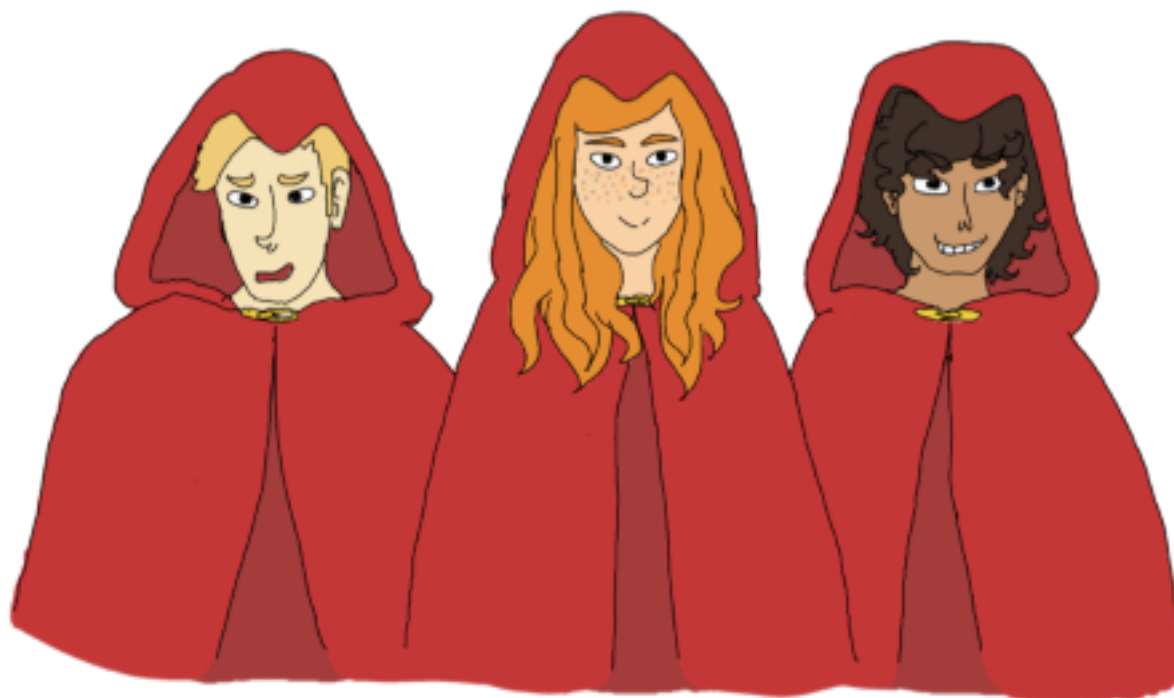


DESCRIPTION





The Bone Grits' Historeum Mist

**We're thrilled to share this Teachers Guide with you and your students!
Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have:**

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Enjoy!

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Description

Because there are no visuals in prose, writers must use words to describe visual elements in a way that helps readers see and feel the story playing out in their minds. Some of the ways a writer does this is by using descriptors such as:

Adjectives (describes a noun - person, place or thing)

Adverbs (describes verbs and adjectives - tells us how, when and where, often end in -ly) and figurative language such as:

Simile (compares one thing with another using 'like' or 'as' - white as snow)

Metaphor (compares two things by stating that they 'are' - the snow is a white blanket)

Active Verbs ('staggered' instead of 'walked')

Which of the following two passages is the most descriptive?

1. Root met a Hovermutt named Stogie.

2. A Hovermutt came bounding through the air toward them. He was a dynamo, brindled in black and ginger. His ears flopped as he charged and lunged at Root. She flew to the ground while he proceeded to lick every available inch of her face. His tail spun like the blade of a cooking wheel.

What descriptive elements does Kamilla Reid use in the second passage?



Using your own descriptive elements, write a paragraph that describes your ideal Hovermutt.





Scene Description

Read each of the following passages and
1) circle all the descriptors 2) underline any similes or metaphors.

The Black Hills

The mossy green of the forest had ended jarringly, replaced by scorched grass and smoke geysers as far as the eye could see. Nothing lived here. Nothing could. Instead, sinking into a mass of charred hills and larger ranges were thousands upon thousands of black granite headstones. Each had been meticulously carved into the image of the life lost.

Perderly

As they entered the narrow streets Root came to see that Perderly was a bright maze-like village whose lifeline seemed to pulse along the opening and closing of shutters. From these she saw people chatter and bellow and work in cheerful routine. And, indeed, as Jorab had said, every corner and cove boasted an enchanted fountain.

They came bronze, stone, pewter, enormous and tiny as a cup. Some fountains danced as maidens, some roared beast-like and some even hopped from place to place in the shady grass.

Mammoth Rock

Root's skin thrilled in bumps. He was pointing at a rock formation bigger than whole towns. It grew out of the trees like some earthen beast. Mammoth Rock. Root recognized it instantly. From Shade Howl's rooftops on clear days, she had been able to spy its granite layers over the vast forest.

The Copper Quill

Below her, Root noticed a new crack in the floor tile. The Copper Quill was old. The wrinkles and rusting, the coughing from pipes were all showing up more often now. Nevertheless, for all its neglect Root still marveled in it. Indeed, the Copper Quill was filled with oddity and wonder. There were books bound in sable fur and bone. Some in stained glass, others yoked in fine chainery. There was even one believed to be haunted by a Hagtooth of old.





Character Description

Read each of the following passages and

1) circle all the descriptors 2) underline any similes or metaphors.

Root Karbunkulus

Hers was always a ghostly presence, fair skin nearly translucent next to their russet, weathered pelts. And though the wind often tangled in her long pumpkin hair it was nothing like the wiry scalps of the Aunts. And, just to be clear, their eyes were black with no resemblance to the indigo hue that had settled into Root's eyes.

Madam Mordgidika Keen

Root recognized the name from the invitation and craned her neck to see a woman with long silvery white hair descend from a table in the Spark Willow. She drew up to the podium and paused, casting a powerful presence. Her smile drew many lines and from them two eyes shone like dewdrops. The whole garden court stilled with awe.

Hilly Punyun

Root was mesmerized by the girl. She'd never seen clothes like that on someone her own age. They clung to the girl in a shimmer of light and embroidery. She looked at Root with large, painted eyes and tossed a handful of gilt coils. She was like a firework.

The Sea Wraith

A hooded cloak flowed dark over the specter. From this hood no face was seen; only long, grey tentacles that squirmed with silent breath.

Jorab

His eyes seemed to take in the whole of the garden court with enormous concentration, as if sweeping it for clues. A short beard of loose braids covered his chin, each tip wrapped in soft, mellowed hide. He gave the impression that he had seen many trials and from him came an Ember heat Root could hardly ignore. Lord Blick himself moved aside, nodding with esteem.

Bulk

As the fog lifted in the scattered rays of morning, Root, and indeed the whole of the queue, realized they were not headed toward pillars. The grey pillars in mind were actually a pair of Bulks. These giants stood easily the size of Elder cedars, with thick, flinty skin and hair matted in Wormrot. Their lower lips hung like wet, meaty drawbridges. Root fully grasped what it would be like to be mauled by one.

Draw any one of the above characters based on their descriptions.

