

Thinking Reader Strategy: Visualisation

We are learning to use strategies during and after reading to help us better understand a text.

Great texts that are well written allow the reader to build up an image of the characters, settings and the story in general. This helps the reader develop their imagination.

Your task is to read the passage below and draw pictures of what you can visualise (you can do more than one to represent different parts of the story) and then answer the questions.

I finally found a break in the densely packed trees. It was the only source of light I had seen in a while. I edged forward stepping on sticks and rocks, hearing the crackling under my feet. Slowly the world around me transformed. I was no longer trapped in the black hole that was the forest.

Ahead of me lay a large, still loch with snow-capped mountains towering in the background. The sun was setting in the distance giving off a fiery-orange glow which was reflected in the water. Huge pine trees were littered across the landscape with bursts of heather and thistles breaking up the greenery. An eagle soared gracefully above the water, scanning the land below for its' next prey.

To the right of me, at the other side of the loch, I could see a small wooden cabin with smoke softly billowing from its chimney. Looking at the cabin made me feel...

Questions

1. What is the meaning of the word 'densely' or 'dense'?
2. Why do you think the author has chosen to compare the forest to a black hole?
3. What type of person do you think would move gracefully?
4. Can you think of synonyms for the word graceful?
5. Would you like to be in this story setting? Why/why not?
6. Can you finish off the final sentence? Can you explain why you have chosen those words?