and knees on the jagged rocks

SENTENCES

Towering, snow-capped mountains rose to meet the sky.

He was surrounded by the soaring summits of the majestic mountains.

A magical world of shimmering snow towered above the wooden chalets of the mountain village.

From high up on the summit of the mountain, they had a spectacular view of green meadows and streams like silver ribbons.

Split, cracked and carved by the magic of nature, the rocks had created a path of shimmering pillars and arches.

The huge, hostile mountain pierced the sky.

Mountains, like gigantic spearheads, towered above her.

The top of the mountain was covered by a ghostly blanket of dark clouds.

The steep slopes rose towards the shark-finned ridges of the huge mountain.

The snow-capped summit of the mountain soared above her and to reach it she knew she would have to climb the sheer, deadly slopes.

Enormous boulders of jagged rock blocked the path and he had to wind his way over and through the inky black maze.

Like huge black daggers, the savage summits burst out of the trees.

The mountains loomed ahead like a giant black shadow, their peaks like huge, pointed black teeth waiting to crush him in their stony mouth.

The steep path glistened with damp – polished by nature into dangerous, slippery slopes.

He was faced by a haunting maze of ice and rock, glimmering white, stark and hostile.



3

Caves

WORDS

Nouns	Mouth, opening, entrance
	Hill, rock, path, tunnels, maze, labyrinth, gallery
	Ceiling, roof, walls, floor
	Crystals, diamonds, icicles, stalactites, stalagmites
Adjectives	Giant, enormous, amazing, spectacular, magnificent
	White, shimmering, glittering
	Dark, black, gloomy, shadowy, ghostly, eerie
	Slippery, damp
Verbs	Bent, wound, twisted, turned, coiled
	Hung, rose, covered
	Glistened, shimmered, polished

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Entrance to an enormous cave
- ★ Huge, shimmering stalactites
- ★ Stalagmites like giant spikes
- ★ Glittering gallery of white crystals
- ★ Entrance to the cave was like a ghostly, black hole
- ★ Like a silent, screaming mouth
- ★ Inky black maze of dangerous, slippery paths
- ★ Low, dark tunnels



PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Wound underground
- ★ Tunnels twisted and turned
- ★ Hung from the roof
- ★ Floor covered in stalagmites
- ★ Crystal spikes rose from the gloom
- ★ Hidden behind thick, tangled vines
- ★ Glistened with damp
- ★ Polished into dangerous, slippery paths
- ★ Lit only by the narrow beam of light from the torch

SENTENCES

The tunnel suddenly opened out into a glittering gallery of white crystals.

Hidden behind thick, tangled vines was the mouth of a low cave.

The cave was a winding, underground maze of low, dark tunnels.

Stalagmites, like giant crystal spikes, covered the floor and rose out of the gloom.

Hanging from the roof, like enormous diamonds, were huge, shimmering stalactites.

The cave was a black hole – a silent, screaming mouth in the face of the rocky hill.

Lit only by the narrow beam of light from the torch, the cave was a ghostly, black hole.

Where water had leaked in from the rocks, the walls and floor glistened with damp.



4

Beaches, islands, volcanoes and deserts

SECTION 1 – BEACHES

WORDS

Nouns	Shore, cove, bay, dunes Sand, shingle, pebbles, rocks
Adjectives	Small, large, long, narrow, thin, strip, wide, arc Golden, white, sandy, powdery, pebbly, rocky
Verbs	Stretched, surrounded Lined, framed, sheltered Sloped, descended Shimmered

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Long, narrow beach
- ★ Small, sheltered cove
- ★ Pebbly bay
- ★ Sugar white, sandy beaches
- ★ White pebble beaches
- ★ Long arc of powdery, white sand
- ★ Huge, sandy dunes
- ★ Lush, green forest
- ★ Large umbrella palm trees
- ★ Vivid blue sea
- ★ Sheer cliffs
- ★ Emerald jewel of coral reefs and diamond dust beaches



PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Stretched for miles
- ★ Backed by huge, sandy dunes
- ★ Surrounded by a lush, green forest
- ★ Shaded by palm trees
- ★ Sloped gently down to the sea
- ★ Reached by scrambling down a steep, winding path
- ★ Shimmered in the heat

SENTENCES

The beach was long and narrow and sloped gently down to the sea.

