

13. The creature in the cave

Aim

The children will read an extract from a modern story and consider the language writers use to create an imaginary setting. They will identify figurative language in the story, such as similes and alliteration, and discuss how these add to the effectiveness of the piece.

Activities

Read the extract from the story to the children then hand out sheet **13a** to everyone. Give the children turns at reading the piece again. Discuss it with them.

Explain what a simile is and ask the children to find an example in the text. Explain what alliteration is and ask the children if they can find an example of this in the text.

Divide the children into two groups. Give sheet **13b** to the less able group. Give out sheet **13c** to the more able and ask them to complete it on their own.

Plenary

Bring the children together again and discuss their answers to the worksheets. Check their answers to the questions about alliteration and similes, and ask them for any more examples that they can think of. Why do they think the writer chose to use these devices in the story? Did they find it easy to picture the scene?

Find out what the children think might actually have happened to Joshan. Did he imagine the whole episode?

The creature in the cave

“That’s strange,” Joshan said to himself. “I’ve never seen this cave before.”

He climbed over a rock and in his hurry, bumped his head, but simply rubbed the sore bit and went on.

He stepped into the entrance and his eyes grew as wide as saucers. The walls of the cave were decorated with streamers and sparkling stars, and a soft, shimmering glow came from somewhere in the back. Who could have done this?

“Hello,” he said in a small voice, feeling as nervous as a kitten.

A shape moved at the back of the cave. Then Joshan saw a strawberry-pink creature which reminded him of an octopus, crawl forwards. Its head was like a giant piece of bubble gum, except for the large mouth on top of it. One tentacle reached out and slithered towards Joshan. It felt the bump on his head, then his face and hair, and his legs and feet. Joshan couldn’t move, but the pain in his head was gone.

Suddenly the whole cave was lit with a blinding blue light.

“Forgive me,” the creature said. “I am needed. You see, we have many places on Earth to cleanse before we can settle here. Goodbye.”

The light disappeared. So did the creature and the streamers and stars. Joshan saw a parcel at the back of the cave. It was marked “to be collected.” It was full of cartons, cans, bottles and other disgusting rubbish. But who, or what, would collect it?



Extract by May Stevenson

The creature in the cave

Name:

1. What was it like inside the cave?

2. Find these similes in the text and complete them:

a) his eyes grew as _____

b) feeling as nervous as _____

c) Its head was like _____

3. Why do you think the creature came to the cave?

4. Use a pencil to underline any examples of alliteration in the text.

The creature in the cave

Name:

1. How does the writer let us know that this is no ordinary cave?
2. Which words describe the movement of the creature?
3. The author has used three similes. Try to find them. (A simile is where an author uses “like” or “as” to describe something.)
4. There are several examples of alliteration in the text. Identify them and write them down. (Alliteration is using the same sound at the beginning of words close to each other).
5. Joshan couldn't move. Why do you think this was?
6. What do you think might happen next?

