

# Year 6 SATs

Reading Revision & Practice Booklet:  
Arlo the Author



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who is Arlo the Author?



Arlo the Author is the clever canine who helps with reading content domain **2g**:

**Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.**

This means that he is there to help you to spot examples of **ambitious vocabulary** and **figurative language** within the text.

When you find them, Arlo helps you to think about **why** the author made those vocabulary choices and **how** they give a **certain meaning** to the text.

For example, an author could say that the water in a lake was still and reflective. However, for effect, they could describe the water as 'like a sheet of glass'.

## What sort of questions might Arlo the Author ask?

Arlo the Author will always ask questions which relate to the vocabulary choices and meanings in a text. He has been known to ask:

- what does this **word tell us** about the character/setting/atmosphere?
- look at that phrase which implies that the **character/setting/atmosphere** is...
- look for a **simile/metaphor** in the text. How does this add meaning?
- find and copy an example of **personification** from the text. Why is it used?
- how has the **author's choice of words** created a feeling of...?
- why did the author choose this **particular verb/adjective/adverb**?



# Noises in the Darkness

The winter days were short; it had only been three weeks since Christmas but the bright, festive lights were nothing but a dim memory. Now, in the midst of a bleak January cold snap, the evenings were intimidatingly dark and the bitterly-cold wind howled like a wolf as it swept through Andrea's long auburn hair. She was desperate to get home before she was frozen to the bone: next time, she would graciously accept the offer of a lift. She tentatively tried to quicken her steps but knew that her high-heeled boots didn't have much grip.

"Watch out!" came a cry from behind. Andrea immediately tensed and braced herself as she spun around quickly with all of her senses on high alert. It was only Jack. She exhaled a sharp breath just as his scooter zipped past her.

"Soz, Andrea!" Jack smiled in an awkward, red-faced apology as he whizzed by. "It's so slippery that I can barely control this thing!"

Disappearing into the blackness of the night and leaving a winding trail on the glistening pathway, the squeak of Jack's scooter wheels got more and more distant until all was silent once more.

Moments later, a sudden icy chill shivered down her spine. Andrea's ears pricked to hear another curious sound: it was a whiney, animal-like cry, coming from the direction in which Jack's scooter had rolled. Every inch of Andrea's body urged her not to carry on in that same direction: almost as if her legs were stuck in cement. Yet, turning back now would add miles to her walk. 'It was probably just an owl,' Andrea persuaded herself.

With a deep breath, Andrea walked on into the darkness.

Let's have a go at answering an Arlo the Author question, step by step:

1. Find and underline the quoted sentence that contains the word in the original text.
2. Re-read the sentence in context. How do you think the character is actually feeling?
3. Look at the options in the question.
4. Check the number of answers you need to give and clearly mark the answer in the way you are asked to.

Now, using these top tips, have a go at answering some on your own.

1

**'It was probably just an owl,' Andrea persuaded herself.**

What does this sentence suggest about how Andrea was feeling? Tick **one**.

- she was feeling confident
- she was feeling uncertain
- she was feeling cowardly
- she was feeling calm



Look at the paragraph beginning: **The winter days were short...**

**Find** and **copy** two words or phrases from this paragraph which suggest that the journey home was not a pleasant one for Andrea.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2

**...Jack smiled in an awkward, red-faced apology...**

What does this description suggest about Jack?

\_\_\_\_\_

3

**Andrea immediately tensed and braced herself...**

List **two** impressions this gives you about Andrea's reaction.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4

Look at the whole extract.

**Find** and **copy** three words or phrases which suggest that the pavements were icy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

5

# The Channel Tunnel

## Introduction

The island of Great Britain was finally joined to the European mainland in 1994 by the completion of the Channel Tunnel. The tunnel measures 50.45km\* and sits 75 metres below the seabed of the English Channel. The main tunnel consists of several smaller tunnels, which transport high-speed passenger trains, Eurotunnel trains that transport vehicles and international goods trains that transport lorries. The speed limit within the tunnel is an astonishing 160km per hour and, every year, over 10 million people travel from Folkestone in Kent to Calais in France in little over half an hour using this feat of engineering! Since its inception, it has proven to be a great success in the swift transportation of people and goods across to mainland Europe.

