

Unit 1

Stories of the Past



English

Name _____

Class _____

Powerful Verbs

Copy out this passage replacing the underlined verbs with more powerful ones.

Some have been suggested for you, but try to think of at least 5 of your own.

Once upon a time there lived a little girl called Goldilocks. One day, Goldilocks was walking in the forest and found a house. She knocked on the door, and when nobody answered, she decided to go inside. At the table there were three bowls of porridge. Goldilocks was hungry. She tried the porridge from the large bowl. “This porridge is too salty!” she said. She tried the porridge from the medium bowl. “This porridge is too sweet!” she said. She tried the porridge from the small bowl. “This porridge is just right,” she said and she ate it all up. Goldilocks felt tired, so she walked into the living room and saw three chairs. She sat in the large chair to rest her feet. “This chair is too big!” she said.

strolling

wandering

exclaimed

slipped

gulped

sneak

discovered

gobbled

slurped

creep

sighed

spotted

stumbled upon

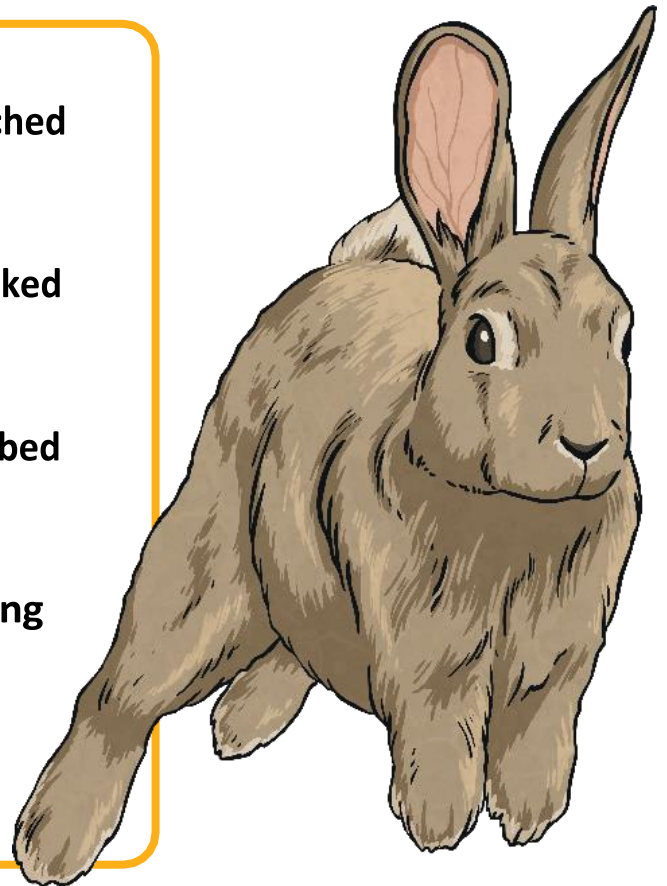
hammered

sipped



Russ put some lettuce in the bag, pretended to be dead and waited. Soon, a curious rabbit put its head in. Russ picked up the bag and caught it. He then put the bag over his shoulder and set off for the palace, where he gave the rabbit to the king saying, “This is a gift from my master, the Marquis of Carabas.” The next day, Russ pretended to be dead again and caught a pair of partridges. Again, he took them to the palace and told the king they were from the Marquis of Carabas. One day Russ heard the king would be going past a nearby river in his royal coach. Russ told his master to take off all his clothes and bathe in the river. When the king’s carriage came in to sight, Russ began to say loudly, “Help, help! My lord the Marquis of Carabas is drowning!”

stuffed	strip	snatched
rolled	swept	sneaked
shout	riding	grabbed
slipped	yell	slung
peeked	swung	



One day, the magic mirror told the queen that Snow White was the fairest in the land. The queen was very angry and told one of her huntsmen to kill Snow White. The huntsman found Snow White but instead of killing her she told her about the queen and so Snow White went away to the forest. While walking through the forest, she found a strange little house. She went inside where she found that the house was very messy! When the queen heard where Snow White was living, she disguised herself as an old lady and went to find her. When she found the little house, she gave Snow White a poisoned red apple. As soon as Snow White took the first bite, she fell down fast asleep!

strolling	wandering	exclaimed
slipped	gulped	sneak
discovered	gobbled	slurped
creep	sighed	spotted
stumbled upon	hammered	sipped



Powerful Verbs: 'Said'

Verbs are known as doing words. Some verbs are used too much in writing and aren't very interesting. An example of this is 'said'. One way to instantly improve your work is to use a variety of powerful verbs instead.

whispered	asked	exclaimed	cried	complained
demanded	warned	admitted	moaned	suggested

Complete the sentences below with the most appropriate synonym from the word box.

"Ouch, that really hurt!" _____ my sister.

"We must be as quiet as mice," _____ Joe quietly.

"Waiter, this soup is stone cold!" _____ the customer crossly.

"Be careful when walking in the mud, you wouldn't want to fall over and dirty your new coat," _____ mum.

"Can I join in with your game

please?" _____ Sara. "I took it. I

stole the watch," _____ the thief.

"It's raining again! I'll never get to try out my new scooter in the park!" _____ Jacob. "Why don't we build our own den inside the house until the rain stops?" _____ Carlos.

"We've won! I can't believe it!" _____ the bingo player.

"Give me my pencil back now!" _____ the student.

Replace the word 'said' with a more interesting, powerful verb.

“I just can’t find my pencil case anywhere.” () said Martha worriedly. “I can help you look for it if you like?” () said Colleen kindly.

“Great, thank you. It’s blue with white dots.” () said Martha. The girls began searching but couldn’t find it anywhere. “Oh it’s no good, it seems to have disappeared into thin air!” () said Martha. Colleen could see that her friend was very upset, so she decided to let the teacher know what had happened.

Mrs Holmes stood in front of the class and () said, “Right Class 6, I want you all to spend a couple of minutes looking for Martha’s blue and white pencil case, it has got to be somewhere in here.” Everyone busily began looking, except for one child who had frozen on the spot, looking very pale. “What’s the matter Jamie?” said Mrs Holmes.

“It was me...I took it and hid it in my bag....I’m really really sorry but I wanted one just like it.” () said Jamie.

“You know that stealing is against the rules Jamie, go and bring it to me at once!” () said Mrs Holmes. Jamie took the pencil case to Mrs Holmes and went straight to Martha to apologise, regretting what he had done.