

Improving Your Reading Skills with...

Vocabulary Victor



What Does **Vocabulary Victor** Do?

Vocabulary Victor helps with content domain **2a**:

Give/explain the meaning of words in context.

This means that he is there to help you to work out the **meaning** of words you don't know.

He helps you to do this by looking at the words or phrases you're unsure of in **context**. This means using the story so far, the sentences around them and what you already know about the plot to figure out what the word must mean.

Where Have We Seen Vocabulary Victor?

The kind of questions that Vocabulary Victor helps with appear quite a lot in test papers. Here are some examples:

1 A Siamese cat **crouched** on a tree branch, peering down at Gaby with brilliant blue eyes.

Which word is closest in meaning to *crouched*?

Tick **one**.

balanced

squatted

trembled

pounced

1 mark

11 She resettled on the branch, considering her options.

What does *considering her options* mean in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

thinking about what to do

changing her mind

looking at it from the cat's point of view

wishing her mother was there

1 mark

6 Gaby secured her feet and hands and climbed higher...

What does *secured her feet and hands* mean?

1 mark

15 Nearly twenty-two hours later, the exhausted man staggered onto French soil at Calais and became an instant hero.

Find and copy two different words from the sentence above that show how tired Matthew Webb was.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

17 Look at the paragraph beginning: *Twenty-seven-year-old Webb...*

Find and copy one word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to 'motivated'.

1 mark

31 ...the 'putt-putt' of her engine was lost in the big, quiet stillness of the afternoon.

Choose the best words to match the description above. Circle both of your choices.

The boat was chugging smoking racing roaring

along on the cold sea. bubbling ripples. smooth waters. rocking tide.

1 mark

20 Find and copy a group of words that tells you that the drinks of ale, brandy and beef tea given to Matthew Webb would be considered unusual today.

1 mark

Click on the image of each question to find out more.

What Might **Vocabulary Victor** Ask?

Vocabulary Victor might ask questions like these:

What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?

Look at that sentence/passage and circle a word/phrase that means the same as...

Which word/phrase gives us the impression that the main character is...?

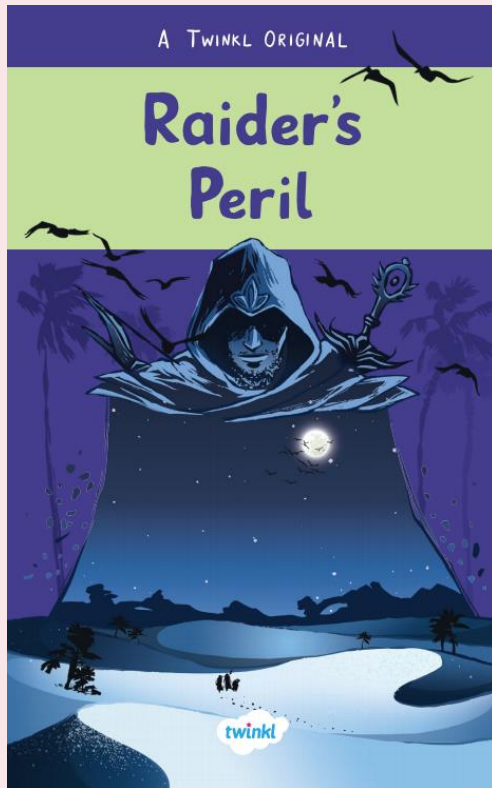
Why did the author use this word to describe...?

What might that mean?

What do you think the author is saying when they write...?

Let's Explore **Vocabulary Victor** Questions Together

Read the extract from Raider's Peril and answer the questions as a class.



Click on the image to read the text.

Read the rest of the Raider's Peril story [here](#).

Let's Explore **Vocabulary Victor** Questions Together

Read the extract from Raider's Peril and answer the questions as a class.

'The quartz spear was **nothing special**.'

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the phrase 'nothing special'?

Select **one**.

exquisite melancholy mundane rigid

Find and copy a word from the second paragraph which means the same as **glimmering**.

Why do you think the author chose to use the verb **pounded** in the third paragraph?

'...she had taken the time to examine the unusual blue gems.' Choose the best description of what Catanna did to the gems in this phrase.

she vigorously ground them
she looked closely at them
she traded them in
she recognised their value

Summing Up **Vocabulary Victor**

Prove your understanding of what Vocabulary Victor does by answering the following questions:

What does Vocabulary Victor help you to do?

What sort of question might Vocabulary Victor ask?

How can you make sure you get full marks on Vocabulary Victor questions?

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