

Year 4 Reading

Steppingstone activity

Date: Thursday 2nd July 2020

LO: To analyse the author's choice of language

Task:

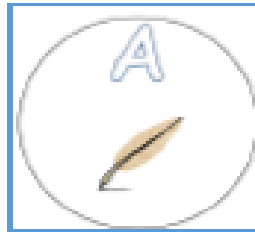
Share chapter 24 of 'Demon Dentist' with an older sibling or adult (The text is below the task).

David Walliams uses certain techniques to build up suspense in this chapter:

- *Ellipsis (...)*
- *Repetition*
- *Questions*
- *Short snappy sentences*

Your task is to find examples of these in the text.

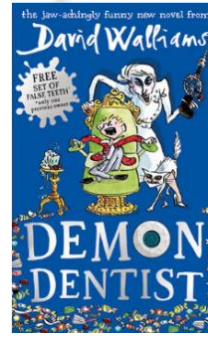
<u>Technique:</u>	<u>Example:</u> (Find at least 2 sentences for each one)
Ellipsis (...)	
Repetition	
Questions	
Short, snappy sentences	



Year 4 Reading
Main activity

Date: Thursday 2nd July 2020

LO: To analyse the author's choice of language



Task:

Read chapter 24 of 'Demon Dentist' (The text is below the task).

David Walliams uses certain techniques to build up suspense in this chapter:

- *Ellipsis (...)*
- *Repetition*
- *Questions*
- *Short snappy sentences*
- *Slow, detailed description to build a picture of how creepy it is*

Your task is to find examples of these in the text.

Technique:	Example: (Find at least 2 sentences for each one)
Ellipsis (...)	
Repetition	
Questions	
Short, snappy sentences	
Slow, detailed description	e.g. Shadows began to dance on the walls.

Demon Dentist by David Walliams chapter 24

The Darkest Hour

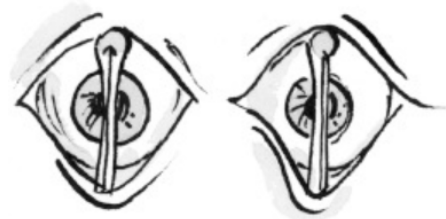
The plan was under way...

It was still early, but Alfie was in his pyjamas and ready for bed. He placed Raj's tooth under his pillow. Tonight he didn't need any prompting from Dad that it was his bedtime. As soon as darkness fell, Alfie went straight to his room. No one knew what time this someone or something would strike and snatch the tooth. It just had to be dark. And it was dark already. Real, winter dark.



There was now one big problem with Alfie's plan though. How on earth was he going to stay awake all night? Winnie had scoffed every last coffee Revel. There were plenty of other methods for staying awake, but none of them seemed foolproof:

- Put matchsticks between your eyelids to keep them open.



- Drink gallons of water and then don't go for a pee before bed.



- Slap yourself hard in the face every minute.



- Leave the window wide open. It will become so cold you will shiver and icicles will grow from your nose.



- Picture your least favourite teacher, and then try and think of ten things you like about them. It's impossible!



- Give yourself the mother of all Chinese burns. The pain will keep you awake.



- Get out of bed every five minutes and do a rhythmic gymnastics routine. Ball or ribbon will do.



- Lie in bed in an awfully uncomfortable position, such as this...



Alfie climbed into bed, and blew out the flame on the candle he was holding. As he lay there, he realised he didn't need any of those tricks to stop him from falling asleep. He had never felt so wide awake in his entire life. At first the night seemed still and quiet. But soon every little sound, even the tiniest creak or rustle, filled his mind with fear...

IT COULD BE THEM.

IT COULD BE THEM.

IT COULD BE THEM.

Shadows began to dance on the walls. Were these nothing more than the silhouettes of trees illuminated by the headlights of passing cars? Or perhaps they were something more sinister?

It could be them.

IT COULD BE THEM.

IT COULD BE THEM.

IT.

COULD.

BE.

THEM.

Alfie kept sliding his hand under the pillow to check the tooth was still there. It was.

Who or what was going to come into his room? And how would they try and snatch the tooth? Lying there in the dark, his imagination started to run wild. Soon it was hard for Alfie to distinguish between what was real and what was in his mind. Was he lying in bed awake? Or was he actually asleep and simply dreaming he was awake?

Hours passed. Or was it minutes? It was impossible to tell. Now outside Alfie's window there wasn't a sound. Not a bird singing. Not a plane in the sky. Not even a distant car. This truly was the darkest hour.

He slid his hand under his pillow once more. The tooth was still exactly where he had left it.

Just then Alfie heard something rustling in the bushes outside. It could be a bird or a squirrel or even a rat. But no, the sound was too loud; this was something bigger.

There was silence for a moment.

Then as quick as lightning a shadow loomed outside the window, blocking out the yellow glow from the streetlamps entirely. It was horrifying. Suddenly facing the terror alone seemed like a catastrophic mistake. Alfie was frightened. Dead frightened.



Next he heard the window slide open. Then the worn and bedraggled curtains were drawn aside, as the figure climbed into his room. Alfie wanted to cry out, but his mouth was dry with fear and he couldn't make a sound. Soon the shape was plodding slowly towards him. Alfie's plan was to pretend to be sleeping, let the tooth be stolen, and sneak a look at the perpetrator as they left. However, this plan was unravelling, and fast. Alfie was in such a panic now there was no way he could keep still. His whole body was trembling in terror.

It was fight or flight.

With the figure closing in on him, there was nowhere to run. To fight was the only option. Alfie leaped out of bed. He charged towards the figure, making wild circles in the air with his fists as he cried...

“AAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!”