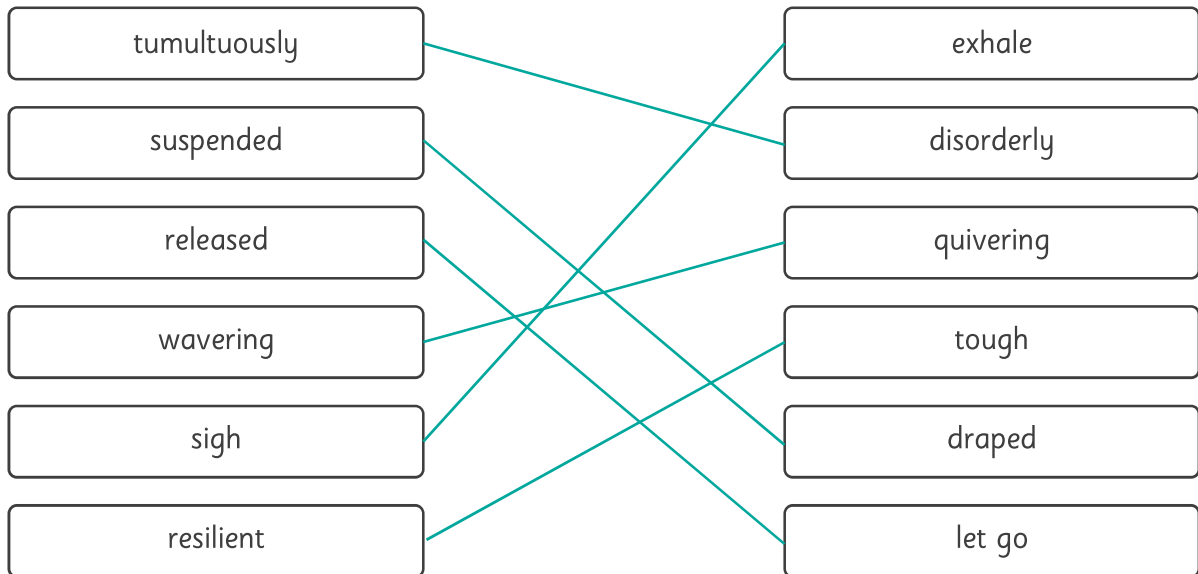


Pre-reading work

Match the words to their closest synonym.



Skimming and scanning for information

Find the words above in the text below and highlight them.

The sun came out.

It was the color of flaming bronze and it was very large. And the sky around it was a blazing blue tile color. And the jungle burned with sunlight as the children, **released** from their spell, rushed out, yelling into the springtime.

"Now, don't go too far," called the teacher after them. "You've only two hours, you know. You wouldn't want to get caught out!"

But they were running and turning their faces up to the sky and feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron; they were taking off their jackets and letting the sun burn their arms.

"Oh, it's better than the sun lamps, isn't it?"

"Much, much better!"

They stopped running and stood in the great jungle that covered Venus, that grew and never stopped growing, **tumultuously**, even as you watched it. It was a nest of octopi, clustering up great arms of fleshlike weed, **wavering**, flowering in this brief spring. It was the color of rubber and ash, this jungle, from the many years without sun. It was the color of stones and white cheeses and ink, and it was the color of the moon.

The children lay out, laughing, on the jungle mattress, and heard it **sigh** and squeak under them **resilient** and alive. They ran among the trees, they slipped and fell, they pushed each other, they played hide- and-seek and tag, but most of all they squinted at the sun until the tears ran down their faces; they put their hands up to that yellowness and that amazing blueness and they breathed of the fresh, fresh air and listened and listened to the silence which **suspended** them in a blessed sea of no sound and no motion.

Summarise

Summarise the text in less than 15 words.

1. Where is the story set? (1 mark)

Venus

2. "The children lay out, laughing, on the jungle mattress," Describe what this means. (2 marks)

The author is comparing the feeling of the jungle underneath the children to a mattress so it must be soft and comfy to lie on like a mattress.

3. Find a simile that the author has used. Why is it effective? (2 marks)

"feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron" It is effective because you can imagine the heat from an iron on your face. It suggests the heat from the sun is very strong.

4. Describe the jungle in your own words. (2 marks)

Various answers using evidence from the text. E.g. The jungle was tangled and things grew all over the place but the ground was soft. The colour of the jungle was dull and grey from all of the years without sun.

5. Find two pieces of evidence which show the children are excited. (2 marks)

1) The children lay out, laughing
2) They ran among the trees
Other possible answers:
they put their hands up
they were running and turning their faces up to the sky
rushed out, yelling into the springtime

6. What do "elephant thuds" refer to? (1 mark)

What was the jungle like a nest of?	octopi
What caused tears to run down the their faces?	squinting at the sun
What did the children play?	hide - and - seek