

**ENGLISH LESSON – 29.6.20**

**AUTHORS WORD CHOICES**



An author's choice of words and phrases can help to bring the story to life, to make things seem more dramatic or to make the reader feel more involved or more emotional.

Answer these questions about each extract from Chapter 20.

Q1. Lily rushed towards him as he tugged wearily at the links.

What does the expression "tugged wearily at the links" show you about how John was feeling?

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Q2. There was a tapping and many footsteps, and suddenly, Roach and Mould appeared at the top of the stairs with a motley-looking crew of armed men.

What did the author mean by 'motley-looking'?

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Q3. "It's too late for bargains," Professor Silverfish said. "I can't trust your words, or actions. These children know how serious I am, but I think only a show of force will convince you."

What is Professor Silverfish implying when he says "only a show of force will convince you"?

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Q4.

He pointed his gun at Robert's chest and clicked off the safety catch.  
Lily felt a sickening jolt of energy.  
Time seemed to slow.  
She saw Professor Silverfish squeeze his finger on the trigger.  
"No—" she cried.  
And dived in front of Robert as the gun fired.

Why does "Time seem to slow" at this part of the story?

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Q5.

A sickly aching arced through her, and a carnation of red blossomed on her dress front.

What is the 'carnation of red' that blossoms on her dress front?

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Why do you think the author chose to describe it in this way?

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Q6.

Lily smiled up at him. His words and actions felt so distant, like it was happening a long way off. The pain had begun to envelop her. The Cogheart gave a final shudder beneath her ribs, and she opened her mouth and let out one last breath...

Why did the author use the expression "the pain had begun to envelop her"?

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## ANSWERS

- Q1. It shows us that he is trying to escape but wearily means you are tired and don't have much energy so although John is tugging at the chains, it is unlikely that he will be able to escape. This makes us feel that there is no chance of him escaping.
- Q2. 'Motley-looking' is an expression meaning a group of ugly or strange looking people who aren't very organised.
- Q3. A show of force means that he will have to use force to make them do what he wants so he is suggesting that he will have to hurt them to make them change their mind. This probably means he will chain them up, like John or he will shoot them with his gun.
- Q4. The author has written 'time seemed to slow' at this point in the story as Lily has been shot and this is going to have a huge impact on all of the other characters and the plot. When time seems to slow it's as if everything goes in slow motion. Lily will be shocked that she has been shot and will be in a daze, while everyone else around her will be feeling frantic, emotional and panicked. The author has used this expression to make us realise how significant it is that Lily has been shot and that if she dies, time will slow down for all of them as they will all be incredibly lost without her.
- Q5. It means a red blood spot in a rough, round shape.
- The author describes it in this way to make it more descriptive. This makes the reader feel more emotional about what has happened and it also means they can picture the mark on her dress front and that paints a clear image in the mind.
- Q6. To envelop means to completely surround something (like an envelope goes around a card or a letter) so this means that the pain was completely taking over her body and making it difficult for her to concentrate on anything else that was happening.