

Rex picked up the shell, rubbing the wet sand off on his jacket and peering at its ridges and whorls. “Yeah, looks good,” he murmured before pocketing it. He glanced over at Kamal, who was gaping at something in the rockpool.

“You okay?” called Rex, clambering over the slick rocks to reach him. Kamal didn’t look up. He didn’t even answer. He was gazing at something in the water. Rex crouched down to look closer but he could only see the smooth pebbles and undulating seaweed. Rex peered questioningly at Kamal, who was normally a ball of nervous energy. But now, he was statue-like.

“C’mon, there’s nothing in here. Let’s get off home.” Rex turned his back and began making his way across the slippery moss growing on the rocks, leaving Kamal to his daydream.

But it wasn’t a daydream. Kamal had spied something in that place. Something unusual. Something spectacular. Something that could change his life forever.

Jutting up just above the water’s surface, impressed into the slate-coloured rock, was the shape of a wing, the intricate bone structures crisscrossing like a detailed sketch. And below that, under the surface, the rest of the impression completed the fossil. Kamal knew his dinosaurs; he knew that this was evidence of one of the rarest, most sought-after dinosaurs the natural world had spent years searching for in order to finally prove its existence. And now, here he was – Kamal, the kid from the ramshackle house down the road – looking directly at it. He felt like he’d struck gold.

Match the part of the beach with an activity suggested in the text.

whorls

moving up and down

impressed

made a mark on an object

undulating

having lots of small parts and details

intricate

spiral patterns

Where is the extract set?

How do you know?

Write a summary of the extract in 20 words or less.

**He felt like he'd struck gold.**

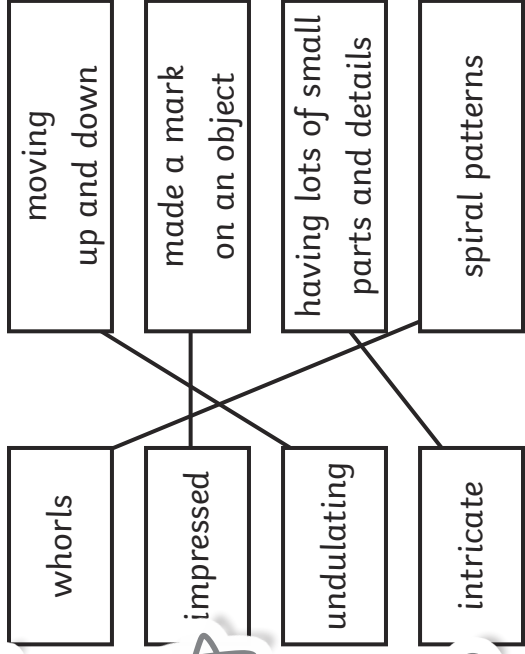
What do you think this means?

Find three words that have a similar meaning to the verb 'look'.

**And now, here he was – Kamal, the kid from the little house down the road – looking directly at it.**

Why do you think the author added the extra information between the dashes?

Match the part of the beach with an activity suggested in the text.



Where is the extract set?  
How do you know?

**It is set on a beach. The evidence for this includes:**

- **The boys are at a rockpool.**
- **Rex finds a shell and rubs the sand off it.**
- **There is water and seaweed.**
- **There are rocks that are wet and mossy.**

Write a summary of the extract in 20 words or less.

**Two boys are looking in rockpools. One finds a shell and the other finds a fossil of a rare dinosaur.**

**He felt like he'd struck gold.**

What do you think this means?

**Answers which suggest Kamal knows the find is important, for example:**

- **It means that Kamal feels like what he's found could make him rich.**
- **It means that he knows there's a value to what he's found.**
- **Kamal knows the find is important because scientists have been searching for evidence.**

Find three words that have a similar meaning to the verb 'look'.

**Any three from:**

- **peering**
- **glanced**
- **gaping**
- **peered**
- **spied**

**And now, here he was – Kamal, the kid from the little house down the road – looking directly at it.**

Why do you think the author added the extra information between the dashes?

**The author added the extra information to compare the importance of the find to Kamal and his life. Using the words 'kid' and 'little' helps the reader to see that Kamal is just an ordinary child who has found something extraordinary.**

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## Norfolk's Little Gems

Looking for a rural hideout where you can rest, relax and rejuvenate? Norfolk has it all! From pretty villages and lush forests to rugged coastlines and bustling market towns, there's something for everyone.

### Old Hunstanton Beach

In north Norfolk, head for the decommissioned lighthouse in Old Hunstanton to find the beach path. When you park at the top of the cliff here, you immediately know you're in for a treat. Look out to The Wash and marvel as the sun bounces off the water like a reflection off a mirror. Wind your way down the steep path to the beach below, where you'll find miles of golden sand. If the tide is in, swim in the sea for some bracing exercise. If the tide is out, paddle in the pools left behind and play a game of cricket on the firm, wet sand.

What could be better than seeing your family happy? Children will love racing around in the dunes, where the marram grass dances - it's the perfect place for a game of hide and seek! Or they'll love to bury their feet in the warm, fine sand while you relax and enjoy getting back to nature.

Make sure you get a good look at the extraordinary cliffs while you're on the beach. The beautiful stripes within the cliffs are made up of different-coloured rock types. You can't help but marvel at nature when faced with this unique sight. How can you not love this place?

Of course, the cliffs serve to shelter visitors too, so you can enjoy your picnic without having to eat sandy sandwiches! If you visit in the summer, you'll spot the little ice cream truck pootling down the beach, offering delicious lollies and ice-cold drinks to refresh you in the Norfolk heat.

Something most distinctive about this beach is that despite Norfolk being in the east of the country, Old Hunstanton actually faces north-west, which means that the sunsets are breathtaking. Plan your beach visit to coincide with this memorable sight. What are you waiting for?

Be prepared to be amazed and fall in love with Old Hunstanton.

Match the part of the beach with an activity suggested in the text.

sea

look out to the sea

dunes

play cricket

cliffs

bracing exercise

car park

marvel at nature

wet sand

play hide and seek

You want to send a message to your friend about Old Hunstanton Beach, but you only have 25 words. What could you write?

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Who do you think this text is aimed at? Why?

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What is the purpose of this text? Do you think the purpose has been achieved?

