

Year 10 English – Home Learning Pack 5

Task One – Spoken Language

Think about fire and discuss with a trusted adult the questions in the box:



- How does it move? Think about verbs you could use to describe its movement.

- What does it look like? Think about adjectives that describe how it looks.

- What does fire remind you of? Think about similes that might compare it to something else.

Task Two – Reading

Lord of the Flies by William Golding 1951

In this story, a group of boys find themselves trapped on an island, without adults. As time progresses, they begin to argue and fight amongst each other. In the scene described below, the boys light a fire as a signal for help.

Smoke was rising here and there among the creepers that festooned the dead or dying trees. As they watched, a flash of fire appeared at the root of one wisp, and then the smoke thickened. Small flames stirred at the trunk of a tree and crawled away through leaves and brushwood, dividing and increasing. One patch touched a tree trunk and scrambled up like a bright squirrel. The smoke increased, sifted, rolled outwards. The squirrel leapt on the wings of the wind and clung to another standing tree, eating downwards. Beneath the dark canopy of leaves and smoke the fire laid hold on the forest and began to gnaw. Acres of black and yellow smoke rolled steadily toward the sea. At the sight of the flames and the irresistible course of the fire, the boys broke into shrill, excited cheering. The flames, as though they were a kind of wild life, crept as a jaguar creeps on its belly toward a line of birch-like saplings that fledged an outcrop of the pink rock. They flapped at the first of the trees, and the branches grew a brief foliage of fire. The heart of flame leapt nimbly across the gap between the trees and then went swinging and flaring along the whole row of them. Beneath the capering boys a quarter of a mile square of forest was savage with smoke and flame. The separate noises of the fire merged into a drum-roll that seemed to shake the mountain.

Lord of the Flies Text-focused Questions:

1. Define four of the following words: festooned, scrambled, sifted, gnaw, irresistible, nimbly, capering.
2. Find one example of the flames being personified within the extract. Explain the quotation to think about the visual created by the words.

3. Record all of the similes in the extract (as or like comparisons). Explain one of the similes to show the effect on the reader.

3. What do the fire and the boys have in common? Use evidence in your answer to explain your ideas.

4. How would you describe the mood of the extract? Why?

5. Was it a good idea for the boys to light a signal fire? Why? Why not?

Task Three – Writing

In the extract above, there are a lot of similes used (comparing one thing to another, using 'as' or 'like'. Complete the sheet below, practicing your own similes.

Super Similes

Similes are a way of comparing two things using LIKE or AS:

He eats like a pig

He is as quiet as a mouse.

Try and finish these similes:

Like Similes: verb + like + noun

The diamond shone like _____

The wind howled like _____

She swims like _____

The sun blazed like _____

As Similes: as + adjective + as + noun

The cloak was as green as _____

The man was as tall as _____

The rock was as sharp as _____

The bag was as heavy as _____

Fill in the similes:

The moon was as bright as _____. I walked quickly through dry grass that crunched like _____. Trees as tall as _____ towered over me. As quick as _____ a huge animal ran towards me. My heart felt like a _____ beating in my chest. I ran like a _____ to get home to safety, my legs were as wobbly as _____. The windows of my house were as yellow as _____ showing me I was finally safe.

Try writing some similes of your own.

