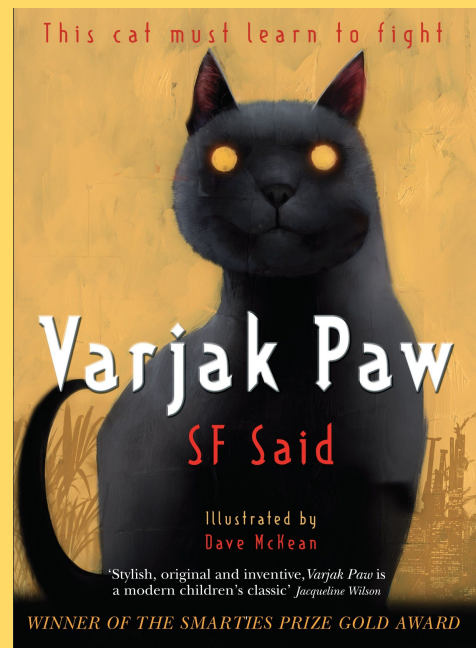


Monday 22nd February 2021

L.O: To explore text features.

This week's text:
**Varjak Paw by
SF Said**



L.O: To explore text features.

Our text this week is a novel written by SF Said called “Varjak Paw”. This text was written in 2003!

Next year, you will use Varjak Paw as one of your Year 4 text to base your english work on. You are getting a head start.

On the right is the blurb to this adventure story!

‘There are Seven Skills in the Way of Jalal,’ whispered the Elder Paw. ‘We know only three of them. Their names are these. Slow-Time. Moving Circles. Shadow-Walking.’

Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He’s never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way – a secret martial art for cats.

Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all, the mysterious Vanishings.








L.O: To explore text features.

This week's spellings! Practise every day!

 Look	 say	 cover	 write	 check
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 myth	myth
 gym	gym
 Egypt	Egypt
 pyramid	pyramid
 mystery	mystery

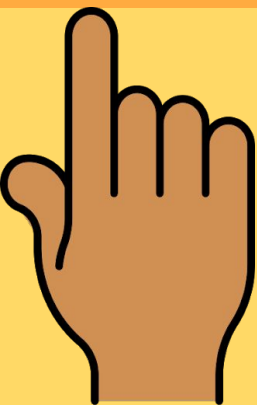
 hymn	hymn
 system	system
 symbol	symbol
 lyric	lyric
 typical	typical

L.O: To explore text features.

Steps to success

- To read and understand the text.
- To use previous learning to identify features.
- Include the main ideas from the text in my answers.
- To use tools and strategies to work out unfamiliar words/information.

L.O: To explore text features.

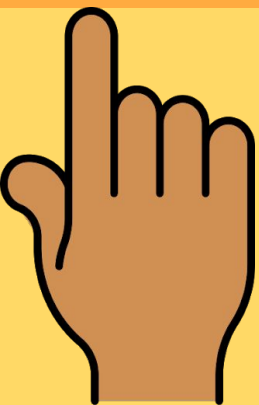


An abstract from **Varjak Paw** by SF Said

A shrill shriek pierced the silent night. Varjak stopped dead in his tracks. Shuddering, his ears vibrated then flattened against his matted fur. He knew that scream. A distant memory tried to surface. Blocking all thoughts, he padded across the glossy road, which reflected the dim yellow street-lights lining the path Varjak should take. Reaching an old, derelict building, he sprang stealthily onto a tall, arched window. The empty, gaping window frame seemed to swallow his slender body.

Miaaaaaooooowww. There is was again. Hanging on the air like an alarm, the cry was more frantic now, desperate even. A shudder ran through his body: from the end of his whiskers to the tip of his tail. Varjak edged closer to the alley's entrance, balancing like an acrobat on a tightrope, arching his body towards the noise, which was coming from deep, down in the darkness. Heart racing, Varjak sprang into the rotting rubbish and broken glass beneath him. Treading carefully, he let his awareness flow out: reaching into the darkness beyond him becoming his eyes. As his breathing slowed, his body shimmered in the moonlight. Shadow Walking: Jalal's third skill. Varjak smiled to himself as he remembered how hard it had been to master. Breathing, concentration, belief- there were so many things to remember to be an effective shadow-walker. Before he'd learnt The Way- The Way of Jalal- he had been such an unsuccessful shadow-walker (now, however, this was his greatest strength.)

