Inkleaf LEARNING

Name _____

Date _____

Year 7 English

A writer's word choices.

I can explain the effect of a writer's word choices.

1 Practise

Read the passage, then answer the questions.

> The house crouched at the end of the lane, its windows dark and hollow. Wind clawed at the loose slates, and somewhere inside a door groaned on its hinges. Mia hesitated at the gate. Every instinct whispered at her to turn back.

Find a word that makes the house sound like an animal. _____

Find a word that makes the wind sound violent. _____

Choose one word and explain its effect: The writer uses … which suggests …

2 Use It

Rewrite the sentence with stronger word choices, on the lines beside it.

The wind blew and the door made a noise.

3 Spot The Mistake

Which explanation is better, and why?

A "Clawed" is a good word because it is descriptive.

B "Clawed" suggests the wind is like a wild animal attacking the house, which makes it feel threatening.

The better one is: A B (circle one). Why?



☆ Challenge

The writer says "**Every instinct whispered**". Why whispered and not shouted? What does it tell us about Mia?

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For grown-ups: how to help, and the answers.

How To Help

- Keep asking "why that word?". Swapping a word for a plainer one shows what the original adds.
- The sentence frame "The writer uses … which suggests …" is a great habit for secondary school.
- Read a paragraph of their own reading book together and pick the strongest word.

Practise

1. crouched
2. clawed
3. Any word with a clear effect, e.g. "groaned" suggests the house is old and in pain, which adds to the creepy feeling.

Use It

1. e.g. The wind howled and the door shrieked on its hinges.

Spot The Mistake

1. B, because it says what the word suggests and what effect that has on the reader. A only says it is descriptive, which is true of any word.

Challenge

1. A whisper is quiet and easy to ignore: part of Mia knows she should leave, but the feeling is not strong enough to stop her, which builds tension.