## History of the Tunnel

The first plans for the Channel Tunnel were dreamt up in 1808: a ground-breaking plan for an underwater passageway that would be lit by oil lamps for horse-drawn carriages to travel through. However, in 1834, horse-drawn carriages were replaced with a plan for steam trains. Many disbelievers scoffed at the plans and questioned the safety of a 'tunnel under the sea'. Fortunately for us, today's Channel Tunnel is far less of a fire hazard now than back in the days when they planned to use oil lamps and steam!

## Constructing the Tunnel

Finally, in 1988, construction work began and, by 1994 (after a staggering manufacturing cost of nine million pounds), the Channel Tunnel was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II. Almost unbelievably, the enormous burrowing machines used to dig the tunnels were impossible to lift out so they had to be encased in concrete and buried in the middle of the tunnel to become eerie, everlasting, under-the-sea statues. By 2000, the tunnel became animal-friendly when pets were given the go-ahead to travel. 17 years later, by 2011, over 2 million cats and dogs had journeyed from England to France via this remarkable mode of transport.

## Facts and Figures

In 2006, the 100 millionth passenger travelled on the Eurotunnel passenger shuttle and, by 2018, over 80 million vehicles had passed through. Even the Olympic torch travelled to the London Olympic Games in 2012 via the 'Chunnel'!

\*One mile is equal to 1.6 kilometres.

**...were dreamt up in 1808: a ground-breaking plan for an underwater passageway...**

What does this description suggest about the plan?

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**Find** and **copy** two words or phrases that suggest that the plans for the tunnel were initially laughed at by many people.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

2

**...to become eerie, everlasting, under-the-sea statues.**

What impression does this give you of the buried machinery?

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3

**...this feat of engineering!**

Why do you think the author chose to use this phrase?

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4

How has the author's choice of words created a feeling that the Channel Tunnel offers a high-speed mode of travel?

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5

# My Longest Journey

Winter's greeting: cheeks slapped red by the first morning's chill.

Throats on fire; plumes erupting with every breath.

Faces hidden; friends like highwaymen in hoods and scarves.

Desperate dances; feet stamp and hands clap a hesitant beat.

Colour retreats: once-happy gardens wither in silent submission.

Shivering trees; branches stripped bare by leaf-greedy storms.

Gatling gun clouds; hail showers like bouncing bullets.

Vampire skies; draining daylight into shadows and darkness.

Wasted weekends: reluctant dog walks and slow, soggy Sundays.

Countdown calendar; striking days like a gloomy prisoner.

Reluctant traveller; wishing the long journey would finally end.

Give me a year of spring and summer – winter is not my friend.

## Shivering trees...

Why has the poet chosen to use this example of personification?

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**Gatling gun clouds; hail showers like bouncing bullets.**

What impression does this give you of the hail showers?

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2

Find and copy five words or phrases that show the poet's unhappiness during the winter months.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

3

**Throats on fire; plumes erupting with every breath.**

What does this description suggest about the poet's breath?

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4



# Answers

## Noises in the Darkness

1. **'It was probably just an owl,' Andrea persuaded herself.**

What does this sentence suggest about how Andrea was feeling? Tick **one**.

- she was feeling confident
- she was feeling uncertain**
- she was feeling cowardly
- she was feeling calm

2. Look at the paragraph beginning: **The winter days were short...**

**Find** and **copy** two words or phrases from this paragraph which suggest that the journey home was not a pleasant one for Andrea.

**Accept any two of the following answers, copied directly from the text:**

- **the midst of a bleak January cold snap;**
- **[the evenings were] intimidatingly dark;**
- **bitterly cold wind howled like a wolf;**
- **she was frozen to the bone.**

3. **...Jack smiled in an awkward, red-faced apology...**

What does this description suggest about Jack?

**Accept any answer which suggests that Jack felt embarrassment, uneasiness or regret.**

4. **Andrea immediately tensed and braced herself...**

List two impressions this gives you about Andrea's reaction.