L.O: To explore text features.



Under the invisibility cloak of darkness, Varjak moved quickly forwards into the endless void of the alley. Nobody would be able to see him whilst he walked in the shadows. Just at that moment, his heightened senses detected a smell: a rancid, putrid smell like nothing he'd ever smelt before. His whiskers shook as he sucked in the air lined with this foul stench. Being unable to see, he could only use his awareness now. The light from the street lights behind him was not much more than a twinkle and the moonless sky had long been covered by the buildings, which loomed up high above him.

L.O: To explore text features.

TASK ONE: Word meaning

Choose five words you are unfamiliar with.

Ask an adult at home or use a dictionary (<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/browse/dictionary>) to help you find and copy their meaning in relation to the text.

In the text 'pierced' is used as a verb.

In the context of the text ("A shrill shriek pierced the silent night"), the most appropriate definition is 'to enter or thrust into sharply or painfully'

pierced *adjective*

- 1 : having holes
- 2 : having a hole for the attachment of a piece of jewelry <*pierced* ears > <a *pierced* tongue >
- 3 : designed for pierced ears <*pierced* earrings >

pierce *verb* \ 'pi(ə)rs \ 

- 1 a : to run into or through as a pointed weapon does : *stab*
 - b : to enter or thrust into sharply or painfully**
 - 2 : to make a hole in or through <have one's ears *pierced* >
 - 3 : to force or make a way into or through <*pierce* the enemy's line >
 - 4 : to penetrate with the eye or mind : see through
 - 5 : to stir the emotions of : *move*
- pierc*er** *noun*

L.O: To explore text features.

TASK TWO: Literary Devices

Writers use literary devices to communicate to the reader and make their texts more interesting!

Read through the text again and find one example of each of the literary devices below.

imagery: The use of descriptive language to engage the senses of the reader

hyperbole: The use of exaggeration

onomatopoeia: The use of a word that, when read aloud, sounds like the noise it describes

simile: A comparison using the words "like" or "as"

L.O: To explore text features.

Sharing example answers: Task Two

Imagery: “A rancid, putrid smell like nothing he’d ever smelt before. His whiskers shook as he sucked in the air lined with this foul stench.”

Hyperbole: “The empty, gaping window frame seemed to swallow his slender body.”

Onomatopheia: “Miaaaaaaooooowww.”

Simile: “Hanging on the air like an alarm.”



L.O: To explore text features.

TASK THREE: Prediction


Answer the prediction questions below using full sentences.

What do you think happened just before this point in the story?

What may happen next in the story?

Self assessment - Reflection

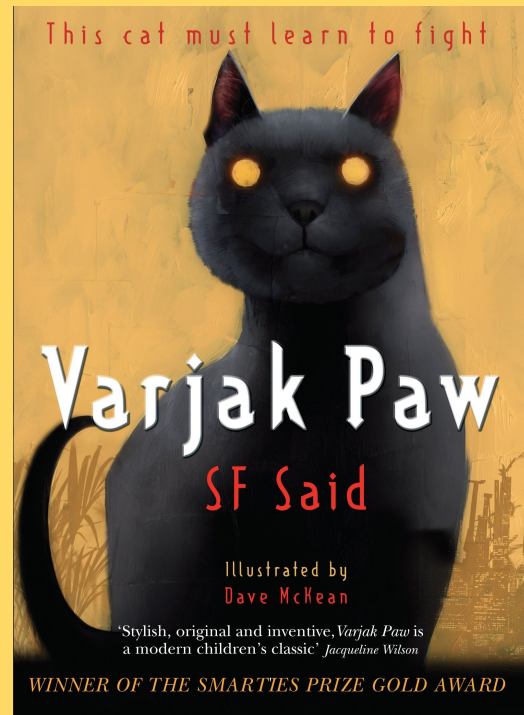
Do you use some of the literary devices in your writing?

