

## The Setting

**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

1. Firstly read through the extract above.
2. As a reader, what is your impression of the house?
3. Look carefully at the words in bold and discuss with a partner what effect they create. If you are not sure what some of the words mean look them up in a dictionary.
4. Complete the grid below to explain your ideas; the first one has been done as an example for you. You might want to look in a thesaurus so that you can write some synonyms in your answer.
5. Using your ideas from the table write a few paragraphs about how Hinton makes the house seem sinister. You might like to start: 'Hinton makes 56 Croxley Street seem unpleasant because right from the start he ...'
6. Now write a description of your own about a place which can either be dark and gloomy like Hinton's or you could try writing the opposite and describing a light and beautiful place.

Quotation from the extract	Effect
Even in the daytime	Right from the outset of the description the reader knows the house is dark and gloomy because even when there is natural light the house does not look inviting.
sinister	
dark stone	
stained darker	
rain had dripped	
broken gutters	
grey slates	
no lightness or colour anywhere	
miserable dark green	
swallow up the light	
leaned	
leaves had died as though poisoned by its touch	
worst thing	
board on the windows	
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