

## **Vivid Phrases- How to Explain the Effect of Words or Phrases**

1. The building collapsed with a thunderous crash.

*The word “thunderous” suggests the sheer power of the collapse by comparing it to a force of nature. Thunder also suggests the sheer noise of the event. The word “crash” also imitates the sound for effect.*

2. The elephant towered over them menacingly.

*The word “towered” suggests the size of the elephant by exaggeration; it also suggests that they are dwarfed by its size which looms over them, adding to the sense of menace mentioned in the last word of the phrase.*

3. The tears burst from his eyes in his grief.

*The strong word “burst” suggests the sheer force of his crying, which emphasises how badly he must feel.*

4. Panic gripped his chest with its icy fingers.

*His panic is visualised by using personification- ie, panic is made to sound like a person and the words “gripped” and “icy fingers” suggest the force that the awful feeling has over him.*

5. He coughed again and again and again as he fought to breathe the foul air.

*The repetition of “again” emphasises how much trouble he has breathing. The word “fought” also suggests it is a real struggle and the strong adjective “foul” stresses the unpleasant, almost poisonous quality of the air.*

6. The crew thought all hope was lost when, suddenly, they saw a small speck on the horizon.

*The phrase creates a sense of expectation and drama firstly because the word “suddenly” suggests an unexpected change from the first part of the sentence. Suspense and mystery is created because the phrase “a small speck” does not make it clear what they see- it might not be help. The fact that it is “on the horizon” also tells us it is far away and may not even get to them, again causing suspense.*

7. The gang slowly advanced towards the boys. 500 metres. 300 metres. 100 metres.

*A sense of menace and suspense is created by the counting down of the distance as the gang gets closer and closer.*

8. The night was starless and coffin black.

*A sense of menace and horror is created by the image “coffin black”, as the word “coffin” not only emphasises the colour, but suggests death.*