

Change the Atmosphere, by changing the language

1. Read through the extract below:

Even in the daytime number 56 Croxley Street looked sinister. It was built of dark stone that had been stained darker in places where rain had dripped down from the broken gutters. From the grey slates of the roof down to the ground there was no lightness or colour anywhere. The trees and bushes in the garden were a miserable dark green that seemed to swallow up the light. Buddy noticed that where the branches of one of the bushes leaned against the stone of the house, the leaves had died as though poisoned by its touch.

The worst thing of all was the board on the windows. They were what made the whole place look so gloomy and lifeless, and anyone could be inside peering out through the cracks.

Extract from: *Buddy* © Nigel Hinton

2. Think about what makes the above piece so sinister. Underline words or phrases that you think are particularly effective in making the house seem scary.
3. Now write out these words in a column down the left hand side of a page.
4. Next, write down words or phrases that mean the opposite of each of the words you have chosen; these are called antonyms. For example, if you have written down 'lifeless' you might write 'full of life' or 'full of vitality' as its opposite.
5. Look at the extract below and see if you can write some of your ideas in to the spaces in order to create a more positive and happier atmosphere. The gaps do not signify the number of words or the length of the words necessary; they are just there as a guide for you.

In the daytime number 56 Croxley Street looked **inviting**. It was built of
 that had been

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 everywhere. The trees and bushes in the garden were a
 that seemed to **reflect** the light. Buddy
 noticed that where the branches of one of the bushes leaned against the stone of the
 house, the leaves The best thing of all was the

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, and anyone could