Midnight in the Tunnel

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Midnight in the Tunnel

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Key vocabulary

creature, muffled, flask, mine shaft, glimpses, undergrowth, musty, eerie, ventured, volunteers, crook of my arm, chink of light

Grammatical conventions

- Reporting characters' thoughts, e.g. 'Could I find my way out of the dark tunnel without my torch?'
- Use of direct speech, e.g. 'Don't worry Grandma,' I said, kissing her on the cheek.
- Past tense: shone
- Action, saying and thinking verbs
- Temporal and causal conjunctions: after lunch, soon, as, it was right at that moment, because, but
- Complex sentences
- Dialogue helps build character, e.g. 'Just be careful. Your mum and dad would skin me alive if you were to get into any trouble while you're staying here.'

Spelling

- Compound words: afternoon, anything, daypack, anywhere, dinner time, Grandma
- Contractions: I'm, I'll, didn't, won't, you're
- Changing spelling of verbs to change tense: tremble, trembles, trembled, trembling; drop, drops, dropped, dropping

Creative thinking task – Knowledge

Make a crossword puzzle using facts from the story as clues. Draw a flow chart to show the components of a stage perofrmance.

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CHAPTER 1

Two Green Eyes



I shone my torch towards the end of the tunnel. Two green eyes suddenly flashed back at me in the dark. I got such a fright that my fingers lost their grip on my torch and it fell to the ground with a heavy thud.

Then the torchlight went out.

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Could I find my way out of the dark tunnel without my torch? There were so many rocks to fall over and holes to fall into. I'd only managed to miss them on the way in because I was walking slowly and I had my torch. I knew that if I tried to run in the dark, I'd fall flat on my face. And then what would the creature with the green eyes do?





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I turned and looked back, hoping to see a light at the entrance. But there was none. Then I remembered the tunnel had twists and turns that would be blocking out any light.

At that moment I couldn't help but ask myself – why had I come into the tunnel alone? I knew there could be danger. Why hadn't I listened to Grandma?

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As I stood there trying not to tremble, I saw the green eyes move again. Was the creature moving towards me? I couldn't tell.

Then the eyes disappeared. I checked my trembling. I knew that dogs could smell fear. But did that follow with other animals? I didn't know.

If only I hadn't been so clumsy and dropped my torch.

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After a while, my eyes got used to the darkness. Looking up, I could see a small chink of light seeping through the top of the tunnel.

Then I heard a muffled noise. Like something leaping and finding its footing, and then there was silence again. A total silence. My heart was hammering wildly, and for a long moment, I held my breath.



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CHAPTER 2

Setting Off for a Walk



The day had started out well. It was the summer school holidays. I was staying with my Grandma, who lives in an old farmhouse in the country.

I love spending the holidays with Grandma. It makes her happy, too, because she is alone a lot since Grandpa died. She misses him heaps. I know she feels loneliest at night, when it's dark.