

English Language: Week beginning 11th May 2020

These tasks will help you to improve your vocabulary choices, which helps to make your writing more engaging to a reader and it will help you to understand why writers make particular word choices.

If you need any help, email office@grangepark.kent.sch.uk and then your email will be forwarded on to me and I can help you.

Mrs Dixon

LO: To be able to identify verbs and explain the effect on the reader.

Starter:

a) What is a verb?

b) Write down examples, which include interesting/exciting ones.

Verbs in Context

Extract from *One Big Damn Puzzler* by John Harding, published 2006

The following text is taken from the beginning of the novel. The protagonist, William, is being taken ashore for the first time to a very remote island.

As the boat came close to shore William realised that the men had ceased laughing in order to put all their energy into their rowing. He could tell from their strained expressions that the going was getting harder all the time and he deduced that this was because of an **undertow**. The now fairly big waves broke upon a wall of coral that ringed the shore, and bounced back out from it, so that for every ten feet the men rowed the boat was hurled back five. At times it even seemed as if they were thrown back further than they had rowed since the last time, but this must not have been the case as finally they managed to get past the undertow and were riding on the crest of a huge breaker, the oarsmen paddling frantically to steer the craft through a gap in the coral reef, and surfing in on a cauldron of white spray which finally spat the boat out onto a **sickle**-shaped sandy beach. For a moment the men rested over their oars, panting. [...]

As William disembarked into the foaming water swirling around the boat he cursed himself for wearing his **loafers**.

Vocabulary:

undertow current below the surface of the sea

sickle a tool with a curved blade

loafers slip on shoes

Task 1: The Text

Read the text and answer the questions.

- a. Why do the men rowing the boat stop laughing?
- b. What circles the shore of the island?
- c. Circle the correct meaning for the word 'surfing' in this context.

a watersport	surfing the internet	riding the crest of a wave
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- d. How do the oarsmen feel when the boat lands?
- e. What does William think as he gets out of the boat?

Task 2: Writer's techniques

- a) i) Complete the **second** column below by adding verbs from the extract to describe the movements in the first column?

Movements	Verbs	Most powerful verbs, ranking 1 to 3
The movement of the sea.		
The movement of the boat.		
The movements of the man		

- ii) Complete the **third** column by choosing the three verbs (one from each row), you think are most powerful and rank these from 1-3, with 1 being the most powerful. Explain your decision.

b) What does the verb 'deduced' suggest about William?

c) What does the verb 'spat' convey in the image at the end of the first paragraph?

Challenge:

d) i. On a separate piece of paper, rewrite the first paragraph from 'The now fairly big waves...' in the present tense.

It might start like this:

The now fairly big waves break upon a wall of coral that rings the shore, and bounce back out from it, so that for every ten feet the men row, the boat is hurled back five...

ii. What effect does changing the verbs into the present tense have?

Extension task:

- Write a description of a small boat making its way ashore in a calm sea.
- Use a range of verbs which convey the ease with which the boat moves. You could also describe the feelings of someone in the boat.
- You may wish to include some of the vocabulary below:

sailed	dipped	rocked	skimmed	cruised	glided
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