

SC1: Once Upon a Time

Read the first paragraph of *Dracula* and put the words in brackets () into the correct form (eg. noun, adjective).

Suddenly, away on our left I saw a flickering blue flame. The _____(drive) saw it at the same moment. He at once checked the horses, and, jumping to the ground, disappeared into the _____(dark). I did not know what to do, the less as the howling of the wolves grew closer. But while I wondered, the driver suddenly appeared again, and without a word took his seat, and we resumed our journey.

I think I must have _____(fall) asleep and kept dreaming of the incident, for it seemed to be repeated _____(end), and now looking back, it is like a sort of awful _____(night). Once the flame appeared so near the road, that even in the darkness around us I could watch the driver's motions. He went rapidly to where the blue flame rose, it must have been very faint, for it did not seem to illuminate the place around it at all, and gathering a few stones, formed them into some device.

....

Once there appeared a strange optical effect. When he stood between me and the flame he did not obstruct it, for I could see its ghostly flicker all the same. This startled me, but as the effect was only momentary, I took it that my eyes deceived me straining through the darkness. Then for a time there were no blue flames, and we sped onwards through the gloom, with the howling of the wolves around us, as though they were following in a moving circle.

At last there came a time when the driver went further away than he had yet gone, and during his absence, the horses began to tremble worse than ever and to snort and scream with fright. I could not see any cause for it, for the howling of the wolves had ceased altogether. But just then the moon, sailing through the black clouds, appeared behind the jagged crest of a pine-covered rock, and by its light I saw around us a ring of wolves, with white teeth and lolling red tongues, with long limbs and shaggy hair. They were a hundred times more terrible in the grim silence which held them than even when they howled. For myself, I felt a sort of paralysis of fear. It is only when a man feels himself face to face with such horrors that he can understand their true importance.

All at once the wolves began to howl as though the moonlight had had some peculiar effect on them. The horses jumped about and reared, and looked helplessly round with eyes that rolled in a way painful to see. But the living ring of terror encompassed them on every side, and they were forced to remain within it.

I called to the coachman to come, for it seemed to me that our only chance was to try to break out through the ring and to aid his approach, I shouted and beat the side of the carriage, hoping by the noise to scare the wolves from the side, so as to give him a chance of reaching the trap. How he came there, I know not, but I heard his voice raised in a tone of imperious command, and looking towards the sound, saw him stand in the roadway. As he swept his long arms, as though brushing away some obstacle, the wolves fell back and back further still. Just then a heavy cloud passed across the face of the moon, so that we were again in darkness.

When I could see again the driver was climbing into the carriage, and the wolves disappeared. This was all so strange and uncanny that a dreadful fear came upon me, and I was afraid to speak or move. The time seemed interminable as we swept on our way, now in almost complete darkness, for the rolling clouds obscured the moon.

We kept on ascending, with occasional periods of quick descent, but in the main always ascending. Suddenly, I became conscious of the fact that the driver was in the act of pulling up the horses in the courtyard of a vast ruined castle, from whose tall black windows came no ray of light, and whose broken battlements showed a jagged line against the sky.

1. What do the underlined words mean? Read around the words and guess the meaning from the context.
 very bad condition, unusable. unusual top part of a castle tower
surrounded serious block terrible a type of carriage
surprised
2. When and where is the story taking place? Note down words and phrases which tell you. Who can guess the closest date?
3. Find words and phrases from the text which describe the 6 senses.

see	hear	touch	taste	smell	6 th sense

4. Find words which show the body reaction of fear.

5. Find descriptions which use colours, light and darkness.

6. Find descriptions of movement

7. Find descriptions of weather

8. Find 2 similes (comparing using 'like' or 'as') and 2 examples of personification.

Fast Finishers - Draw a picture of the scene of the setting

9. Now watch the clip of the beginning of the movie and compare it to the book beginning.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fU3t_9TdbE8