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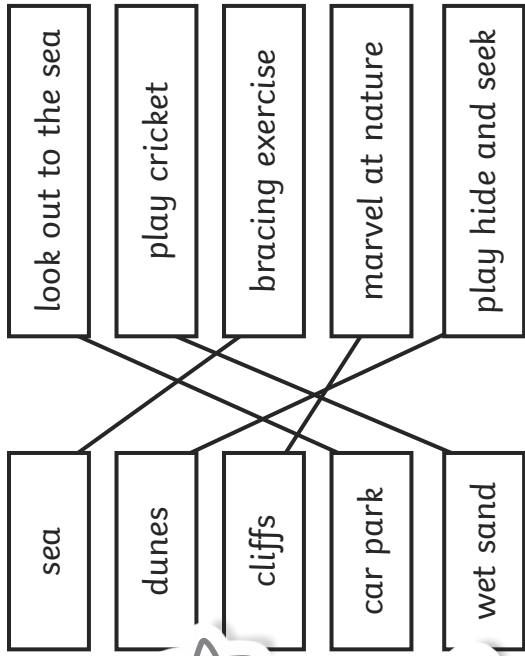
Circle the most appropriate meaning of each word.

marvel	
be shocked by	be amazed at
bracing	
warm and bubbly	hard and long
	cold and refreshing
pootling	
racing	swimming
	moving slowly

Find examples of each of these techniques within the text:

simile	
alliteration	
rhetorical question	
personification	

Match the part of the beach with an activity suggested in the text.



You want to send a message to your friend about Old Hunstanton Beach, but you only have 25 words. What could you write?

Answers will vary. For example:

**Old Hunstanton beach has cliffs, dunes and great sunsets. You can swim, play cricket and get an ice cream from the truck on the beach.**

Who do you think this text is aimed at? Why?

**This text is aimed at adults as it talks about them relaxing while their children play on the beach.**

What is the purpose of this text? Do you think the purpose has been achieved?

**The purpose of the text is to persuade people to visit Old Hunstanton Beach. The purpose has been achieved because the writer uses lots of adjectives to enhance the description of the area (e.g. golden sand, extraordinary cliffs, beautiful stripes, unique sight). The writer also uses imperative verbs (e.g. look out, wind your way, swim in the sea) which sound like the writer is commanding the reader to go.**

Circle the most appropriate meaning of each word.

marvel	
be shocked by	be amazed at
bracing	
warm and bubbly	hard and long
	cold and refreshing
pootling	
racing	swimming
	moving slowly

Find examples of each of these techniques within the text:

simile	the sun bounces off the water like a reflection off a mirror
alliteration	rest, relax and rejuvenate
rhetorical question	What could be better than seeing your family happy? How can you not love this place?
personification	What are you waiting for? the marram grass dances

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Orla stood in the playground, waiting. It was weird: she knew she was always early, but time was getting on and nobody else had arrived yet. At ten to nine, she listened for the bell. It didn't sound. She decided to make her way into school, concluding that everyone else had been delayed; maybe their bus had broken down or maybe they were stuck in a traffic jam. Perhaps they had overslept.

She pushed open the heavy door, its hinges creaking ominously as she glanced behind her to check the empty playground again. Once inside, the door slammed behind her and she was plunged into darkness. Bewildered, her eyes darted around her. What was going on? The corridor was always a bit dark, but today the lights weren't on yet and she couldn't even spot a chink of light from the classrooms.

She held a hand out in front of her and felt for the wall. Using it as a guide, she took precise steps in the gloom, taking care not to trip over the PE kits and coats that had tumbled from their pegs. She reached the corner and her fingers grazed the light switch. Click. Click. Click. Nothing happened.

What was that? A breathy sound, like the echo of a whisper, was coming from the hall entrance. She turned away in the darkness to head for the exit, her heart beating faster now. In her panic she became disorientated, tripping over something large and hard and SPLAT! She landed on the floor. She got to her feet and felt again for the wall. It wasn't where she thought it would be so she turned and waved her hands around, searching frantically for something – anything – to hold on to. Nothing.

She could hear the whispering noise again now, only it was louder than before and seemed to be coming from behind her. She couldn't run; she didn't know what was in front of her. Crouching down, Orla placed her clammy hands onto the cold tiles and began to crawl, desperately searching for a clue to where she was. The sound followed her and there was a new noise too: a murmuring. It seemed to be beckoning her, calling her like a beast enticing its prey. She was the quarry in this hunt.

Number the events in the order they happen in the text.

Orla found the light switch.

She crawled along the floor.

Orla saw the playground was empty.

There was a murmuring noise.

The door slammed behind her.

How does Orla feel in the darkness of the corridor? Give evidence to prove your answer.

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What reasons did Orla suggest for there being nobody in the school playground?

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Look at the first and last paragraphs. Give details of how she is feeling at both stages and how her feelings have changed.

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Find an example of a simile from the text.

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Find an example of onomatopoeia from the text.

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Find another word from the text that means the same as each word.

darkness	
prey	
desperately	
bewildered	

Number the events in the order they happen in the text.

Orla found the light switch.	3
She crawled along the floor.	4
Orla saw the playground was empty.	1
There was a murmuring noise.	5
The door slammed behind her.	2

How does Orla feel in the darkness of the corridor? Give evidence to prove your answer.

**She feels scared. We know she is scared because we are given clues such as her eyes darting around, her heart beating faster, her hand being clammy and the fact that she becomes disorientated. It also says she was 'searching frantically' so we know she is panicking.**

What reasons did Orla suggest for there being nobody in the school playground?

- **their bus might have broken down**
- **they might have been stuck in a traffic jam**
- **they might have overslept**

Look at the first and last paragraphs. Give details of how she is feeling at both stages and how her feelings have changed.

**In the first paragraph, Orla knows something is not quite right but at this point she is just confused. She doesn't think anything bad has happened because she goes into school as normal. She also thinks that there could be reasons for nobody being at school yet, so she's not worried.**

Find an example of a simile from the text.

**A breathy sound, like the echo of a whisper...**

Find an example of onomatopoeia from the text.

- **Click. Click. Click.**
- **SPLAT!**

Find another word from the text that means the same as each word.

darkness	<b>gloom</b>
prey	<b>quarry</b>
desperately	<b>frantically</b>
bewildered	<b>disorientated</b>

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## How Caterpillars Turn into Butterflies

Butterflies are fascinating creatures. They are a common sight in the summer, signalling warmer weather and blue skies. But the life cycle of a butterfly is a complex process which involves four steps.

