**Chapter 4 Extract**

The howling had started up again far away in the forest, a last mellifluous evensong, a chanting that went on and on until darkness covered the island. Insects (that is what I presumed they were anyway) whirred and whined from the forest. There was hollow tapping, like a frantic woodpecker. There was scraping, scratching, and a grunting grating noise that sounded like frogs. The whole orchestra of the jungle tuning up. But it wasn’t the sounds that frightened me, it was those phantom eyes. I wanted to be as far as possible from those eyes. I found a small cave at one end of the beach with a dry sandy floor. I lay down and tried to sleep, but Stella would not let me. She whined at me in the pain of her hunger and thirst, so that I slept only fitfully.

The jungle droned and cackled and croaked, and all night long the mosquitoes were at me too. They whined in my ears and drove me mad. I held my hands over my ears to shut out the sound of them. I curled myself round Stella, tried to forget where I was, to lose myself in my dreams. I remembered then that it was my birthday, and thought of my last birthday back at home with Eddie and Matt, and the barbecue we’d had in the garden, how the sausages had smelled so good. I slept at last.

**Wednesday 3rd February 2021**

**Can I identify effective words and phrases in a text?**

If you print out the text and are underlining words or phrases, please underline them in a different colour and label them.

For example, you might underline similes and metaphors in blue and label them as similes or metaphors, then underline alliteration in red and label the words as alliteration.

1. What is the focus of this description of the forest?
2. Can you write or underline all the words in the extract which tell you the sounds that can be heard?

(eg howling, chanting etc)

1. Can you write or underline any similes or metaphors?

(A simile uses the words like or as to compare things, for example, ‘He swims like a fish’.

A metaphor directly compares, for example, ‘You are my sunshine’).

1. Can you write or underline any examples of alliteration?

(Alliteration happens when words start with the same sound and the words are next to each other or very close together)

1. What do you think the word ‘mellifluous’ means?

Have a go at making up your own definition – do you think it means something positive and lovely or something negative and to be afraid of?

1. Look at the sentence beginning: “The jungle droned ….”

Michael Morpurgo has personified the jungle. This means he has given it a human characteristic.

In what other context do you think the verbs ‘droned’ and ‘cackled’ could be used?

1. Which other sense distracts Michael?

Answers

1. The focus is the sounds of the forest
2. Howling, chanting, whirred, whined, hollow tapping, scraping, scratching, grunting, grating etc
3. A tapping like a woodpecker; a grating noise like frogs; the whole orchestra
4. Whirred and whined, scraping, scratching, grunting, grating, cackled and croaked
5. Mellus comes from the Greek word for honey.

Melli-fluous = honey flowing or sounding

1. Droned could be used for bees, aeroplanes, people talking.

Cackled could be used for people laughing

1. The memory of how sausages smelled distracts Michael – the sense of smell is closely linked with memory.