

KS2 Word of the Week- Synonyms for 'dark and 'gloomy' to describe a character

Book: Clockwork by Philip Pullman

Hello everyone, I hope that you are all well and feeling ready and raring to go with your week of learning ahead. Do you have any other fun things planned this week? Or maybe you have a quiet week planned. That's o kay too; we all need time for a bit of quiet and calm.

I wonder how you have got on with last week's word of the week. Can you remember what last week's word was?

That's right. Last week's word was surreptitious. I wonder how many times you managed to use this word in your conversations or you writing. Have you successfully stored this word in your vocabulary banks, ready to use whenever you might need it?

Thank you to everyone that wrote a sentence on their class blog last week. I have enjoyed reading your adventurous sentences. Regardless of whether they are long or short, they all use the word surreptitious to add depth and accurate description to your writing. It was difficult to choose again this week so I handed the choice over to your class teachers. We clearly have lots of budding writers among us. They have chosen 2 sentences this week, one from Amazon class and one from Rhine.

Here is this week's winning Amazon sentence: The surreptitious cat contemplated either to go through the cat flap or the chimney. After the deluge of rain it made its choice and slowly went closer to the window until the owner of the house drew the curtains.

Well done Mya! Mrs Todd likes the way you used last week's word accurately but also how you applied grammar features that you have been learning recently.

Our winning Rhine sentence was: Surreptitiously, the monkey stole the bananas but the monkey was not happy they were rotten.

Well done Maggie! Mrs Matthews liked the presentation of your sentence but also the simplicity yet effectiveness of your sentence choice.

Well done to both of you and look out for your prize in the post.

Okay, time for this week's word of the week. Now this week is going to be a little bit different. This week I am going to read you a passage from a story and at the end of the passage I am going to talk about the word choices on one page in particular.

As I read, if you hear any words that you are curious about or just like the sound of, write these as I read. This might only be one word or it could be more than one. Either is fine.

Okay. Are you sitting comfortably? Do you have a pen and paper in hand? Then I'll begin...

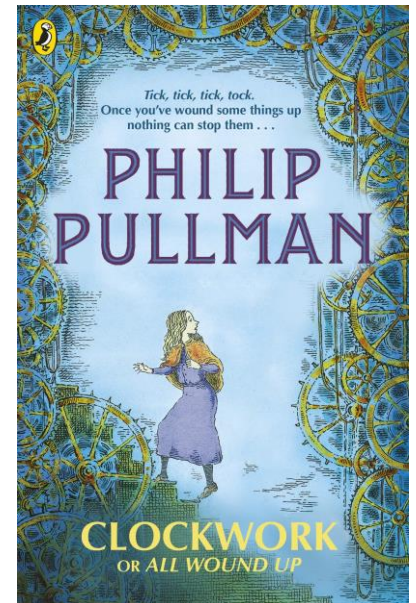
This passage is taken from Clockwork by Philip Pullman.

READ

I read this book in a day as was hooked on the storyline and couldn't put it down. Well worth a read.

Did you note down any words that maybe you haven't heard before or liked the sound of?

If you heard a word that you were unsure of its meaning, I'd like you to find out about this word when you have finished listening to this clip. You could record your findings on the blog if you wish to for others to read. You may have noted down the same word as someone else.



Now, I would like to look at one part from this passage a little bit closer. We're honing in on the text to explore the vocabulary choices made by the author. You should be able to see this part highlighted on the blog. Make sure you can see it now.

First I'm going to read this part again: Karl the apprentice nodded his thanks and went to sit by himself in the corner. His expression was dark and gloomy.

What are your first thoughts about Karl as a character?

Does he strike you as a happy soul?

Which words help you to understand his character?

Yes, I would agree: dark and gloomy.

Are these typical word choices for a person? What would be normally use the words dark and gloomy to describe?

Maybe the night sky, a winter's day or a cave perhaps?

They are not usually words we would use to describe a person.

So why do you think the author has chosen these word to describe Karl the apprentice?

Pause the audio and have a think now, or discuss with someone else.

My first thoughts were that maybe Philip Pullman has chosen these words as he wants the reader to compare this character, Karl, to a dark night. Either a night that is calm or stormy, or simply just dull and gloomy.

Dark and gloomy are words that we would call synonyms which means they have a very similar meaning.

Pause the audio now and see if you can think of other words that mean the same as dark and gloomy, just off the top of your head.

I wonder how many words you came up with. There are lots of fantastic words that mean the same as dark and gloomy and by using an online thesaurus, you will be able to find many words that I am sure you would have not yet heard of.

Now, I would now like you to think about these other words that could be used to describe this character from Clockwork. You have only just met this character, but I think we can already start to build an idea of what he is like or how he is feeling.

Do you agree with the author's word choices here? Or do you think you could make alternative word choices to improve this sentence further without changing the meaning?

Your challenge this week is to find other words that have the same meaning as dark and gloomy. From the words that you find, choose your favourite word or words and write them in a sentence on the class blog to describe a character. You could use the character, Karl from Clockwork to write your sentence about, or it could be any other person or character.

I look forward to seeing your synonyms this week.

Stay safe and keep smiling- you are all doing a great job and we are so so proud of each and every one of you. Happy word learning everyone! Bye bye.