### Step 1: Egg

An adult female butterfly lays eggs on plants. These plants become food for the caterpillars once they have hatched. This usually occurs between around May and September, depending on the species of butterfly. The eggs vary in size according to the species but can be from 1 - 3mm in diameter.

### Step 2: Caterpillar

Once an egg hatches, a tiny caterpillar emerges. This is the larva. It will usually eat the actual egg, which provides it with important nutrients, then start on the host plant, consuming as much as possible. Nearly all caterpillars eat leaves but some also eat stems, roots, fruits, flowers or seed pods. They have huge appetites. As the caterpillar grows, it becomes too large for its skin, so the skin splits open and is discarded. A new larger skin has grown underneath. This happens four or five times during the larva stage. Caterpillars, when fully grown, can be as much as 100 times their original size.

### Step 3: Chrysalis

Once the caterpillar has grown sufficiently, it sheds its skin for a final time and becomes a pupa. The word 'pupa' can be used for the transformation stage of any insect. The specific name used for the pupal stage of a caterpillar is 'chrysalis'. This is an important time for the chrysalis. The caterpillar releases digestive juices which break down the body. Some parts are moved around and other cells grow to become the legs, wings and antennae of the butterfly. This process is called metamorphosis.

### Step 4 Butterfly

Finally, the metamorphosis is complete and the chrysalis splits open. The butterfly emerges with damp, crumpled wings and cannot fly yet. It spreads its wings out and pumps fluid into them to stretch them to full size. Once the wings are stretched and dry, the butterfly is able to fly. Its energies are focused on two tasks: eating and mating. The female will fly around and look for a place to lay her eggs. Most adults live only two weeks, although some species hibernate and so may live for several months.

Read the statements and decide whether they are true or false.

	True	False
A fully grown caterpillar can be 1000 times their original size.		
Some butterflies live for a few months.		
The caterpillar flies around, looking for a place to lay her eggs.		
The butterfly forms an encasement called a chrysalis.		

Tick the type of text this is.

<input type="checkbox"/>	non-chronological report
<input type="checkbox"/>	instructions
<input type="checkbox"/>	explanation
<input type="checkbox"/>	fiction

Explain your choice.

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Why can't the butterfly fly as soon as it emerges from the chrysalis?

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Rohit says, "I think this text would be better with a diagram."

Use the information from the text to draw a suitable diagram to show the process it describes.

Write a summary of less than ten words for each stage:

Egg

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Caterpillar

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Pupa

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Butterfly

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Match the word with its meaning.

consuming	the process of changing from a caterpillar to a butterfly
discarded	comes out into view
emerges	eating or drinking
metamorphosis	happens
occurs	got rid of as it is no longer needed

Read the statements and decide whether they are true or false.

	True	False
A fully grown caterpillar can be 1000 times their original size.		✓
Some butterflies live for a few months.	✓	
The caterpillar flies around, looking for a place to lay her eggs.		✓
The butterfly forms an encasement called a chrysalis.		✓

Tick the type of text this is.

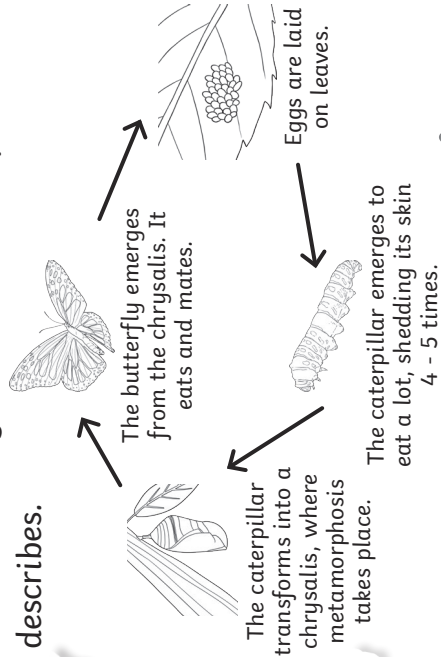
non-chronological report	
instructions	
explanation	✓
fiction	

Explain your choice.

The text title is 'How Caterpillars Turn into Butterflies', so we know it is going to tell us how something happens. The text explains the four different stages and is split into four sections to give details about each stage.

Rohit says, "I think this text would be better with a diagram."

Use the information from the text to draw a suitable diagram to show the process it describes.



Why can't the butterfly fly as soon as it emerges from the chrysalis?

because its wings are damp and crumpled

Match the word with its meaning.

consuming	the process of changing from a caterpillar to a butterfly
discarded	comes out into view
emerges	eating or drinking
metamorphosis	happens
occurs	got rid of as it is no longer needed

Write a summary of less than ten words for each stage:

- Egg **The adult female butterfly lays eggs on a plant.**
- Caterpillar **The caterpillar eats and grows a lot, splitting its skin.**
- Pupa **A chrysalis forms and the pupa undergoes metamorphosis.**
- Butterfly **The butterfly emerges and focuses on eating and mating.**

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Talea pressed the internal communication system button on the wall to check that her colleague, Benny, was ready for his spacewalk. It was a strange time at the space station; the other team of astronauts had left last week and she and Benny were the only two out here. She loved it though. They got on well and always had a laugh, so she never felt lonely being so many thousands of miles from her family. Even last night was okay; Benny had stayed in the airlock overnight in order for his body to prepare for the day but they were still able to communicate.

“Got everything you need, Benny?” asked Talea, bringing up the schedule on her screen.

“Yep,” replied Benny, his voice distorted from the helmet.

“All set here,” came a voice from Earth. The team from ground control were ready to give advice and provide support on the work to be done.

Talea turned on the camera screens and watched as it flickered into life. She heard the distant creak of the ratchet handle and then Benny emerged from the airlock to the universe outside. The tether floated behind him, anchoring him to the space station.

What was that? She was sure she saw something moving behind Benny, then disappearing from view. She looked closer. There was nothing there, so she reasoned it must just have been the thick white wisps of cloud covering parts of Earth below.

She focused on Benny and saw him move across the top of the module to find the footholds on the surface. She was always fascinated by spacewalks – they were so exciting. Being out there, alone, in the darkness of space was quite special. She felt very privileged to be able to do this job. She’d once considered a job as a teacher, but she knew in her heart of hearts it wouldn’t satisfy her wish for adventure.