He was surrounded by sugar white beaches and a vivid blue sea that stretched for miles.

The emerald jewel of coral reefs and diamond dust beaches was enclosed by a lush green forest.

The beach was a long arc of golden sand, sheltered by dunes and large umbrella palm trees.

The small, sheltered cove was reached by scrambling down a steep, winding path.

SECTION 2 – ISLANDS

WORDS

Nouns	Sea, lagoon, reef, bays, coral, fish
	Rocks, cliffs, caves
	Heather, palm trees
	Bones, skeletons, relics
Adjectives	Small, large, long, thin, narrow, wide, flat, rocky
	Shallow, deep
	Tropical, rainbow, multi-coloured, blue, turquoise
	Wild, overgrown, rocky, black, barren, volcanic, eerie, moon-like, lifeless, sinister, ancient
Verbs	Surrounded, circled
	Shadowed, guarded

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Tropical island
- ★ Rocky island slopes
- ★ Pure, white beaches
- ★ Purple heather
- ★ Beautiful coral reef



4 *Landscapes: beaches, islands, volcanoes and deserts*

- ★ Brilliant turquoise lagoons
- ★ Tropical, rainbow-coloured fish
- ★ Wild and overgrown
- ★ Eerie, lifeless island
- ★ Barren and rocky
- ★ Pillars of rock at the entrance to the bay
- ★ Jigsaw of human and animal skeletons
- ★ Relics of an ancient world
- ★ Sinister view of volcanic peaks and a moon-like landscape

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Ablaze with purple heather
- ★ Palm trees swayed in the breeze
- ★ Circled by a shallow, blue lagoon
- ★ Teeming with multi-coloured corals and tropical fish
- ★ Guarded by steep, rocky cliffs
- ★ Littered with bones
- ★ Haunted by bats
- ★ Echo of pain and death lingered

SENTENCES

It was an eerie, lifeless island guarded by steep, rocky cliffs.

The rocky island slopes were ablaze with purple heather.

They had arrived in a paradise of tropical islands, with swaying palm trees, pure white beaches and brilliant turquoise lagoons.

The island was circled by a shallow lagoon on a beautiful reef teeming with multi-coloured corals and tropical fish.

The island was a time capsule. Wherever they went they found relics of an ancient world.

Littered with bones, the shore was a jigsaw of human and animal skeletons.

SECTION 3 – VOLCANOES

WORDS

Nouns	Cone, crater, fountain, cauldron
	Clouds, steam, bubbles, fumes, fire, smoke, ash, rocks, lava, mud
Adjectives	Smoky, black, choking, red, white-hot
	Spitting, hissing, belching, smouldering
	Menacing, throbbing, awesome, deafening
Verbs	Shook, trembled, bubbled, exploded, erupted, crashed, rained
	Hissed, roared, boomed



PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ White-hot steam
- ★ Choking fumes
- ★ Fountain of fire like a throbbing wound
- ★ Smoky black haze
- ★ Towering, black clouds of ash and smoke
- ★ Smouldering ash and rocks
- ★ Cauldron of spitting bubbles, hissing steam and belching fumes

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Rose up in a cone
- ★ Crater loomed ominously over the town
- ★ Ground trembled and shook
- ★ Rained from the sky
- ★ Flooded the sky
- ★ Followed by a deafening boom

SENTENCES

The air was thick with choking fumes.

The earth trembled and shook and sent everything crashing to the ground.

It was hard to breathe and hard to see in the smoky, black haze.

Huge black clouds blocked out the sun, and darkness fell.

Torrents of sizzling, smouldering ash and rocks rained from the sky.

As the volcano erupted, there was a deafening boom and the ground trembled and shook.

A fountain of fire, like a throbbing wound, flooded the sky.

Looming ominously over the village, the crater and its plume of vapour was a silent, menacing reminder of its awesome power.