If there's
ONE thing
I've learnt
it's — 

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

This week's text:
**Varjak Paw by
SF Said**








L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

This week's spellings! Practise every day!

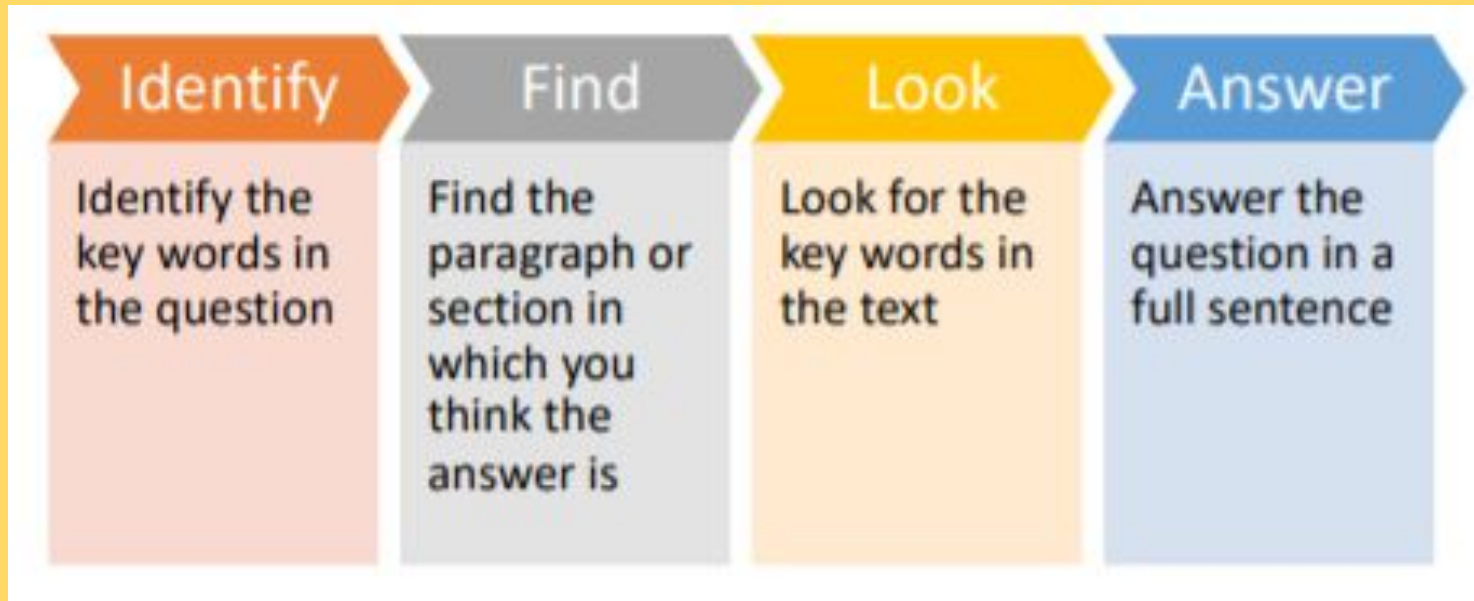
 Look	 say	 cover	 write	 check
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 myth	myth
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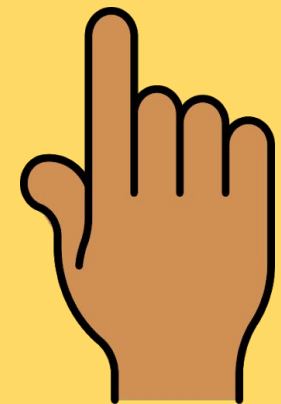
 hymn	hymn
 system	system
 symbol	symbol
 lyric	lyric
 typical	typical

L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

Let's remind ourselves of the steps we need to take to understand the meaning of words.