Benny’s helmet camera showed his huge hands working on the experiment he was setting up. His tools were all tethered to him and she watched as he looked for the right attachment to use. Ground control was talking to him about the procedure and she could hear them discussing a move to the other side.

“All okay Benny?” she asked.

“Yeah, fine. It’s not going to take too long then I’ll get on with the repairs. I’ll be ready for my bed to...” Suddenly, the screen showing the images from Benny’s camera went blank and she heard a dull thud.

“Benny.....come in Benny....” She waited for an answer but none came. “Space station to ground control, I’ve lost communication with Benny!”

Silence.

“Come in, ground control! Benny’s not answering and I’ve lost his camera transmission! Do you have it?”

She waited for an answer – anything – but there was only the quiet hiss of the atmosphere. Her mind raced with her training, trying to think what she could do next. She couldn’t go after him – she was the only other one aboard – but she couldn’t do nothing. She tried to get an image from the other camera on the east platform where Benny was working, but all she could see was the Earth, its beauty still breathtaking. There was no sign of Benny, the tether or the equipment for the experiment. Everything was still and silent. Usually, she loved the silence but this wasn’t right. Even the slight crackle of the communication system was gone. She was totally alone.

Then, she heard a distant creak; it was hardly discernible, but she’d definitely not imagined it. She knew exactly what it was. Someone – or something – was unscrewing the airlock.

Circle the word that is closest in meaning to the word discernible.

acceptable

comfortable

available

detectable

Why did Benny stay in the airlock before the spacewalk?

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What clues are there in the text that show Talea likes her job? Find two.

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What clue does the author give the reader that something might not be right?

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Number the events in the order they happen.

Talea's screen went blank.

Benny found the footholds.

Ground control talked to Benny about the procedure.

Benny left the airlock.

The other astronauts left the space station.

**Someone – or something – was unscrewing the airlock.**

What is the purpose of adding – or something – in this sentence?

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Circle the word that is closest in meaning to the word discernible.

acceptable

comfortable

available

detectable

Why did Benny stay in the airlock before the spacewalk?

**so his body could prepare for the spacewalk**

What clues are there in the text that show Talea likes her job? Find two.

Any of the following:

- It says she loved being on the space station.
- It says she never felt lonely despite being miles away from her family.
- She is fascinated by spacewalks.
- She finds spacewalks exciting.
- It says that she found being in the darkness of space special.
- It says she felt privileged to do the job.
- It says she loves adventure.

What clue does the author give the reader that something might not be right?

**Talea thinks she can see something behind Benny but she reasons that it must just be the clouds in the distance covering parts of Earth.**

Number the events in the order they happen.

Talea's screen went blank.	5
Benny found the footholds.	3
Ground control talked to Benny about the procedure.	4
Benny left the airlock.	2
The other astronauts left the space station.	1

**Someone – or something – was unscrewing the airlock.**

What is the purpose of adding – or something – in this sentence?

**It makes the reader think that something is wrong because it suggests that it is not Benny unscrewing the airlock. It makes the reader wonder what could be out there.**

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## Frogs in the UK

Frogs are a common sight in the UK, especially near bodies of water such as ponds and lakes. They've been associated with fairy tales for centuries and are fascinating and well-loved by many people. But what are frogs?

### What is a frog?

A frog is a tailless, short-bodied amphibian. There are more than 5000 species of frog in the world and this number is rising as scientists continue to find more. Frogs can be found on every continent apart from Antarctica. Frogs are most prevalent in South America, where hundreds of species can be found.

### Appearance

Frogs found in the UK have smooth, moist skin and long legs, which help them to hop. They have protruding eyes and webbed hind feet. The markings on their skin help to camouflage from predators.

There are two frog species in the UK: the common frog and the pool frog.

### Common Frog

The common frog is an olive-green or brown colour, with dark markings on the back and lighter ridges. It has a dark patch or 'mask' behind the eyes and dark bands of colour on the hind legs. It grows to around 9cm in length.

### Pool Frog

The pool frog is brown or green with darker brown or black blotches. It usually has a lighter stripe running down the back. A ridge runs from each eye down the back. The pool frog is a similar size to the common frog. The male has a pair of vocal sacs which can be inflated and used to create a loud mating call. The pool frog was declared extinct in England in the mid-1990s but has since been reintroduced to sites in Norfolk.

### Habitat

Frogs in the UK can be found in close proximity to fresh water in habitats that stay damp during the summer months, such as gardens with ponds. Being amphibians, frogs spend time both in water and on land. Typically, they spend their juvenile life in the water after hatching, then spend the majority of their adult life on land, returning to the water to breed.

Match the vocabulary to its meaning.

protruding

openly announced

predators

existing commonly

declared

animals that prey on others

juvenile

sticking out

prevalent

young

Summarise the main points in this extract in 25 words or less.

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What type of text is this?  
How do you know?

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On which continent will you not find frogs?

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Use the information to label the frogs.




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This is an extract of the whole text. Write down two more titles of paragraphs that you might expect to see in this text.

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Match the vocabulary to its meaning.

protruding

predators

declared

juvenile

prevalent

openly announced

existing commonly

animals that prey on others

sticking out

young

What type of text is this?

How do you know?

**This is a non-chronological report. It gives information about a subject and it is not in time order. It is written in the present tense and is formal. It is organised into paragraphs to help the reader find the information they need.**

Summarise the main points in this extract in 25 words or less.

**Frogs are amphibians, living in water and on land. There are two types of frogs in the UK. They are found near freshwater habitats.**

This is an extract of the whole text. Write down two more titles of paragraphs that you might expect to see in this text.

**Any appropriate titles, for example:**

- Diet
- Behaviour
- Life Cycle
- Conservation

On which continent will you not find frogs?

**Antarctica**

Use the information to label the frogs.



**common frog**



**pool frog**

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Alice woke to the drip-drip-drip of the rain outside. She shivered. It had rained all night and it still persisted. She was surprised that the water hadn't found its way through the thatch and into the room. She breathed out and could see a puff of white cloud in front of her face. She pulled the blankets tighter around her head and tried to get to sleep. It was hard with the constant snoring of her father and the whimpers of Peter on the other side of the room.

She must have fallen back to sleep because she was woken by her mother's voice. It was hushed but there were times when she caught a few words here and there. She was talking urgently to Pa.