SECTION 4 – DESERTS

WORDS

Nouns	Sand, dunes, horizon
	Heat, furnace, wind, storm
Adjectives	Rocky, flat, thorny, bare, stark, barren
	Burning, shimmering, savage, merciless, endless
Verbs	Burnt, baked, shimmered
	Blew, flung, whipped



4 *Landscapes: beaches, islands, volcanoes and deserts*

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Land of burning sands
- ★ Sea of sand
- ★ Desert was a furnace
- ★ Stark and barren
- ★ Rocky and spiked with thorny bushes
- ★ Endless, flat horizon
- ★ Burning, merciless desert of glare and death

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Stretched as far as the eye could see
- ★ Shimmered in the heat
- ★ Baked by day and chilled by night
- ★ Wind flung the sand into their throats and eyes
- ★ Whipped up mile-high walls of sand
- ★ Endless, flat horizon was suddenly broken by . . .

SENTENCES

The desert was a furnace. It was a land of burning sands.

Huge sand dunes had been blown away by the sand storm and dumped elsewhere.

The endless, flat horizon was suddenly broken by a group of tall rock pillars like giant mushrooms.

The desert spread out before him – a sea of sand, shimmering with heat.

It was a burning, merciless desert of glare and death.



5

Ground and paths

SECTION 1 – GROUND

WORDS

Nouns	Ground, earth, grass, leaves, twigs, moss, lichen, frost, ice, snow Dust, cracks Mud, bog, marsh, swamp
Adjectives	Cold, white, crisp, sparkling, shining Hard, frozen, solid Green, lush Dry, red, brown, dusty, baked, arid, scorched, parched, barren Wet, muddy, swampy, boggy, waterlogged, slippery, squelchy, slimy, gooey
Verbs	Sparkled, glittered, glinted, gleamed Burned, roasted, withered Split, cracked, crunched, groaned Trapped, held, swallowed Fell, slipped, scrambled, clawed, struggled, sunk

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Fairytale world
- ★ Crisp carpet of snow
- ★ Glittering ice
- ★ Glinting, white frost
- ★ Hard with black frost
- ★ Autumn's crisp leaves
- ★ Lush, green grass



5 *Landscapes: grounds and paths*

- ★ Dry, red ground
- ★ Enormous cracks in the scorched earth
- ★ Baked ground was as dry as cork underfoot
- ★ Withered, dead leaves and dry twigs
- ★ Like muddy soup
- ★ Squelching, slimy mud
- ★ Slippery moss and lichen
- ★ Wet, slippery leaves
- ★ Goopy slime

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Sunk into the lush, green grass
- ★ Cloaked in snow
- ★ Crunched beneath her feet
- ★ Sparkled with frost
- ★ Nothing grew on the baked earth
- ★ Roasted by the sun
- ★ Wind blew a cloud of dust along the road
- ★ Feet crunched on the withered, dead leaves
- ★ Fell back in a mud-slide
- ★ Swallowed her feet
- ★ Held her in its squelching, slimy grasp
- ★ Struggled to gain a foothold
- ★ Slipped and clawed her way through the goopy slime
- ★ Ice groaned and cracked
- ★ Split like a lightning bolt
- ★ Seeped through his boots

SENTENCES

The snow made a crisp carpet beneath their feet.

They had entered a fairytale world, where the ground and hills were cloaked in snow.

Above her, clouds like fluffy cotton balls drifted across the sky and below, autumn's crisp leaves crunched under her feet.

The land was barren. Nothing grew on the dry, red ground.

The months without rain had caused enormous cracks to appear in the scorched earth.

The ground was as dry as cork underfoot and her feet crunched on the withered, dead leaves and fallen twigs.

She slipped and clawed her way through the goopy slime.

The ground was like muddy soup and swallowed her feet in its squelching, slimy grasp.

She scrambled up the vertical bank, which was slimy with damp leaves and mud.

The ground was covered in frost and glinted dangerously.



The earth was hard with black frost that seeped through his sodden boots and spread ice into every limb.

Below his feet, the glittering ice cracked and groaned, until finally it split like a lightning bolt.