**Accept any two of the following answers or ideas:**

- **she was expecting the worst;**
- **she thought someone or something was about to crash into her;**
- **she feared that she may get hurt;**
- **she stiffened up quickly as she expected an impact.**

5. Look at the whole extract.

**Find and copy** three words or phrases which suggest that the pavements were icy.  
**Accept any three of the following answers, copied directly from the text:**

- she tentatively tried to quicken her steps;
- but knew that her high-heeled boots didn't have much grip;
- [Jack's scooter wheels] leaving a winding trail on the glistening pathway;
- "It's so slippery that I can barely control this thing!"

## The Channel Tunnel

1. ...were dreamt up in 1808: a ground-breaking plan for an underwater passageway...

What does this description suggest about the plan?

**Accept any response which alludes to the idea being pioneering, such as: the plan was forward thinking; something like that had never been attempted before.**

2. **Find and copy** two words or phrases that suggest that the plans for the tunnel were initially laughed at by many people.

**Accept any two of the following answers, as taken from the text:**

- disbelievers;
- scoffed at the plans;
- questioned the safety;
- 'a tunnel under the sea'.

3. ...to become eerie, everlasting, under-the-sea statues.

What impression does this give you of the buried machinery?

**Accept pupils' own responses which convey a surprised or haunting feeling, such as: It gives you the impression that the buried machines are an unexpected sight to see in such an unusual place.**

4. ...this feat of engineering!

Why do you think the author chose to use this phrase?

**Pupils' own responses such as: The author has used this phrase because they believe the Channel Tunnel is an extraordinary structure which was difficult to construct and proved many people wrong.**

5. How has the author's choice of words created a feeling that the Channel Tunnel offers a high-speed mode of travel?

**Pupils' own responses which utilise adjectives from the text to inform their answer, such as: The author has chosen to use many adjectives like 'astonishing', 'rapid' and 'remarkable' to emphasise the speed of the Channel Tunnel trains.**

## The Longest Journey

### 1. Shivering trees...

Why has the poet chosen to use this example of personification?

**Pupils' own responses such as: The poet uses personification to make the trees seem like a shivering person who is naked without their leaves.**

### 2. Gatling gun clouds; hail showers like bouncing bullets.

What impression does this give you of the hail showers?

**Pupils' own responses such as: It makes the hail storm seem violent and heavy with hailstones that could cause damage.**

### 3. Find and copy five words or phrases that show the poet's unhappiness during the winter months.

**Accept any five of the following answers, taken directly from the text:**

- desperate dances;
- hands clap their hesitant beats;
- wasted weekends;
- reluctant dog walks;
- slow, soggy Sundays;
- countdown calendar;
- striking days like a gloomy prisoner;
- reluctant traveller;
- wishing the long journey would finally end;
- winter is not my friend.

### 4. Throats on fire; plumes erupting with every breath.

What does this description suggest about the poet's breath?

**Pupils' own responses such as: The description makes the poet's breath seem like smoke when actually it's just them breathing into the cold air.**

## Extended Response Challenge

Acceptable points:

**AP1.** It is violent.

**AP2.** It is cold.

**AP3.** It causes pain/harm.

**AP4.** It makes people unable to recognise/trust each other.

**AP5.** It lacks colour/light/vibrancy.

**AP6.** It is greedy.

**AP7.** It ruins people's weekends.

Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g.

- The poem gives the impression that the weather is violent because it says that cheeks are 'slapped red'. It also gives the impression that it is cold in the mornings. [AP1 + evidence and AP2]
- We are given the impression that the weather is greedy because the storms are 'leaf-greedy'. We are also given the impression that the weather causes harm like 'bouncing bullets'. [AP6 + evidence and AP3 + evidence]

Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.

- The poem gives the impression that the weather causes people not to be able to recognise or trust each other because friends suddenly become highwaymen when they are wrapped up in hoods and scarves. [AP4 + evidence]
- The poet makes me think that the winter weather is violent and ruins people's weekends. [AP1 and AP7]

Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g.

- The winter weather lacks colour and light. [AP5]
- The poem gives the impression that the weather causes harm. [AP3]