L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

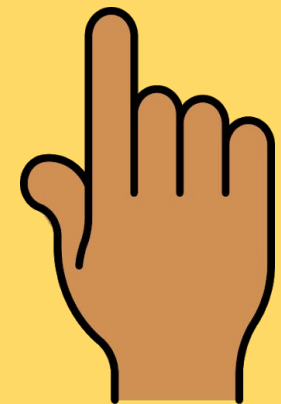


An abstract from **Varjak Paw** by SF Said

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L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.



Under the invisibility cloak of darkness, Varjak moved quickly forwards into the endless void of the alley. Nobody would be able to see him whilst he walked in the shadows. Just at that moment, his heightened senses detected a smell: a rancid, putrid smell like nothing he'd ever smelt before. His whiskers shook as he sucked in the air lined with this foul stench. Being unable to see, he could only use his awareness now. The light from the street lights behind him was not much more than a twinkle and the moonless sky had long been covered by the buildings, which loomed up high above him.

L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

Trying Together:

1) What does the phrase ‘stopped dead in his tracks’ mean?

What is the first step?

Next I should...

Then I must....

Finally....

An abstract from **Varjak Paw** by SF Said

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L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

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An abstract from **Varjak Paw** by SF Said

A shrill shriek pierced the silent night. **Varjak stopped dead in his tracks.** Shuddering, his ears vibrated then flattened out against his matted fur. He knew that scream. A distant memory tried to surface. Blocking all thoughts, he padded across the glossy road, which

I have found the phrase/my focus sentence in the text. Key vocabulary in my focus sentence: dead and tracks. I know if something is dead it is unable to move and tracks refer to walking/ a journey.

I'm told in the previous sentence the silent night is disturbed by a loud scream. This would make anybody jump/be scared.

Therefore to stop dead in tracks means to be so scared of something you are unable to move.

L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

MAIN TASK:

Answer the next four questions independently in full sentences.

Skip a line after each so we can green pen edit our ideas!

- 2) What do we know about the setting from the first paragraph? Write at least three things we've found out from the first paragraph.
- 3) 'Heart racing, Varjak sprang into the rotting rubbish and broken glass beneath him.' What other adjectives could the author have used to describe the rubbish and the glass?
- 4) Find and copy a simile that the author uses to describe Varjak getting closer to the alley.
- 5) What does 'endless void' mean and why do you think the author chose this phrase?

L.O: To understand the meaning of words in context.

MAIN TASK:

- 2) Answers could include; The text is set at night, The road is glossy, The lights are not very bright on the street, The building is empty, The building has a large window in the shape of an arch.
- 3) Answers could include; decaying, disintegrating, moulding, souring, spoiling. Answers could include; crushed, shattered, smashed, damaged, fractured, ruined.
- 4) 'balancing like an acrobat on a tightrope'.
- 5) The phrase endless void means a space that doesn't seem to have a clear finish. The author uses this phrase to exaggerate how Varjak is feeling at the time after a long journey.



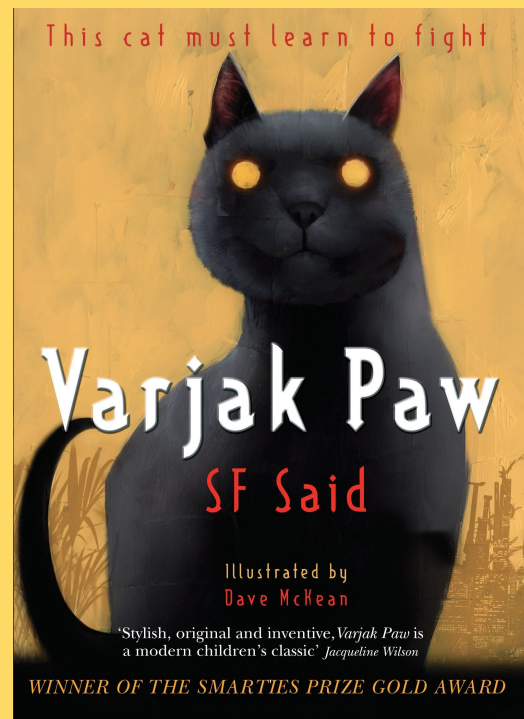
Self- assessment - Reflection

- The strategies I have used are

Wednesday 24th February 2021

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

This week's text:
**Varjak Paw by
SF Said**








L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

This week's spellings! Practise every day!

