

**You can't just sit like you're waiting to die.**

*My arms were aching and my skin was stinging. Dust and pollen clogged my nose and throat. I crawled through the weeds, dug down into the earth, slashed and pulled at the stems. I dreamed of the baby crawling out here. She was strong and she kept on giggling and pointing at the birds. Then I saw how close to the garage I had crawled and I thought of the man in there, how he just sat there, how he seemed to be just waiting to die.*

*I stood up and went to the garage door. I stood listening. There was nothing but the usual scuttling and scratching.*

*'You can't just sit there! I called. 'You can't just sit there like you're waiting to die!'*

*There was no answer. I stood listening.*

*'You can't!' I said*

*No answer.*

Highlight all the words that you associate with darkness, struggling and negativity in grey.

Highlight all the words associated with light and happiness in yellow.

Answer the following questions in your exercise book:

What do you notice about this extract?

What is really behind Michael's plea to the man?

Why does he seem desperate for the man to live?

What is the subtext in this extract?