"I can't... it's wrong... I won't make them..." What was she talking about? Alice lay still as the dead, hoping to eavesdrop while they presumed her to still be sleeping.

Suddenly, her father exploded. "I'm not asking you, I'm telling you! Peter will distract them, then Alice will nip over and gather the piglets. They're ours by right!"

Alice pretended to wake up at that moment, stretching her hands into the frigid air and murmuring to alert her parents that she was conscious.

"Good morning, Alice," said Ma breezily. Were they tears she was wiping away from her face? Pa placed a kiss on Alice's cheek, raised the wooden bar on the door and exited, extending no word of comfort to his wife.

Ma helped Alice to roll up the mattress and store it with the others in the corner. Tabitha immediately jumped on top of it, curling her striped body round and tucking her head in for a long nap in the shelter of the house. Alice stroked her tenderly. She'd had Tabitha since she was a baby and they'd often shared a bed and warmth in the rawness of winter.

Alice removed her nightgown and quickly pulled her tunic over her head; it wasn't the weather for hanging around half-dressed and, anyway, their home afforded her no privacy. She sat on the edge of the wooden seat near the hearth, absorbing what warmth the glowing embers produced as she tugged her stockings up her thin legs. What was it that she'd overheard earlier? Her mind began to bubble with thoughts.

Circle the words which are antonyms for the word breezily.

bleakly

merrily

heartily

cheerily

heavily

sullenly

When do you think this story is set? Why?

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How is Alice's father feeling? Find some evidence to prove your idea.

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What do you think Alice's father was talking about to her mother?

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What clues are there that it is cold? Find two.

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Explain who the following characters are and the evidence you have for this.

Peter is...

I know because...

Tabitha is...

I know because...

Circle the words which are antonyms for the word breezily.

bleakly
merrily
heartily
cheerily
heavily
sullenly

When do you think this story is set? Why?

**It is set in medieval times. The family are sleeping in the same room and we are told the house is thatched. Alice wears clothes such as a nightgown, tunic and stockings. Her mattress is rolled up after use. There is an open fire in the room.**

How is Alice's father feeling? Find some evidence to prove your idea.

**He is feeling cross. We are told he explodes when talking to Alice's mother. He says to her that he is not asking her but instead is telling her, which suggests he's annoyed. He also walks out of the house without comforting her.**

What do you think Alice's father was talking about to her mother?

**Alice's father is talking about stealing some piglets but he feels they are rightfully theirs. He is planning to use Peter to distract the family while Alice takes the animals.**

What clues are there that it is cold? Find two.

- Any two from:**
- Alice shivers.
  - She can see her breath in front of her face.
  - She pulls the blankets tighter round her.
  - The air is described as frigid.
  - We are told it wasn't the weather for hanging about half-dressed.

Explain who the following characters are and the evidence you have for this.

Peter is... Alice's brother	I know because... he is sleeping in the same room as the rest of the family; Alice's father suggests something that Alice and Peter will do; we are told that Peter is younger and has fewer chores, inferring that he is Alice's brother
Tabitha is... the cat	I know because... she jumps on top of the mattresses and curls up to sleep; Alice strokes her; we are told she was the only one left in the litter

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## 4<sup>th</sup> September

Changing schools is such a scary thing. I'm so nervous. I wish I didn't have to leave my old school but we didn't have a choice. It was closing, so everyone had to find somewhere else. Luckily there was one quite close by, which means I can still go on my bike.

When I went to visit the school before the summer holidays, everyone seemed friendly. The children were chatty and seemed happy. I got talking to some of them who were telling me about a great trip they do in year 6. It's a residential to the Lake District at the end of the SATs. Someone said they do all sorts of adventurous outdoor activities there, like climbing, abseiling, kayaking and hiking. That'll be something to look forward to.

Some children from my new class showed me around – it's a huge school! The layout is like a maze and probably twice the size of my old school. They have a brilliant computer suite with some state-of-the-art equipment. The playground is large but the field is immense; it's big enough for two football pitches, a forest section and a running track, and it's all edged with mature conifers which provide shade. I hope I find the way to the toilet!

So, I've laid out my clothes ready for tomorrow and my bag is packed. I've got a new pencil case and Mum has made me some lunch. My alarm is set for quarter to seven so I should have plenty of time.

My stomach is churning as I sit here writing this. There's so much to look forward to, yet I just can't stop feeling apprehensive. I just need to go in tomorrow, be brave and get the first day over with.

## 5<sup>th</sup> September

What a busy day! I didn't want to get out of bed this morning but my cat kept nudging me to get up. I had a shower, got dressed and went down for some breakfast. Mum gave me a good luck card and said she'd make my favourite tea – lasagne.

I ate some cereal but I couldn't finish it. My appetite always suffers when I'm anxious. I finished getting ready, put my lunch into my backpack and said goodbye to Mum. Then, I rode my bike to school.

The ride was lovely actually. The birds chatted to me all along the route; it was as if they knew they had to keep my mind away from my uneasy thoughts. They did a good job and I arrived at school really quite positive about the day ahead.

The rest of the day went by in a flash! My classroom is a hive of activity and there are 28 children in my class. They all seem to be kind and friendly. Assembly was fun! The headteacher made everyone stand up and go to the front. My knees were wobbling but it was okay. There were a few of us, so at least I wasn't alone.

During English, everyone worked quietly and it was a really relaxed but productive atmosphere. Some children read their paragraphs out at the end and we all clapped.

During break time I saw that there was a good selection of equipment to use – balls, skipping ropes, hoops and cones. I made a course with some children from my class to dribble a ball through.

The rest of the day went smoothly and I feel really positive about going in tomorrow. I won't have those first-day nerves anymore. Everyone made me feel welcome and it was so lovely when, at the end of the day, the parents of some of the children came over in the playground and introduced themselves to me.

I'm going to really enjoy teaching my new class.

Find one simile and one metaphor in the text.

Thing being described	Simile used

Thing being described	Metaphor used

How does the author manipulate the reader into thinking that the diary writer is a child?

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What things does the writer do the day before starting at the school to get ready?

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What does the reader realise at the end of the text?

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Find two words from the text that have a similar meaning to the word **worried**.

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Find an example of personification in the text.

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Find one simile and one metaphor in the text.

Thing being described	Simile used
<b>the layout of the school</b>	<b>like a maze</b>

Thing being described	Metaphor used
<b>the classroom</b>	<b>a hive of activity</b>

How does the author manipulate the reader into thinking that the diary writer is a child?