 Look	 say	 cover	 write	 check
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L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

Today's learning focus...

We are learning to use _____ skills.

What strategies do you need to use?

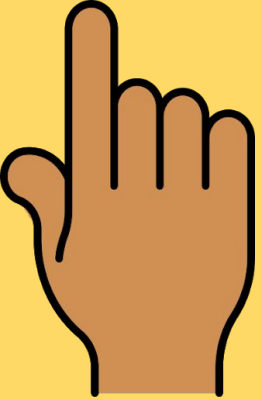
The strategies I will need to use are....

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

Steps to success

- Read the text carefully.
- Identify key words in the question.
- Look for the key words in the text.
- Answer with appropriate information using a full sentence.

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

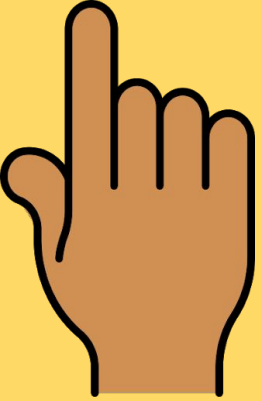


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L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.



Under the invisibility cloak of darkness, Varjak moved quickly forwards into the endless void of the alley. Nobody would be able to see him whilst he walked in the shadows. Just at that moment, his heightened senses detected a smell: a rancid, putrid smell like nothing he'd ever smelt before. His whiskers shook as he sucked in the air lined with this foul stench. Being unable to see, he could only use his awareness now. The light from the street lights behind him was not much more than a twinkle and the moonless sky had long been covered by the buildings, which loomed up high above him.

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

Trying Together:

1) What did Varjak's ears do when he heard the scream?

What is the first step?

Next I should...

Then I must....

Finally....

A shrill shriek pierced the silent night. Varjak stopped dead in his tracks. Shuddering, his ears vibrated then flatted out against his matted fur. He knew that scream. A distant memory tried to surface. Blocking all thoughts, he padded across the glossy road, which reflected the dim yellow street-lights lining the path Varjak should take. Reaching an old, derelict building, he sprang stealthily onto a tall, arched window. The empty, gaping window frame seemed to swallow his slender body.

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

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The key word in the question is 'ears'.

The key word features in the following sentence...

"Shuddering, his ears vibrated then flatted out against his matted fur."

*I can use the other sentences around the focus sentence to help me.
However, it tells me all the information I need to know!*

My answer: Varjak's ears vibrate and then flatten against his fur after hearing the scream.

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

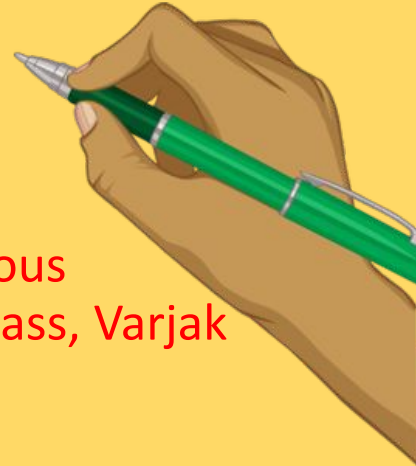
Main task:

- 2) What person is the text written in? Explain how you know.
- 3) Where does the story takes place?
- 4) What is Jalal's third skill?
- 5) Write down 3 things you are told about Varjak.
- 6) What part of the story do you like best?
Use evidence to support your opinion.

L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

Sharing answers: main task.

