

Name: _____

- 1 Many narratives are set in the past and are written in the past tense. Sometimes authors write narratives in the present tense. Present tense makes a story sound like it is happening now. A writer needs to maintain their tense. Read the following sentences. The first sentence is written in present tense and the second sentence is written in past tense.

Miss Albright's face crinkles up as she smiles at me.

Miss Albright's face crinkled up as she smiled at me.

Proofread the following paragraphs carefully. Edit each paragraph, making sure they are written in the present tense.

There's a very old house at the far end of our street. Paint peels from its walls, and dark windows looked out towards the road. A stone path leads from the tilting veranda out to a rusty gate. Every day, on the way home from school, Marcie and I peered at the house through a hole in the hedge. We thought the place is empty. We look into the dark garden and we were a little afraid.

Today we heard something. Our eyes followed the path to the veranda, and we see the heavy wooden front door swung open! Someone was coming out of the house! A shadowy figure stands on the veranda. It was a woman, bent over and leaning on a stick. Around her shoulders is a black wrap, and her grey hair was coiled high up on top of her head.

Marcie and I watched in silence, our hearts beating in our ears. Then I whisper, "Quick! Let's get out of here!" And we ran home to my place.

- 2 Authors use adjectives (describing words) that help the reader visualise the setting and the characters. An illustrator also makes use of adjectives to sketch scenes. Find the adjectives Dawn McMillan has used to describe the following things.

- a The garden _____
- b The veranda _____
- c The gate _____
- d The walls _____
- e Miss Albright's footsteps _____
- f The front door _____
- g Miss Albright's hair _____



Looking back and making connections

Theresa is unsure what to say to Miss Albright, because she is a stranger and because she is elderly. Theresa's Mum tells her that Miss Albright discusses the weather and the garden. On the back of this page, write a list of topics that could be appropriate conversation starters for Theresa.

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- 1 Exclamation marks (!) indicate that a character has emphasised a word or phrase. Exclamations can express many emotions, such as surprise, disbelief, relief, pleasure, excitement, disappointment, fear and concern.

Read the following sentences and circle the emotion that you think is being expressed.

a (page 11) Now I know what it feels like to be lonely, to have a cold empty place in my stomach!

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

b (page 12) "Oh, Theresa!" she sighs. "I'm so glad to see you! Can you help me up, dear?"

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

c (page 18) "It is hard not being able to do some of the things that I used to like doing, like water-skiing!"

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

d (page 23) "She's had a bad turn!" Mum whispers. "Theresa, call the ambulance!"

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

e (page 27) "Marcie!" I whisper. "Miss Albright died last night!"

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

f (page 30) Miss Albright has given me all her painting stuff!

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

g (page 32) She answers, "Race you there!"

surprise disbelief relief pleasure disappointment concern excitement fear

- 2 Write a sentence to explain what the following symbols and images often mean.