SECTION 2 – PATHS

WORDS

Nouns	Track, trail, path, footpath
Adjectives	Wooded, grassy, ancient, forgotten Narrow, wide, steep, winding Rough, rutted, pot-holed, bone-shaking, dusty, muddy, slimy
Verbs	Ran, led, followed, headed, veered Wound, twisted, turned, coiled Climbed, dipped, dropped, plummeted

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Wooded path
- ★ Ancient mule track
- ★ Narrow, winding coastal path
- ★ Dirt track
- ★ Steep, winding mountain trail
- ★ Forgotten path
- ★ Rough, pot-holed cattle trail
- ★ Bone-shaking trail
- ★ Rough path through heather and gorse

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Dipped and climbed across the hills
- ★ Coiled round the mountain
- ★ Climbed steeply up the side of the mountain
- ★ Disappeared into the menacing peaks
- ★ Plummeted into the woods
- ★ Ran parallel to the shore
- ★ Followed the twists and turns of the river
- ★ Led down to the stream
- ★ Led them through the forest
- ★ Veered to the left
- ★ Ran between a tunnel of high bushes
- ★ Hidden in the brambles



5 *Landscapes: grounds and paths*

- ★ Strangled by thorns and creepers
- ★ Holes like craters gouged in the surface

SENTENCES

A grassy path headed down to the left.

The dusty, rugged path wound steeply up the side of the mountain.

The narrow path followed the river and wound through the wood.

The ancient mule track twisted and turned and snaked its way steeply to the top.

The rough track dipped and climbed across the hills through the heather and gorse.

The path suddenly veered to the left and they had a fleeting view of the vivid, blue sea stretching as far as the eye could see.

They followed a rough track between the fields of golden corn, until they came to a stile.

Beyond the gate, a flight of narrow, rough steps led down to a stream.

He searched for a way forward and finally came across what seemed to be a forgotten path, hidden by thorns and creepers and leading deep into the forest.

The bone-shaking trail was covered in holes like craters, which were filled with mud and water.

They followed the narrow, winding coastal path until they came to a wooden fence. Suddenly, the land fell away in a steep slope and then plunged into the sea.



6

Streams, rivers, lakes and waterfalls

WORDS

Nouns

Forest, mountainside, hills, slopes, banks
Cliffs, rocks, pebbles
Depths, current, rapids, waterfall, fountain
Spray, mist, foam
Plants, weeds, rubbish, fumes, chemicals
Sunlight, moonlight, starlight

Adjectives

Deep, shallow, long, narrow, wide, broad
Clear, silver, crystal, pearly, white, glassy, blue
Silky, sparkling, glinting, glistening, glittering, gleaming, flickering
Calm, peaceful, tranquil, soothing
Dark, grey, brown, gloomy, inky, greasy, oily, murky
Swollen, stormy, bulging, restless, boiling, foaming, churning, frothing, swirling
Wild, raging, deadly, savage, thunderous, pounding, ominous, threatening, menacing

Verbs

Wound, flowed, twisted, turned, weaved, snaked
Glided, spilled, meandered, ambled, tumbled, toppled, splashed
Fell, dropped, danced, hopped
Whispered, murmured, bubbled, rippled, bubbled, trickled, gurgled
Blocked, choked, trapped, polluted
Rushed, sped, swept, gushed, burst, flooded, pounded, blasted, crashed, hurtled, plunged, cascaded, rampaged
Roared, thundered



6 *Landscapes: streams, rivers, lakes and waterfalls*

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Long and narrow
- ★ Deep, wide lake
- ★ As clear and smooth as glass
- ★ Calm and crystal clear
- ★ Peaceful blue waters
- ★ Like a long, snaking ribbon
- ★ Like lines of sparkling silver
- ★ Huge curtain of shimmering silver
- ★ Glimmering like a lazy, grey snake
- ★ Pearly white in the shadow of the moon
- ★ Like thousands of tiny diamonds on the water
- ★ Silky, watery stairs
- ★ Curtain of sparkling, dancing water
- ★ Misty spray
- ★ Leaping foam
- ★ Soft bubbling of a stream
- ★ Trickle of running water
- ★ Ripple of a stream tumbling down the hill
- ★ Music of invisible fountains
- ★ Dark, oily river
- ★ Gloomy and murky
- ★ Grey, restless water
- ★ Bulging blister of churning, grey water
- ★ Brown, frothing and polluted
- ★ Eerie, green, underwater forest
- ★ Wild current
- ★ Torrents of water
- ★ Huge clouds of wild, flying spray
- ★ White, swirling foam
- ★ Raging, foaming falls
- ★ Pounding roar
- ★ Deadly sound of roaring rapids

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Wound down the mountainside
- ★ Danced down the slopes
- ★ Flowed down the hill as dozens of little waterfalls
- ★ Rushed down the mountain like watery stairs
- ★ Twisted and turned through the forest
- ★ Meandered through the village



