

# Suspense and Mystery Text Features

Identify, highlight and label the features that create suspense, mystery and tension in this example:

Her heart was pounding and her skin itched.  
The temperature had dropped suddenly.  
Cautiously, Paula tiptoed along the dark  
landing towards the tapping sound. What  
was it?

Her hand trembled like a leaf as she paused  
and rested it on the dusty bookcase.

All went silent.

Then, craning her head and straining, she  
heard it.

*Scratch, scratch, scratch...*

**What are your thoughts, predictions and questions as a reader?**

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**Could you write the next paragraph?**

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**Text Features:**

**adding a character's thoughts**

**ellipsis**

**short, snappy sentences**

**metaphor**

**sentences that appeal to the senses**

**simile**

# Suspense and Mystery Text Features

Identify, highlight and label the features that create suspense, mystery and tension in this example:

Running as though his feet were on fire,  
Sam dashed behind some old lock-up  
garages on the edge of the park, and hoped  
that he was safe. Surely, they wouldn't find  
him here.

His heart pounded and his brow dripped  
with sweat. Gasping for breath, he found  
his thoughts racing.

After a few moments, all seemed calm. Sam  
edged along the side of the garage to see if  
the coast was clear.

Relief.

Then, a small, almost inaudible voice called  
from inside the garage.

"Help... me..."

**What are your thoughts, predictions and questions as a reader?**

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**Could you write the next paragraph?**

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# Suspense and Mystery Text Features

Identify, highlight and label the features that create suspense, mystery and tension in this example:

“Wooooah!”

In an instant, Tom’s world went dark. Where was he?  
All he could feel was cold, damp, slimy ground. A foul stench of something decomposing hung in his nostrils like an unwelcome visitor. Everything hurt: his knees, his back, his head...

“Hello?”

His voice echoed around him. No reply.

After a couple of moments, a man’s voice swam down from above him and his stomach turned to ice.

“Well, that’s him out of the way, for now.”

**What are your thoughts, predictions and questions as a reader?**

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**Could you write the next paragraph?**

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