- 2) The text is written in the third person as it uses pronouns such as he, his and him, rather than I, we or you.
- 3) The story takes place on the streets during the night and in a rubbish and glass filled alleyway.
- 4) Jalal's third skill is Shadow Walking.
- 5) Examples could include; Varjak has matted fur, Varjak is a nervous character as he shudders, Varjak lands on/in rotting rubbish and glass, Varjak previously had been a poor shadow walker.
- 6) Your own unique responses!



L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

Reflection

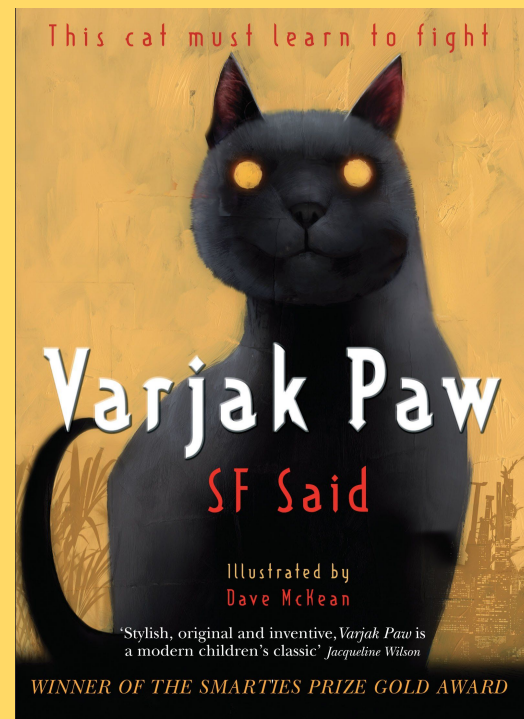
The strategies I have learnt are..



Thursday 25th February 2021

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

This week's text:
**Varjak Paw by
SF Said**








L.O: To retrieve and record information from the text.

This week's spellings! Practise every day!

 Look	 say	 cover	 write	 check
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 myth	myth
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 lyric	lyric
 typical	typical

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

Tell me:

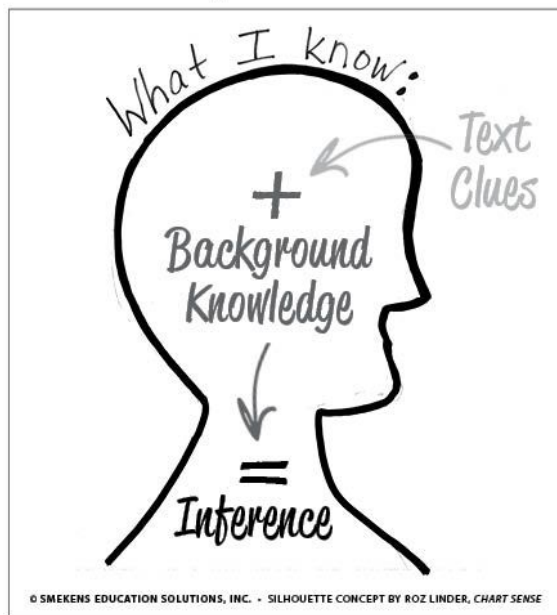
What does it mean to make inferences?

How does the text help us?

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

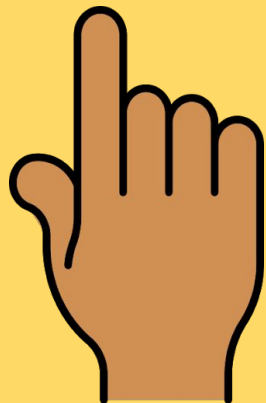
Steps to success

5 Steps to Make an Inference



1. Read/View the text.
2. Read the question.
3. List relevant details.
4. Put details together.
5. Determine what they mean.

