



Lesson 11

WALT: explore the meaning of words in context *so that the text makes sense to us*



CHAPTER 10

Coraline walked up the steps outside the building to the topmost flat where, in her world, the crazy old man upstairs lived. She had gone up there once with her real mother, when her mother was collecting for charity. They had stood in the open doorway, waiting for the crazy old man with the big moustache to find the envelope that Coraline's mother had left, and the flat had smelled of strange foods and pipe tobacco and odd, sharp, cheesy-smelling things which Coraline could not name. She had not wanted to go any further inside than that.

'I'm an explorer,' said Coraline out loud, but her words sounded muffled and dead on the misty air. She had made it out of the cellar, hadn't she?

And she had. But if there was one thing that Coraline was certain of, it was that this flat would be worse.

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"I'm an explorer," said Coraline out loud, but her words sounded **muffled** and dead on the misty air.

What strategies could we use to work out the meaning of 'muffled'?



She reached the top of the steps. The topmost flat had once been the attic of the house, but that was long ago.

She knocked on the green-painted door. It swung open, and she walked in.

*We have eyes and we have nerveses
We have tails, we have teeth,
You'll all get what you deserveses
When we rise from underneath,*

whispered a dozen or more tiny voices, in that dark flat with the roof so low where it met the walls that Coraline could almost reach up and touch it.

Red eyes stared at her. Little pink feet scurried away as she came close. Darker shadows slipped through the shadows at the edges of things.

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'Little pink feet **scurried** away as she came closer.'

What strategies could we use to work out the meaning of 'scurried'?



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It smelt much worse in here than in the real crazy old man upstairs's flat. That smelled of food (unpleasant food, to Coraline's mind, but she knew that was a matter of taste: she did not like spices, herbs or exotic things). This place smelled as if all the exotic foods in the world had been left out to go rotten.

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'This place smelled as if all the **exotic** foods in the world had been left out to go rotten.'

What strategies could we use to work out the meaning of 'exotic'?



'Little girl,' said a rustling voice in a far room.

'Yes,' said Coraline. *I'm not frightened*, she told herself, and as she thought it she knew that it was

true. There was nothing here that frightened her. These things – even the thing in the cellar – were illusions, things made by the other mother in a ghastly parody of the real people and real things on the other end of the corridor. She couldn't truly make anything, decided Coraline. She could only twist and copy and distort things that already existed.

And then Coraline found herself wondering why the other mother would have placed a snow-globe on the drawing-room mantelpiece; a place that, in her world, was quite bare.

And once she had asked herself the question, she began to understand the answer.

Then the voice came again, and her train of thought was gone.

'Come here, little girl. I know what you want, little girl.' It was a rustling voice, scratchy and dry. It made Coraline think of some kind of enormous dead insect. Which was silly, she knew. How could a dead thing, especially a dead insect, have a voice?

She walked through several rooms with low, slanting ceilings until she came to the final room. It was a bedroom, and the other crazy old man upstairs sat at the far end of the room, in the near-darkness, bundled up in his coat and hat. As Coraline entered he began to talk. 'Nothing's changed, little girl,' he

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Read page 141.

Use the context of the word to work out what it means.

'These things - even the thing in the cellar - were **illusions**, things made by the other mother in a ghastly parody of the real people and real things on the other end of the corridor.'

'She could only twist and copy and **distort** things that already existed.'

Have you read/heard the word before?

Do we have any clues from what we have already read in this book?

What did it mean then?

When you read the sentence or paragraph the word is in, are there any clues to help you?

Re-read the sentence. Does that meaning fit in this context?