

**Cathy at the window (Chapter 3)**

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**Teaching ideas****A lesson in language**

The vocabulary for this cloze text is challenging, even for a high ability group, so it might be a good idea to set a students the challenge of finding definitions before starting! You could do this as a dictionary race, or as a homework.

**Synonyms**

Ask students to find synonyms as well as definitions and allow them to choose from this extended list of words to fill the gaps. Discuss differences in end results before comparing with the original text.

**Alternative antonyms**

A nice way to explore the effects of language in this extract would be to offer a wider selection of words to choose from, using the following antonyms. You could divide the class in two and offer half the group the positive word list below, and the others the originals. Ask them to complete the cloze activity and discuss results.

Alternatively offer a combination of both word lists, and ask students to sort the words into groups before they begin. Share these groupings, and offer the suggestion that they might be sorted into words that connote 'hope' and those that imply 'fear'. Students then complete the cloze using words from either group before reading the original text and discussing the effects of language.

<i>Request</i>	<i>whole</i>	<i>angel</i>	<i>kind</i>	<i>clarity</i>
<i>understood</i>	<i>embrace</i>	<i>cheerful</i>	<i>strong</i>	<i>tranquil</i>
<i>home</i>	<i>celebratory</i>	<i>calming</i>	<i>joy</i>	<i>dream</i>
<i>clearly</i>	<i>unwaveringly</i>	<i>kissed</i>	<i>placid</i>	<i>fairy</i>

**Getting tense**

Give groups the original word list for the cloze activity as a starter and ask them to write sentences using them. Discuss the mood of the sentences created.

Explain that these are all taken from a key scene in the novel and elicit suggestions as to the mood of the scene. Would students expect a joyful or fearful atmosphere?

Then introduce the cloze activity. It is challenging, so explain that there is more than one word that would fit some gaps. Then read the original version and compare with the students' attempts. Discuss the effects of their choices.

## Cathy at the window (Chapter 3)

Fill in the gaps with the words from the list below. There is one extra!

The intense horror of \_\_\_\_\_ (1) came over me. I tried to draw back my arm, but the hand clung to it, and a most \_\_\_\_\_ (2) voice sobbed, 'Let me in – let me in!'

'Who are you?' I asked, struggling, meanwhile, to \_\_\_\_\_ (3) myself.

'Catherine Linton,' it replied \_\_\_\_\_ (4). (Why did I think of *Linton*? I had read *Earnshaw* twenty times for Linton); 'I'm come \_\_\_\_\_ (5): I'd lost my way on the moor!'

As it spoke, I \_\_\_\_\_ (6), \_\_\_\_\_ (7), a child's face looking through the window. Terror made me \_\_\_\_\_ (8); and, finding it useless to attempt shaking the \_\_\_\_\_ (9) off, I pulled its wrist on to the \_\_\_\_\_ (10) pane, and rubbed it to and fro till the blood ran down and soaked the bedclothes: still it wailed, 'Let me in!' and maintained its \_\_\_\_\_ (11) gripe, almost \_\_\_\_\_ (12) me with fear.

'How can I?' I said at length. 'Let *me* go, if you want me to let you in!'

The fingers relaxed. I \_\_\_\_\_ (13) mine through the hole, hurriedly piled the books up in a pyramid against it, and stopped my ears to exclude the \_\_\_\_\_ (14) prayer.

I seemed to keep them closed above a quarter of an hour; yet, the instant I listened again, there was the \_\_\_\_\_ (15) cry moaning on!

'Begone!' I shouted, 'I'll never let you in – not if you \_\_\_\_\_ (16) for twenty years.'

'It is twenty years,' mourned the voice: 'twenty years. I've been a \_\_\_\_\_ (17) for twenty years!'

Thereat began a \_\_\_\_\_ (18) scratching outside, and the pile of books moved as if thrust forward.

I tried to jump up, but could not stir a limb, and so yelled aloud in a \_\_\_\_\_ (19) of fright.

## Words

*beg*  
*discerned*  
*home*  
*obscurely*

*broken*  
*disengage*  
*lamentable*  
*shiveringly*

*creature*  
*doleful*  
*maddening*  
*snatched*

*cruel*  
*feeble*  
*melancholy*  
*tenacious*

*confusion*  
*frenzy*  
*nightmare*  
*waif*

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***Answers***

1. nightmare
2. melancholy
3. disengage
4. shiveringly
5. home
6. discerned
7. obscurely
8. cruel
9. creature
10. broken
11. tenacious
12. maddening
13. snatched
14. lamentable
15. doleful
16. beg
17. waif
18. feeble
19. frenzy

**One extra:** confusion