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Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

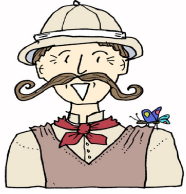
Journey to the Jungle!

by Maria Richards



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I'm your explorer and guide, so let's get on and discover new lands together!

Welcome to my world of exploring! You'll find lots of fun things to work through that will help you with your writing skills and build on the work you do at school.



Do you know *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* – the story of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy who discover the world of Narnia through the back of a wardrobe?

★ If you have access to the Internet, type this into Google and discover Narnia with Lucy:
<https://cutt.ly/2yv1v0q>

Would you believe me if I told you that I have a wardrobe that takes me to magical places? I have been a jungle explorer for many years. I have explored the Cloud Jungle in Peru, the wild jungles of Borneo and even the Ancient Waipoua Forest in New Zealand. However, six years ago, I bought a beautiful wardrobe at a market and when I got it home, I discovered that it was not just beautiful, but magical too! Every week, on a Sunday evening, if I step into the wardrobe, I'm transported to a magical jungle that is out of this world. Come and discover these new lands with me!

Visiting a jungle

- ★ Exploring jungles is very exciting. Every time I go through my wardrobe and discover a new one, I write in my 'Jungle Log'. It is a bit like a diary and it is where I write down what has happened on my visits. Here is my entry from my visit to the Atlanti Jungle in Oreno, an amazing place where the sky is yellow and the soil pink.

Listen to a recording of the text below here:

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/jungle/s-4Ye8khPyx1x>

Jungle Log: 18th April, 2020

Today has been an amazing day of discovery! I woke early and got ready for my trek into the Atlanti Jungle. I was excited and couldn't wait to see what lay ahead of me. I packed my rucksack and put on my sturdy walking boots. I made sure my camera was working because I wanted to record as much of the day as possible. I left the camp at 6am.

First, I trudged through the dense forest and collected samples of the plant life. My favourite was a thorny bush. It had tiny, yellow flowers growing on it, which smelt like ice cream! Next, I studied some of the mesmerising insects that were crawling up the rough bark of every tree. One insect looked like a caterpillar but had 2 sets of wings and tiny hands on the ends of its 20 legs. Excitedly, I photographed as many creatures as I could because I wanted to show my explorer friends what I had discovered.

After a short tea break, I measured the circumference of the tallest trees to work out how old they were. One measured 10 metres around and was so tall that I couldn't see the top of it. It reminded me of the beanstalk in a famous children's story. Next, I trekked to a clearing and found a beautiful plunge pool. The water was turquoise and tiny neon fish were splashing on the surface. I tried to catch one, but they were too fast for me. Then it was time for a rest. I lounged on pink grass, soaking up the purple sun beams and listened to the strange jungle noises around me.

Finally, I headed back to camp because the sun began to set. It sets quickly in Oreno and I was worried I might get lost. When I got to my tent, I unpacked my rucksack and stored my plant samples safely. I'm really looking forward to where my wardrobe will take me next week!

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What do the words mean?

★ Let's take a look at the meaning of some of the words in my diary.

Word:	Definition:
discovery	something that is found or learned for the first time
trek	a long, challenging journey on foot
sturdy	strong and solid
trudge	to walk slowly
circumference	the distance around something circular
dense	packed together with not much space around
mesmerising	something that holds your complete attention
turquoise	a greenish-blue colour



Use an example

★ Look at the definitions above. Draw a picture in each box below that could represent the word in the box.

sturdy	trudge
dense	mesmerising



Which synonym?

★ Synonyms are words with the same or similar meanings. Match the synonyms below this table to the target words.

★ Can you find any more synonyms to add into the table?

Target word	Synonyms
discovery	
trek	
sturdy	
trudged	
circumference	
dense	
mesmerising	
turquoise	
Which Synonyms match the target words? fascinating edge hard-wearing hike finding plod thick blue-green	

Anything else?

- ★ Read my diary again. Underline any other words you don't know the meaning of. Can you find out what they mean? You could ask someone else in your home to tell you, use a dictionary or search the internet. Write your definitions out on a separate piece of paper and try to use them in a sentence.



What can you remember now?

- ★ Underline the correct definition of the words below.

Does **mesmerising** mean 'something that is boring' or 'something that is really exciting'?

Is **turquoise** close to the colour blue or close to the colour red?

Does **trek** mean 'to run quickly' or 'to go on a difficult journey'?

Does **discovery** mean 'something you do all the time' or 'finding something for the first time'?

- ★ Challenge: Now write some sentences using any of our new words. I have done one for you:



The sky looked turquoise this morning.



Jungle comprehension!

Here's a quick-fire reading quiz about my journey. Have a go and check your answers at the end of the booklet.

Which jungle is going to be explored?

List two things the explorer did before he left camp.

Give two reasons why the explorer left early at 6am?

Which word in the text means the same as *prickly*?

What did the tiny, yellow flowers smell of?

The fish in the plunge pool were hiding. True or false?

What useful things might the explorer have in his rucksack for exploring?

Why did the explorer measure the trees?

The explorer says: It reminded me of the beanstalk in a famous children's story. What story do you think he is talking about?



10 things in an explorer's rucksack

Here's a poem I wrote when I got back from exploring Atlanti. It's a list poem and it is all the magical things I'd like to find in my rucksack.

10 Things in an Explorer's Rucksack

A sizzling sun beam scorching the sky,
The sound of rain splashing on mud,
A rhino's footprint,
A hat made of stars,
10000 leaf skeletons glittering in the wind,
The sweetest fruit from an ice cream tree,
A never-ending flapjack,
The smell of jungle clouds,
A feather from a Soupee bird,
A pair of very sore feet.

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Write a List poem

Now have a go at writing your own poem. What magical things would you like to find in your rucksack when you go exploring?

- ★ Try to make your items sound exciting by using alliteration – where words start with the same sound e.g. *sizzling sun, lazy lion, towering trees*
- ★ Use precise, powerful verbs that show things in a more exciting way e.g. *scorching, splashing, glittering*
- ★ Choose unusual things to add to your bag. Be as inventive as you can e.g. *a hat made of stars, boots made of spider webs*
- ★ Exaggerate things. Make them: *the biggest, the tallest, the sweetest, the fastest*
- ★ Invent new things e.g. *a Soupee bird, the smell of clouds*

- ★ Use this planner to help you sort your ideas for your poem. Then, using the tips above, write your poem on a separate piece of paper.

Underlying structure	New poem ideas
Things you might see exploring e.g. <i>sizzling sun</i> <i>a rhino's footprint</i>	
The sound of something	
Unusual clothing	
A large number of something e.g. <i>10000 leaf skeletons</i>	
Something amazing growing in the jungle	
Something never-ending	
The smell of something	
Something that a creature left behind, e.g. <i>the feather from a Soupee</i>	
Something to show how you might feel or that you might have	