**We are never told that the writer is a teacher. There is no reference to the age of the writer. The writer talks about things that a child might write about, such as getting a new pencil case and packing their bag. The writer's mum makes their lunch and says they will make a favourite meal, which is something that we might associate with a child. We don't really associate being nervous to start a new school with a teacher.**

What things does the writer do the day before starting at the school to get ready?

**laid out their clothes  
packed their bag  
set their alarm**

What does the reader realise at the end of the text?

**The writer of the diary is a teacher, not a child.**

Find two words from the text that have a similar meaning to the word **worried**.

- Any two from:**
- nervous
  - apprehensive
  - anxious
  - uneasy

Find an example of personification in the text.

**the birds chatted to me all along the route**

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Dear Ms Banks,

I am writing to complain about the holiday I had in one of your caravans in Whitesands last week (15<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> March).

I was looking forward to a relaxing week away with my family, who were all excited about staying close to the beach. My children were very pleased that there was an indoor pool and my husband and I were confident they would enjoy the entertainment in the evenings. The brochure showed beautiful landscapes, the caravans looked pristine and the booking process was easy. We saved hard to afford our first holiday. We thought it would be, as the brochure states, 'a little piece of heaven on Earth'.

How wrong we were! It was apparent when we arrived that there had been some miscommunication during the booking process and we were allocated a caravan with only one bedroom. We had originally booked a two-berth caravan but amended the booking to a three-berth so that my two children could have their own rooms. Our concerns were met with complete indifference from the receptionist, who said we must have booked the one-bedroom caravan in error. When we requested different accommodation, the receptionist laughed and told us they were all fully booked. She just offered us a camping pitch and an old tent that had been discarded the previous season, which was obviously not an acceptable solution.

We therefore had to endure a whole week of two adults and two children sharing one double bed in a caravan. It was as comfortable as living in a sardine tin. It was not fun. It was not cosy. It was not like an adventure, as your receptionist had tried to tell us. It was horrendous. My children slept for the first part of the night until we went to bed, which inevitably woke them. They struggled to get back to sleep and then, when they did, my husband and I found ourselves on the verge of falling off the already diminutive bed.

It was hot and stuffy with four of us sharing the same bed in the same room but we couldn't open the window because immediately outside were the filthy, overflowing bins which sat adjacent to the clubhouse. The bins stank from all the stale food and we were afraid that the rats who were scratching about looking for scraps might squeeze through the gap and enter the bedroom. What a terrifying thought.

Something else that prohibited us from opening the windows was the noise from the clubhouse. The music from the disco was so loud it resulted in the caravan doors reverberating with every beat. Needless to say, my wife and I did not sleep at all and my children were irritable all week from insufficient sleep.

Match each word with another word which has a similar meaning.

discarded

diminutive

allocated

inevitably

indifference

unavoidably

assigned

disinterest

minute

abandoned

Write a short summary of the problems within the letter in no more than 40 words.

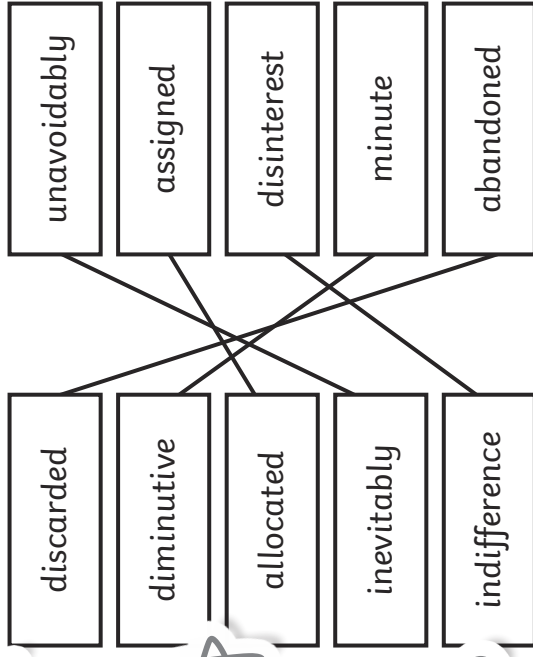
Find a simile in the text.  
What is its purpose?

Find an example of repetition in the text.  
What is its purpose?

What reasons did the writer give for them not opening the windows during the night?  
Find two.

Write down two things that enticed the writer to book the holiday in the first place.

Match each word with another word which has a similar meaning.



Write a short summary of the problems within the letter in no more than 40 words.

**Answers will vary, but should include the main points. For example:**

**The holiday booking went wrong and the family ended up with a one bedroom caravan. They couldn't open the window because of the noise and the smelly bins. They slept badly and the children were grumpy.**

Find a simile in the text. What is its purpose?

**It was as comfortable as living in a sardine tin. This shows just how small the caravan was and it shows that it wasn't comfortable at all.**

Find an example of repetition in the text. What is its purpose?

- One answer from the following:**
- **It was not fun. It was not cosy. It was not like an adventure...**
  - **It reiterates to the reader all of the things the experience was NOT, so we have an understanding of how horrible the experience was.**
  - **the same bed in the same room...**
  - **This emphasises that not only was it the same room, but it was also the same bed, so the repetition shows that it's like a double disappointment for the family.**

What reasons did the writer give for them not opening the windows during the night?

Find two.

- Any two from:**
- **The bins were overflowing and stank.**
  - **They were afraid that rats might come in through the window.**
  - **The music from the club house was too loud.**

Write down two things that enticed the writer to book the holiday in the first place.

**Any two from:**

- **They wanted to stay close to the beach.**
- **There was an indoor pool.**
- **There was evening entertainment.**
- **There were beautiful landscapes.**
- **The caravans looked very clean.**
- **The brochure stated it was 'a little piece of heaven on Earth'.**

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Once, in a faraway palace, there lived a beautiful princess. Her hair shone like golden beams of evening sunlight and her eyes twinkled like the diamonds which adorned her stepmother's crown. The princess's name was Allegra; it meant 'happy' and she wore it well.

From a young age, Allegra was a joy to all who knew her. She was only three months old when her mother was cruelly taken from her, leaving her father, the king, to bring her up alone. Allegra, having no real memories of her mother, delighted everyone who met her with her lively manner and her endearing stories. Allegra's father did a grand job of raising her and the two were extremely close. That is until he met Emilia.

