

Monday 22nd June 2020

Reading - vocabulary

Starter:

Which of the following would you rather be and why?

frightening

shivering

menacing

We're going to read this passage from the opening of 'Goosebumps: The Werewolf of Fever Swamp' by R L Stine and focus on some of the ambitious vocabulary that has been used. When you're reading, see if you can spot the words from the starter. Also, look out for any other vocabulary that you think is creating a big impact. Once you have reached the end of this text, there is a table of key vocabulary. One row of the table has already been completed.

We moved to Florida during Christmas vacation. A week later, I heard the frightening howls in the swamp for the first time.

Night after night, the howls made me sit up in bed. I would hold my breath and wrap my arms around myself to keep from shivering.

I would stare out my bedroom window at the chalk-colored full moon. And I would listen.

What kind of creature makes such a cry? I would ask myself.

And how close is it? Why does it sound as if it's right outside my window?

The wails rose and fell like police car sirens. They weren't sad or mournful. They were menacing.

Angry.

They sounded to me like a warning. *Stay out of the swamp. You do not belong here.*

When my family first moved to Florida, to our new house at the edge of the swamp, I couldn't wait to explore. I stood in the backyard with the binoculars my dad had given me for my twelfth birthday and gazed toward the swamp.

Trees with slender white trunks tilted over each other. Their flat, broad leaves appeared to form a roof, covering the swamp floor in blue shadow.

Behind me, the deer paced uneasily in their wire-mesh pen. I could hear them pawing the soft, sandy ground, rubbing their antlers against the walls of their pen.

Lowering my binoculars, I turned to look at them. The deer were the reason we had moved to Florida.

You see, my dad, Michael F. Tucker, is a scientist. He works for the University of Vermont in Burlington, which, believe me, is a *long* way from the Florida swamps!

Dad got these six deer from some country in South America. They're called swamp deer. They're not like regular deer. I mean, they don't look like Bambi. For one thing, their fur is very red, not brown. And their hooves are really big and kind of webbed. For walking on wet, swampy ground, I guess.

Dad wants to see if these South American swamp deer can survive in Florida. He plans to put little radio transmitters on them and set them free in the swamp. Then he'll study how they get along.

Main task:

word	class	definition	context	synonyms
wails	verb	a long high-pitched cry of pain, grief or anger	The main character heard wails coming out of the swamp.	howls, moans, weeps
mournful				
gazed				
slender				
paced				