

Year 9 Homework – Term 5

Task 5 – From *Whispers in the Graveyard* by Theresa Breslin

I'm running. My chest is tight and sore. Breath rasping and whistling in my lungs. Branches whip against my face. Brambles tear at my legs and arms. There is a voice screaming. Out loud. The sound ripping through the trees, screaming and screaming. It's my voice

'Amy! Amy!'

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Now I'm back at the back stream and the solid wooden fencing has been torn aside. Blasted apart as if some careless giant had passed by and trodden on it. I stare at the wood, not splintered or broken, but melted. Dissolved and warped. Curled aside to make a small space. Space enough for a child to walk through. What could do that? What power is there that would leave that mark? I hesitate, feeling the first great lurch of fear for myself. 10

'Amy?' I cry out.

Nothing. Beyond me the gaping dark of the cemetery.

There is a soft shudder in my head. A strange flicker which fastens on my fear. Nothing calling for me this time. No whispers in my face tonight. Why? Because Amy is in there. With one child captive, there is no need for two. Desperate, I hurl myself at the open space and barbed wire comes up to meet me, scratching through my skin, dragging at my clothes to pull me back. The thick bristles are embedded in my jacket and I am caught fast, struggling on the ground. Frantically, I unzip the front of my jacket, and draw out my arms. I leave it there and Scramble forwards to the foot of the stream. 15 20

Blood on my hands and fingernails, I scramble to the top. Then I leap over and sink down knee-deep on the other side, my legs heavy with clogged and slimy liquid. I raise one foot, looking down, expecting to see thick mud clinging there. Nothing. Then the next leg. Nothing. But I am sinking, the ground falling away beneath me. I am dropping down and it will close over my head and suffocate me. 25

Task:

Highlight or underline phrases in which the writer describes the terror felt by the narrator.

What methods (language techniques/or word classes) does the writer use to convey how scared the narrator is?

For each, explain why they are effective and why the writer may have used them.