Emilia was a failed merchant's daughter who had visited the palace, turning up uninvited dressed in rags and begging for an audience with the king. Once inside, she beguiled him with tales of her woes and platitudes about the king's generosity. It was true; the king was a very generous soul and perhaps rather vulnerable to exploitation.

Time passed and the king quickly became close to Emilia, who soon came to reside in the vast palace. After a brief courtship, the two were married, Emilia demanding the most opulent dress in which to flaunt her new-found status to her subordinates. Eventually the king started spending less and less time with Allegra in favour of keeping company with his wife. That's not to say that Emilia didn't spend time with Allegra – she did; it was inevitable, since the king often spent many weeks travelling and meeting his subjects. During these periods of absence, Allegra and Emilia were left alone. It was during these times that the atmosphere in the palace changed.

Everyone in the palace felt it; it was impossible not to feel the icy glares Emilia shot Allegra and the sharp words she spat at her. By this time, Allegra was a young teen and keen to ensure her father's happiness; after all, he'd done so much for her and she loved him dearly. So if that meant keeping peace with her stepmother, she would do it.

Whenever the king disappeared on one of his journeys, Allegra would take a deep breath in, knowing her life would be made almost unbearable by the imposter that was her stepmother. She'd be made to do every chore imaginable in less than half the time necessary, meaning she'd have to forego meals and sleep in order to complete the tasks. She was exhausted. She tried to catch a few naps here and there but if she were caught, she'd be made to do even more work and be locked in her room as soon as she had finished.

And yet, whenever her father returned, she placed her smile back on her face, let her heart finally beat again with love and never, ever disclosed her misery. Her father would hand over the gifts he'd been instructed to obtain for his wife, along with a small but cherished gift for Allegra. Life would return to normal and her stepmother would adjust her behaviour so the king's trust and love for her would continue to grow.

And so, life continued this way for several years, Emilia demanding ever more extravagant gifts on his homecoming and Allegra wishing for nothing but her father's safe return.

One day, the king didn't return from his journey. Allegra waited patiently, worrying for her father's safety. Emilia waited impatiently, snapping at everyone in the palace, resenting the king for his tardiness and greedily anticipating the gifts he was due to deliver.

But, sadly for Allegra, the king never arrived.

Match the part of the beach with an activity suggested in the text.

tardiness	display something to provoke admiration or envy
disclosed	to do without
subordinates	allowed something to be known
flaunt	people in a lower rank or position
forego	lateness

What would happen if Emilia caught Allegra having naps in between doing chores?

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Compare the characters of Allegra and Emilia. Explain how they are different, using evidence from the text to support your opinions.

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**It was true; the king was a very generous soul and perhaps rather vulnerable to exploitation.**

What does 'vulnerable to exploitation' mean?

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What genre of text do you think this is? Why?

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Using what you know about the characters and the genre, explain what you think will happen next.

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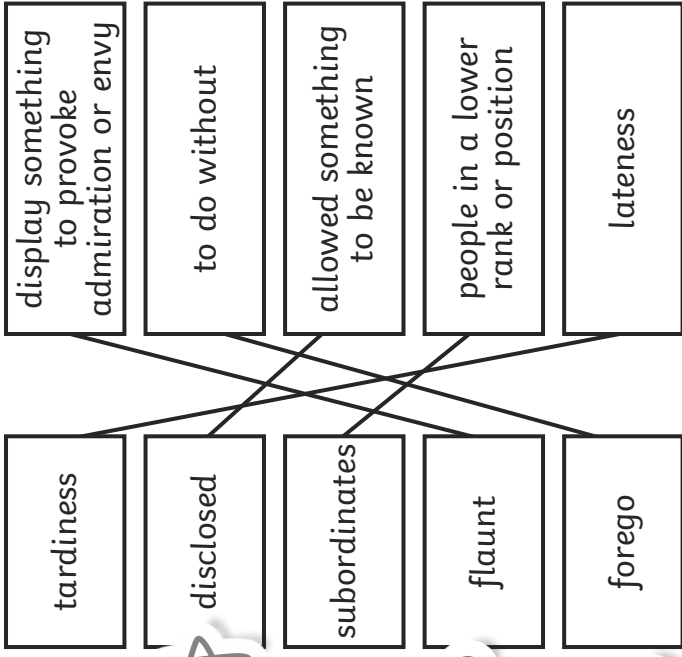
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Match the part of the beach with an activity suggested in the text.



Compare the characters of Allegra and Emilia. Explain how they are different, using evidence from the text to support your opinions.

**Allegra is a happy princess and is loved by her father, the king. She does not want gifts from her father; she is just happy that he returns safely from his journeys, whereas Emilia is only thinking about the gifts and she resents him for being late.**

**Allegra is thoughtful: she thinks about her father's feelings and decides not to let him know how his wife is treating her. She knows that her stepmother is a bad person - an 'imposter' who treats Allegra poorly. But she also knows that her father loves Emilia and Emilia makes him happy and she wants to see her father happy.**

**Emilia is not bothered about anyone's happiness but her own and she uses manipulation to get what she wants. It says she beguiles him with tales of her woes and platitudes about his generosity, knowing he'll fall for it.**

What genre of text do you think this is?  
Why?

**This is a fairy tale. It has a vague setting of a palace far away. There are no details about when the story takes place. Royalty is often used in fairy tales. There are good characters (Allegra and her father) and an evil stepmother.**

Using what you know about the characters and the genre, explain what you think will happen next.

**Answers will vary. For example:**

- **I think Allegra will think of a way of taking control now her dad isn't around and she doesn't need to ensure his happiness.**
- **I think Emilia will try to get rid of Allegra so that she can keep the palace and all of the riches for herself.**
- **I think that someone magical will arrive to help Allegra teach Emilia a lesson.**

**It was true; the king was a very generous soul and perhaps rather vulnerable to exploitation.**

What does 'vulnerable to exploitation' mean?

**It means that the king was unable to or didn't know how to protect himself from harm or from being treated badly in order for someone else to benefit. This means he does not really realise that Emilia is using him for her own gain.**

What would happen if Emilia caught Allegra having naps in between doing chores?

**Allegra would be made to do even more work and be locked in her room as soon as she had finished.**

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## RESTAURANT CLOSES AMID RAT INVASION CHAOS

Restaurant bosses in Hurlton were in damage limitation mode yesterday when it was announced their restaurant had been closed down due to a massive rat infestation.

