

Lesson 6 (wk 2) – Reading Comprehension

Instructions: Read through the extract below. Answer the following questions.

Back Alive

Alex Ristof

I could hardly believe that it all came down to this.

One ... final ... choice.

But it was too simple – not at all what I'd come to expect from the Professor. Had I finally proven myself? I laughed in spite of my aching bones. Nope. He'd never release his precious blueprint so easily. Not when it could save so many and ruin him forever.

A drop of sweat rolled down my neck, followed by another, escaping the sticky nest of hair plastered to my scalp. I barely flinched as the rivulets raced down my spine. Considering what I'd been through, this was like the arrival of a blowfly after being devoured by mosquitoes.

I shuddered at the memory of the murky mud slurping around my legs as I waded through that last tunnel. It was so thick with darkness, I'd wondered if I'd ever emerge. The incessant biting of my skin as water-beasts surrounded me was too foul a feeling to dwell on. I dragged myself back to the present.

It all came down to this. Not a fight or an ambush. Not a battle or a trap. But a choice.

The Professor's blueprint was finally in front of me, encased in a glass chest with a fluorescent pink force field pulsating powerfully around the chest's razor-sharp edges. Nearby lay a console, with two clearly labelled buttons.

With a closer look I discovered a message: *Your life or the formula, Georgina. You choose.*

This had to be a trap.

Who would come after me if I failed? Was the Professor testing my character, sure that I would I risk my life rather than return empty-handed?

No, he already knew my character.

With a wry chuckle, I reached out ... unsure if I'd make it back alive.

Task 1: Highlight or underline the correct answer to each question.

- a Which phrase can evoke (recall /suggests) an image of animals constantly snapping and nipping at another animal?
- ✧ incessant biting
 - ✧ thick with darkness
- b Which word can evoke (recall /suggests) an image of something that ate savagely or voraciously?
- ✧ devoured
 - ✧ razor-sharp
- c Which phrase can evoke (recall /suggests) the feeling of being weighed down by the absence of light?
- ✧ too foul a feeling
 - ✧ thick with darkness
- d Which word can evoke (recall /suggests) a sense of danger?
- ✧ razor-sharp
 - ✧ incessant biting
- e Which phrase can evoke memories of sensations and feelings that are too terrible to think or talk about?
- ✧ devoured
 - ✧ too foul a feeling
- f Which idea or image can be called up by the word *razor-sharp*?
- ✧ weighed down or suffocated by the absence of light
 - ✧ danger
- g Which idea or image can be evoked (recall /suggested) by the word *devoured*?
- ✧ savagely attacked a food source
 - ✧ razor-sharp
- h Which phrase can be used to evoke terrible or unspeakable sensations?
- ✧ too foul a feeling
 - ✧ danger
- i Which phrase can be used to evoke (recall /suggests) an image of something constantly snapping and nipping at another animal?
- ✧ weighed down or suffocated by the absence of light
 - ✧ incessant biting

Task 2: The story contains descriptive language.

Descriptive language is language that uses description to allow the reader to clearly see, hear or feel what is happening.

This may be in the form of adjectives, similes, metaphors and adverbs.

Highlight the descriptive language used in the quote below. Does it contain an adjective, simile, metaphor or adverb?

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| 1. I laughed in spite of my aching bones. | |
| 2. . It was so thick with darkness | |
| 3. With a wry chuckle, I reached out | |
| 4. ...encased in a glass chest with a fluorescent pink force field pulsating powerfully around the chest's razor-sharp edges. | |
| 5. A drop of sweat rolled down my neck, followed by another, escaping the sticky nest of hair plastered to my scalp. | |
| 6. ...this was like the arrival of a blowfly after being devoured by mosquitoes. | |

Task 2: Unjumble the words below.,

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| 1. feopssrro | 4. elbutrnip |
| 2. atesw | 5. stsnicean |
| 3. gapusintl | 6. spruiceo |