

The Prologue

Questions

1. What is a prologue and why do you think there is one in this novel?
2. How is the friendship between the two women, Meggie and Jasmine, shown?
3. Look at the way Meggie addresses Jasmine: what do you notice and what does this suggest about the women?
4. What role does Sarah Pike have and what does she do in the Prologue?
5. Why do you think her appearance is described by Malorie Blackman?
6. Why does Jasmine become angry at Meggie?
7. What hints are there at the differences between the two families' lifestyles?
8. A lot of fear is described in the Prologue; who is afraid of who/what and for what reason?
9. How is the sense of fear conveyed to the reader?
10. How does the last sentence maintain (keep) the reader's interest?

Thinking about the characters

Look at the characters we've met in this chapter:

Meggie McGregor	Jasmine Hadley	Sarah Pike	Kamal Hadley	Ryan McGregor
--------------------	-------------------	---------------	-----------------	------------------

Put them in order of who you think has the highest status; that is who do you think is the most powerful? Draw them in a table like this with the most powerful person at the top and the least powerful character at the bottom:

Compare your choices with a partner and explain your decisions. Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.