On Thursday morning, it was announced via a local television report that award-winning restaurant Bolini had been shut down after food safety officers visiting the premises found that rats were inhabiting the pantry and work areas.

Popular restaurant Bolini, run by brother and sister Mal and Syna, has been a mainstay of the restaurant economy in Hurlton since the early 2000s. Its 'pay what you think' approach has attracted large numbers of diners who are happy to pay more for a good quality experience. Awards it has won include best new high street business, best restaurant (4 years running), best upmarket eatery and best organic restaurant. It serves a range of foods using many local ingredients sourced from farms within a 40-mile radius. Its popularity increased exponentially after a visit by famous TV chef and food critic Horace Wample.

However, on Thursday the reputation of Bolini had been left in tatters after it was revealed that the premises had a major problem with rodents. A routine, unannounced inspection to update the site's food hygiene rating was carried out and inspectors were horrified to find rats present in both food storage and food preparation areas.

Food standards officer Wilma Phillips said that evidence of live animals was found consistent with a long-term infestation and explained that "rats were not startled by loud noises or by the busyness of food preparation stations, meaning they have been living here for a prolonged period of time."

A written report produced following the visit also states that evidence in the form of droppings, chewed items and greasy fur marks were discovered on surfaces and behind appliances.

Subsequent to the visit, Mal Bolini was said to be devastated. Syna Bolini, whose role involves managing the customer-facing aspect of the business, said she could not believe her brother, who is head chef, would run his kitchen in this manner: "I am perplexed by what the officers found. My brother is a stickler for high standards and food hygiene is crucial when running a food establishment." She also explained that she had never seen any indication of a rodent problem. "It's surely not just coincidence that the food standards officer is the mother of a junior chef we had to dismiss because of an inadequate standard of work."

The restaurant has a month to address the issues raised in the report and put pest control procedures into place before a second inspection, the result of which will determine whether it can reopen. The current closure will, however, have put a strain on the business and time will tell whether it will recover from this setback.

Complete the grid using the information from the text.

Name	Role
Mal Bolini	
Syna Bolini	
Wilma Phillips	
Horace Wample	

One of the owners said that she had seen no evidence of rats. What do you think might have happened? Use evidence from the text to support your opinions.

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What evidence was reported of a rat infestation?

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**The current closure will, however, have put a strain on the business and time will tell whether it will recover from this setback.**

Suggest a reason why the restaurant may not recover.

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Write down three things that would make Bolini attractive to its customers.

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Find words or phrases in the text to match the meaning.

Meaning	Word or phrase
confused	
continuing for a long time	
after	
to sack	
poor	

Complete the grid using the information from the text.

Name	Role
Mal Bolini	Restaurant owner and head chef
Syna Bolini	Restaurant owner and manager of the customer-facing aspect of the business
Wilma Phillips	food standards officer
Horace Wample	TV chef and food critic

One of the owners said that she had seen no evidence of rats. What do you think might have happened? Use evidence from the text to support your opinions.

**The food standards officer might have lied about what she had found because she is the mother of a chef who had been sacked by the restaurant.**

What evidence was reported of a rat infestation?

- rats
- droppings
- chewed items
- greasy fur marks

**The current closure will, however, have put a strain on the business and time will tell whether it will recover from this setback.**

Suggest a reason why the restaurant may not recover.

**Answers which identify how the public might feel about the restaurant, for example:**

- People won't want to go to a rat-infested restaurant.
- People might think that the restaurant has low hygiene standards.
- People might worry that rats will come again.
- It could be hard to persuade people to return.

Write down three things that would make Bolini attractive to its customers.

**Any three from:**

- It has won many awards.
- It uses organic food.
- It sources food locally.
- A famous chef has visited it.
- It offers good quality food.
- You can pay what you want.

Find words or phrases in the text to match the meaning.

Meaning	Word or phrase
confused	perplexed
continuing for a long time	prolonged
after	subsequent to following
to sack	dismiss
poor	inadequate

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The hours are lengthy; the days are longer now than the darkesses and I must be careful to avoid discovery. The deer have been feeding in small groups because the human's machine has not been noisily forking the fields. The woodlands have been scattered with bumbling humans accompanying their unwild animals who run, sniff and roll amongst the mosses and grasses. Occasionally when they come, one human meets another and they each nod a greeting, often having to pull apart their furry companions who have attached themselves to each other to become one goading, grumbling, growling beast.

Butterflies are sparse now but they'll come in time; their cocoons are quietly changing under leaf cover. Pond waters bubble in anticipation of new life. Milky clouds of spawn, suspended in the shallows, are heavy with new life. Roots and shoots have begun their growth below and above ground. I watch these changes from up high.

Now, night threatens and the birds screech out their final songs for the day. Animals that were safe in the daylight return to the protection of their burrows and nests, leaving the darkness for us. We wait, patient. Our bellies are empty and our senses are heightened. We are ready.

I watch, still as the breezeless branch beneath me. Any action will be detected. Any tiny being will be located, abducted and consumed. My babies will be fed.

I wait, listening for the rustle of life and watching for a movement in the grasses that will betray the inhabitant's presence. I will be ready to glide in silence and swoop.



What is the human's machine?

**a tractor**

What season do you think it is? Find evidence in the text to prove your opinion.

**It is spring. We are told the days are longer than the nights and that caterpillars are not yet butterflies. We are told there is spawn (e.g. frogspawn) in the pond and that there is evidence of new plant growth ('Roots and shoots have begun their growth...').**

**...attached themselves to each other to become one goading, grumbling, growling beast.**

What is the narrator describing?

**dogs fighting**

Who is the narrator in the extract? How do you know?

**The narrator is an animal, most likely an owl. We know it is not human and it is perching somewhere like a tree as it talks about watching humans from 'up high' and says it sits as still 'as the breezeless branch beneath me'. It says it has to avoid discovery and comes out at night ('leaving the darkness for us'). It talks about catching prey ('Any tiny being will be located, abducted and consumed.'). It talks about the behaviours we associate with an owl when catching prey ('glide in silence and swoop').**

In the final lines, the words 'will be' are repeated. What is the effect of this?

**It shows that the owl is confident and determined that it will be successful in its hunt.**

Which word gives the impression that the narrator thinks humans are incompetent?

**bumbling**

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