

ENGLISH LESSON – 18.5.20

The Circus Setting Description

- Have you ever been to a circus before? Where was it? What did you see? How did you feel?
- If you can, use the internet to look at some images and online clips of modern circuses.
- Then compare them to the pictures of a Victorian Circus: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-story-of-circus>
- How are they similar? Different?
- Re-play/re-read pages 161 and 162 of Chapter 21.
- Can you draw a picture of what you 'see' when you read it out loud?
- What sort of atmosphere would there be in the tent?

- Your task today is to write a first-person recount of the night in the circus.

- You need to include:
 - expanded noun phrases (adjective + adjective + noun + prepositional phrase e.g, the bright, juicy orange peel from their seats)
 - interesting ISPACE sentence openers (-ing word, simile, preposition, adverbial, conjunction, -ed word)
 - Jim's feelings when watching the animals (use 'show not tell')
 - Detail to capture the atmosphere of inside the tent (use the 5 senses to describe it)
 - A cliffhanger to end the description when Jim sees the 'spectre' (use an ellipsis ...)

- Here's an example to give you some ideas and some inspiration:

***Squatting** (-ing word) underneath the tiers of benches, next to Antonio, I waited in anticipation. **Although** (conjunction) my body ached and I was tired, excitement zipped through me. The impatient crowd carelessly threw bright, juicy orange peel from their seats and the orange confetti showered down upon us. **As loud as the biggest drum in the circus,** (simile) the sound of Madame Juglini's booming voice filled the tent as she called out, "Roll up! Roll up! It's the greatest show you've ever seen!". I knew this was where I belonged. **Suddenly,** (adverb) a hush descended over the tent and I felt the crowd collectively hold their breath. Juglini rushed out into the ring and cracked his whip, like an angry snake hissing. **Beside me,** (preposition) I felt the rush of cool air as the horses ran into the ring. Surely they were the most beautiful, stunning creatures I had ever seen? Slowly, I felt all my worry and anxiety lift – everything would work out just fine. Another horse rushed in. Then another. However, something was not right. I felt the hairs on the back of my neck tremble and everything seemed to slow down. **Worried** (-ed word) that something bad was about to occur, I peered past the entrance flap of the tent where I could see someone. Someone from a distant life, looming in the glow of a lantern. Some I thought I'd never see again....*