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

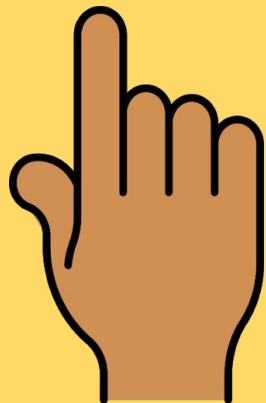


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L.O: To form explanations based on inference.



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L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

1) Trying Together: How is it made clear that Varjak is not a human character?

Let's dissect the question...

We are being asked prove that Varjak IS NOT a human character.

We know from the cover of the novel and the blurb that we read earlier in the week that Varjak is a kitten.

However, we are going to imagine we have not seen or read either and the only information we have is our text!

The question is not asking us to prove he is a cat but simply not a human!

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

1) Trying Together: How is it made clear that Varjak is not a human character?

A shrill shriek pierced the silent night. Varjak stopped dead in his tracks. Shuddering, his ears vibrated then flattened against his matted fur. He knew that scream. A distant memory tried to surface. Blocking all thoughts, he padded across the glossy road, which reflected the dim yellow street-lights lining the path Varjak should take. Reaching an old, derelict building, he sprang stealthily onto a tall, arched window. The empty, gaping window frame seemed to swallow his slender body.

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Can you now use my explanation below to form an answer to the trying together question...Remember full sentences!

Within the first two paragraphs of the text we are given two clear examples of features a human DOES NOT have. However, it still isn't clear Varjak is a cat (other animals such as dogs have whiskers, fur and a tail), hence why we are only being asked to prove the character is not human.

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

Main Task:

- 2) How do you think Varjak is feeling at the end of this extract?
- 3) 'The empty, gaping window frame seemed to swallow his slender body.' What does the word 'swallow' tell us about Varjak and the window?
- 4). 'Under the invisibility cloak of darkness' What do you think the author means by this?
- 5) Who might Jalal be?

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

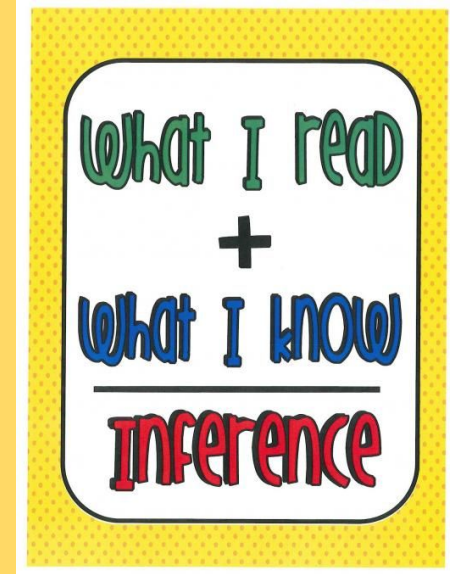
Main Task:

- 2) By the end of the extract, Varjak is feeling exhausted. He has ran, jumped and balanced to get him to the alley in the darkness.
- 3) The use of the word swallow suggests that the window was so large in comparison to Varjak that it looked like he had been eaten by it.
- 4) The invisibility cloak of darkness refers to it being so dark that it would be hard to see Varjak on his travels, providing him with a cloak of invisibility!
- 5) Jalal may be someone who Varjak looks up to and has learnt from, particularly the skill of shadow walking.

L.O: To form explanations based on inference.

Self - assessment: Reflection

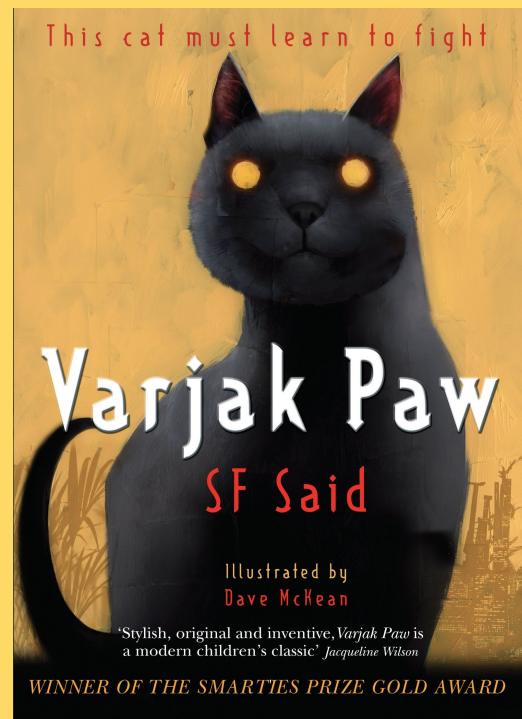
- The strategies I have learnt today are...