- ★ Toppled over moss-covered rocks
- ★ Gurgled over the pebbles
- ★ Burbled as it hopped and danced down the rocks
- ★ Whispered as it fell
- ★ Glistened with a million diamonds of light
- ★ Shimmered in the flickering starlight
- ★ Sparkled in the midday sun
- ★ Choked with weeds
- ★ Polluted by rubbish and chemicals
- ★ Dived into an eerie, green world
- ★ Strangled by a spidery web of weeds
- ★ Impossible to see anything in the murky depths
- ★ Swollen and flooding its banks
- ★ Churning, grey water
- ★ Rushed savagely
- ★ Plunged and cascaded down the mountain
- ★ Cascaded over the top of the falls
- ★ Rampaged down the rocks
- ★ Battled against the boulders that barred its way
- ★ Hurtled into the misty void below
- ★ Blasted into a white, swirling foam
- ★ Sent huge clouds of spray hundreds of feet into the air
- ★ Roared as it hurtled over the edge
- ★ Blanketed everything with its pounding roar
- ★ Thundered endlessly over the lip of the rock
- ★ Ate mile upon mile of ground
- ★ Destroyed everything in its path

SENTENCES

The lake was a huge curtain of shimmering silver.

The cold, clear water of the stream wound down the mountainside.

He could hear the soft bubbling of a stream in the distance.

The water in the lake was calm and crystal clear and sparkled with a million diamonds of light in the midday sun.

Shimmering in the flickering starlight, the river was a long, snaking, silver ribbon.

The mountain streams made winding lines of sparkling silver as they danced down the slopes.

There was a trickle of running water as the river flowed down the hill as dozens of little waterfalls.

From every hill came the gurgling of water – the music of invisible fountains as the river tumbled down the slopes.

The waterfall was a silky, watery stairs that whispered as it fell.



6 *Landscapes: streams, rivers, lakes and waterfalls*

He was surrounded by a curtain of dancing water, which sent a spray like thousands of tiny diamonds dropping from the sky.

Clear and as smooth as glass, the stream twisted and turned through the forest.

The river was swollen and flooding its banks.

The grey, churning water of the lake blended with the stormy sky.

From below came the deadly sound of roaring rapids.

The lake was long and narrow and wound between the towering, ghostly mountains.

The river was brown and frothing, polluted by rubbish and chemicals.

It was impossible to see anything in the murky depths of the oily river.

The wild current swept past and flung the water into the air as it tumbled over the edge.

A torrent of water thundered endlessly over the lip of the rock and filled the river with its hammering roar.

The water was turned into wild, flying foam as it rampaged down the rocks.

Roaring fiercely, the river hurtled over the edge into the swirling mist below.

She had dived into an eerie world: an underwater forest of murky, green water, strangled by a spidery web of weeds.

Torrents of water plunged over the top of the cliffs into the once calm waterhole, turning into a raging, foaming falls and sending huge clouds of spray hundreds of feet into the air.



7

Sea and waves

WORDS

Nouns	Ocean, sea, surface, depths, coast
	Island, shore, bay, cove, harbour, beach, sand, rocks, rock-pool, pebbles, seaweed
	Waves, breakers, rollers, swell, crests, surf, foam, spray, mist Sunlight, breeze, wind
Adjectives	Blue, turquoise, green, emerald, white, silver, clear, crystal, vivid
	Calm, smooth
	Shimmering, sparkling, glittering
	Grey, black, dark, inky, murky
	Cold, icy, chilly, stormy, restless, churning, foaming, boiling
	Huge, vast, enormous, giant, massive
Verbs	Brutal, fierce, merciless
	Roaring, deafening, thunderous
	Rippled, creased, wrinkled
	Rolled, trickled, flicked, lapped, curled, coiled, crept, slid, danced
	Slapped, sucked, swished, sloshed, splashed
	Foamed, boiled, swirled, churned, heaved
	Tugged, sucked, dragged, trapped
	Grew, rose, curled, arched, bent, tumbled, tossed, lurched
	Marched, raced, galloped, soared, surged
	Struck, tossed, beat, battered, pounded, hammered, crashed, smashed, pummelled
	Groaned, rumbled, growled, roared, boomed, thundered



