Unit 1 Let’s look at themes in stories

Story settings

1. Write three ideas to describe each setting below. Think of something you can see, hear and smell to help you.

a. At the seaside

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

b. In a castle

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

c. In a palace

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

2. Choose your own setting and write three things to describe it.

Setting: ____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Finding meaning in a text

Two men walked into the rainforest. Moments before, the forest had been alive with the sounds of squawking birds and howling monkeys. Now all was quiet as the creatures watched the two men and wondered why they had come.

The larger man stopped and pointed to a great Kapok tree. Then he left. The smaller man took the axe he carried and struck the trunk of the tree.

By Lynne Cherry

1. How many men walked into the forest?

2. What sounds could have been heard in the forest before the men arrived?

3. Why do you think the animals all went quiet?

4. How do you think the animals feel about what is going on?

5. Write down two ideas about what you think might happen next.
Character portraits

1 Collect your ideas for a character portrait by writing descriptions around the picture.

Name __________________

Age ______

Personality

____________________

____________________

____________________

____________________

Likes _________________

Dislikes _______________

____________________

____________________

2 Describe what they look like.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3 Write what others say about them.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Exploring dialogue

1. Put speech marks into these sentences to show where the direct speech is.
   a. Hello stranger, where have you been all day said Mum.
   b. Has anyone forgotten their lunch asked the teacher.

2. Look for these words for **said** in the word search:

   asked  told  answered  pleaded  begged  shouted  bellowed  whispered  mumbled  replied  barked  complained  giggled  cried  whined  grumbled  spoke  called  hissed  gasped  sang  joked  huffed  teased
Using adjectives

1. Look at these words, circle all the adjectives:

   table  purple  mountain  skiing  leather
   banana  spotted  drink  enormous  dinner
   tortoise  speedy  delicious  shark  slippery

2. Re-write these sentences by adding adjectives to describe the nouns.

   a. The children ate cakes.
      ________________________________
      ________________________________

   b. The family sat together to watch the football final on television.
      ________________________________
      ________________________________

3. Write as many adjectives as you can to describe the following:

   a. A book you have enjoyed.
      ________________________________

   b. Your favourite food.
      ________________________________

   c. The weather today.
      ________________________________
**Powerful verbs**

Powerful verbs give more detail about an action.

1. Look at the powerful verbs in the cloud below. Write each verb in the correct column of the table.

   whispered  wandered  noticed  glimpsed  plodded  
   stared  hiked  argued  examined  strolled  laughed  
   pranced  replied  cackled  recognised  spotted  
   bounced  gazed  shouted  explained  paced

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2. Now add one word of your own to each column.
Improving descriptions

1. Look at the picture. Write a sentence describing:
   a. Something you can see.
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
   b. The weather.
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
   c. What you can hear.
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________

2. Now re-write your sentences choosing the best words you can to explain and describe.
   a. __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________