Friday 26th February 2021

L.O: To summarise the events in a text.

This week's text:
**Varjak Paw by
SF Said**








L.O: To summarise the events in a text.

This week's spellings! Practise every day!

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 lyric	lyric
 typical	typical

L.O: To summarise the events in a text.

Steps to success

SUMmarise It

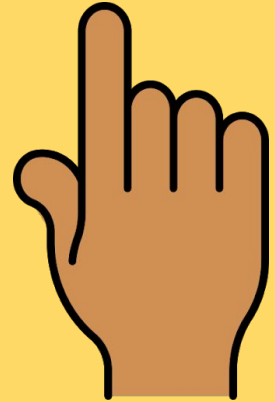
Shorter than the text

Use your own words

Main ideas only



L.O: To summarise the events in a text.

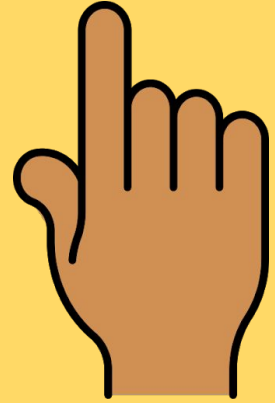


An abstract from **Varjak Paw** by SF Said

A shrill shriek pierced the silent night. Varjak stopped dead in his tracks. Shuddering, his ears vibrated then flattened out against his matted fur. He knew that scream. A distant memory tried to surface. Blocking all thoughts, he padded across the glossy road, which reflected the dim yellow street-lights lining the path Varjak should take. Reaching an old, derelict building, he sprang stealthily onto a tall, arched window. The empty, gaping window frame seemed to swallow his slender body.

Miaaaaaooooowww. There it was again. Hanging on the air like an alarm, the cry was more frantic now, desperate even. A shudder ran through his body: from the end of his whiskers to the tip of his tail. Varjak edged closer to the alley's entrance, balancing like an acrobat on a tightrope, arching his body towards the noise, which was coming from deep, down in the darkness. Heart racing, Varjak sprang into the rotting rubbish and broken glass beneath him. Treading carefully, he let his awareness flow out: reaching into the darkness beyond him becoming his eyes. As his breathing slowed, his body shimmered in the moonlight. Shadow Walking: Jalal's third skill. Varjak smiled to himself as he remembered how hard it had been to master. Breathing, concentration, belief- there were so many things to remember to be an effective shadow-walker. Before he'd learnt The Way- The Way of Jalal- he had been such an unsuccessful shadow-walker (now, however, this was his greatest strength.)

L.O: To summarise the events in a text.



Under the invisibility cloak of darkness, Varjak moved quickly forwards into the endless void of the alley. Nobody would be able to see him whilst he walked in the shadows. Just at that moment, his heightened senses detected a smell: a rancid, putrid smell like nothing he'd ever smelt before. His whiskers shook as he sucked in the air lined with this foul stench. Being unable to see, he could only use his awareness now. The light from the street lights behind him was not much more than a twinkle and the moonless sky had long been covered by the buildings, which loomed up high above him.



L.O: To summarise the events in a text.

MAIN TASK

Draw three large squares on your paper.

In each box, draw an image the summarises the events of each paragraph and add a caption of what happens. Use your own words!



Varjak hears a terrifying scream as he walks the dark streets in search for shelter.

Paragraph two

Paragraph three

Self - assessment: Reflection

What was your opinion of this week's text?