7 *Landscapes: sea and waves*

PHRASES – NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

- ★ Turquoise ocean
- ★ Emerald surface
- ★ Vivid blue water
- ★ Shimmering blue waves
- ★ Crystal clear water
- ★ Like a rare jewel
- ★ As smooth as silk
- ★ Circles of soft, white foam
- ★ Picture postcard of paradise
- ★ Slap and suck of water on sand
- ★ Like the swish of a curtain
- ★ Splash and slosh of the waves
- ★ Dark, cold water
- ★ Grey, churning surface of the waves
- ★ Black world of the deep, restless ocean
- ★ Massive waves
- ★ Booming breakers
- ★ Enormous, curling rollers
- ★ Crest was a huge arch
- ★ Like galloping foam horses
- ★ Massive crest of churning foam
- ★ Icy mist
- ★ Boiling, hissing foam
- ★ Foaming, yellow sand
- ★ Swirling, white spray
- ★ Spray like a bleeding mist in the setting sun
- ★ Watery grave
- ★ Warning groan and rumble of the huge waves

PHRASES – VERBS

- ★ Caught sight of the sea far below
- ★ Sparkled like a rare jewel
- ★ Silver streaks of light danced across the water
- ★ Blazed with all the colours of the rainbow
- ★ Rippled softly in the breeze
- ★ Wrinkled the surface of the water
- ★ Rolled onto the beach
- ★ Slid onto the sand
- ★ Coiled around the rocks
- ★ Flicked lazily at the rocks



- ★ Rippled onto the sand
- ★ Lapped against the side of the boat
- ★ Crept into the rock pools
- ★ Trapped by the black world of the vast ocean
- ★ Tugged at him and sucked him into its swirling surface
- ★ Dragged into its inky depths
- ★ Soared high in the air
- ★ Bent first one way and then the other
- ★ Curved towards the beach
- ★ Rose in a huge arch above the boat
- ★ Roared as they raced to the beach
- ★ Crashed against each other
- ★ Marched towards the island
- ★ Surged into the harbour
- ★ Flung the boats from side to side
- ★ Wrenched the boats from their anchors
- ★ Threatened to bury it in a watery grave
- ★ Pounded the shore mercilessly
- ★ Crashed against the rocks
- ★ Pummelled and tossed by the brutal power of the waves
- ★ Churned the beach into foaming, yellow sand
- ★ Deafening roar as the wave thundered into sight
- ★ Boom of the waves echoed through the air

SENTENCES

The sea around the island was a shimmering blue.

The water in the bay was a vivid, pure green.

She looked down through the crystal clear water to the powdery, white sands below.

The emerald surface of the sea glittered with a million diamonds of sunlight.

The waves slid, like the swish of a curtain, onto the powdery white sand.

The waves curled and lapped against the side of the boat.

The blue sea sparkled like a rare jewel and rippled softly in the breeze.

The crystal waves creased the surface of the sea and rolled gently into the cove.

Lapping gently onto the shore, the waves sent circles of water dancing around the rocks.

Crystal clear and as smooth as silk, the turquoise ocean was a picture postcard of paradise.

It was quiet except for the soothing, rhythmic splash and slosh of the waves creeping into the rock pools.

He caught sight of the dark, cold water of the sea far below.

She was surrounded by a black blanket of swirling sea and stormy sky.

The booming breakers battered the shore.



7 *Landscapes: sea and waves*

Ahead and below them it was dark. They were trapped by the black world of the deep, restless sea.

The sea was dark, heaving and choked with seaweed.

The tumbling breakers crashed onto the rocks and left an icy mist as they were dragged back to sea.

A mass of churning foam rose in an arch high above the boat and threatened to bury it in a watery grave.

The hissing foam pounded the rocks and covered them in an icy mist.

As it thundered into sight, the roar of the wave was deafening.

The waves roared in from the sea, surged into the harbour, flung the boats from side to side and wrenched them from their anchors.

He was caught in the heaving, murky water, which tugged at him, sucked him into its swirling surface and dragged him into its inky depths.

The waves rose higher and higher; thundered nearer and nearer; broke into a roar of boiling foam and raced to the shore like galloping foam horses.

The spray from the waves looked like a bleeding mist in the red light of the setting sun – their thunderous roar like a wounded animal.

Like two giants locked in combat, the waves crashed against each other, soaring high in the air, bending first one way and then the other.