Semi-Colons

Part A

Semi-colons can be used to link two closely-related clauses. They are usually used to replace a co-ordinating conjunction such as 'and', 'or', 'but', etc.

In 'The Highwayman', some semi-colons are used alongside repetition of key words to create a dramatic effect.

Part 2, stanza 5, line 3:

She would not risk their hearing; she would not strive again;

The semi-colon shows the close link between ideas. Bess will not risk the red-coats hearing what she is doing by striving for a stronger grip on the trigger.

Find 5 examples of co-ordinating conj	in the poem ar	nd write the li	nes again u	sing a range of
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Semi-Colons

Part B

In 'The Highwayman', some semi-colons are used to show that the information in separate sentences is closely related, without having to repeatedly use words like 'and', 'but' 'so'.

Part 2, stanza 5, line 3:

She would not risk their hearing; she would not strive again;

Read this stanza from Sherwood by Alfred Noyes (the punctuation has been removed!)

Robin Hood is here again all his merry thieves

Hear a ghostly bugle-note shivering through the leaves

Calling as he used to call faint and far away

In Sherwood in Sherwood about the break of day

Can you turn this section of poetry into a piece of prose that uses semi-colons to create some interesting sentences?
Challenge Task)**
Find other examples of semi-colons in your reading book. Write out the sentences and explain
why a semi-colon has been used.

