# mijnslaap

1. "In your bedroom"

2. "The weak light of the moon, which enters the room through the window, envelops the furniture of the bedroom in a cloak of unworldly beauty. Only the soft breathing of your wife in the large bed breaches the silence. The door next to the heavy oaken wardrobe leads to the landing to the north. It is ice cold in the unheated room."

# mijnbed

1. "bed"

2. "The large bed, which you have built yourself, fills almost half the room. Moonlight creeps over the many-coloured blanket which rises and falls with each breath your wife takes."

3. "If only you could fall asleep again, if only you could just stop thinking of Maartje. But you cannot. You can't sleep until you have at least tried to free her. You will keep thinking of Maartje, and even if you were somehow able to pretend she was contentedly sleeping in her bedroom, there will be another day tomorrow, and yet another the day after, and the truth would eventually overcome you. It is better to face the evil today than to postpone it until tomorrow."

# deken

1. "blanket"

2. "Crimson, sea-blue and pine squares, hardly recognisable in the twilight, alternate seemingly without pattern. Your wife Hilde made this blanket to fit the bed you built. You followed the tradition: only after finishing both could your marriage take place."

3. "Softly, you caress the blanket and think of happier times."

# vrouw

1. "Hilde"

2. "You lean forward to better see Hilde's face; for just a moment she seems to go rigid and her breathing falters before resuming its steady rhythm. But you know enough--she is awake! She knows where you are going, but pretends to be asleep. A quiet approval she'd never be able to express in words? Or is she simply too afraid to confront you?"

3. "Hilde's tranquil, angelic face and her rhythmic breathing do not betray that she is awake. She knows where you are going, but pretends to be asleep. A quiet approval she'd never be able to express? Or is she simply too afraid to confront you?"

4. "No, you do not wish to wake Hilde. She is strongly opposed to you endangering your life in an attempt to free your daughter. During the past few days, each time you brought up your intention to save her from the talons of the baron, Hilde exclaimed that she couldn't bear to lose you as well. It is better to leave quietly and let her sleep."

5. "It is better not to disrupt the fa@ccade. Let her pretend to be asleep. It is easier for her to accept what you are going to do when she is not confronted with it explicitly. Besides, you don't like to think about the risks yourself."

6. "You ball your fists in a sudden moment of anger. ~It would be for eternity!,~ flashes through your mind--but as soon as the thought disappears, you no longer understand what it meant. You would never attack your wife Hilde. After all, you love her"

7. "You lean forward to kiss Hilde's face; for just a moment she seems to go rigid and her breathing falters before resuming its steady rhythm. But you know enough--she is awake! She knows where you are going, but pretends to be asleep. A quiet approval she'd never be able to express in words? Or is she simply too afraid to confront you?"

8. "Your lips brush her pale cheek in the tenderest sign of farewell. Strangely, it seems as if she tenses and tries to bury her head deeper into the pillow."

9. "Hilde's rhythmic breathing is a reassuring sound in this dangerous night."

10. "Hilde's rhythmic breathing doesn't betray that she is, in fact, awake."

11. "You would never use violence against your wife."

12. "Her smell you would recognise among thousands; it is the smell of warmth and security."

13. "You'd better not do that; she might wake."

14. "You let your fingertips brush her cheek and play with her blond hair. She trembles momentarily, but keeps up her act and pretends to be asleep."

15. "How can you wake someone who is not asleep?"

16. "You don't want to wake Hilde. Even if she wouldn't stop you, she would only worry unnecessarily if she knew what acts of heroism you will perform tonight."

17. "Hilde doesn't react to your command."

# mijn\_kussen

1. "pillow"

2. "A simple pillow, filled with feathers."

# stoel

1. "chair"

2. "A simple wooden chair on which you hang your clothes at night."

3. "You seat yourself on the chair."

4. "You get up."

5. "First you get up."

# kleding

1. "your work clothes"

2. "These are the clothes you wear when you go to fell trees in the woods on weekdays: tough jeans, a red-blue checkered shirt and two heavy leather boots. A faint smell of sweat hangs around the shirt."

3. "You cannot wear your work clothes over your winter coat."

4. "You will have to take off your coat before you can take off your work clothes."

5. "In these empty halls, not many will be impressed by your self-immolation."

6. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

7. "You can't use that to make a fire."

# hemd

1. "lumberjack's shirt"

2. "A red-blue checkered woollen shirt, spun, coloured and knitted by hand by your wife Hilde. The smell of the honest sweat of hard work hangs around it."

3. "Unmistakably the rank smell of sweat. But according to Hilde, that is erotic."

# broek

1. "lumberjack's jeans"

2. "Blue Levi's, clearly showing signs of the abuse that they went through while you did your job. That they are still intact is a proof of their durability."

# laarzen

1. "lumberjack's boots"

2. "A pair of leather boots, with steel toes for extra protection."

# kast

1. "wardrobe"

2. "This large piece of furniture has taken you weeks. Not only did you fell the tree from which it is made yourself, you also sawed it into planks, sandpapered them, built the wardrobe, varnished it, and even made the subtle carvings. The memory of those happy first months of your marriage, when you and Hilde furnished your small house, makes you smile. The two of you had little money, but more than made up for that with lots of enthusiasm."

# kastkleding

1. "large amount of dresses, jeans and other pieces of clothing"

2. "In this wardrobe you keep all your clothes, neatly folded, ironed and stacked into orderly piles. In a narrow part to the side hang all your wife's dresses."

3. "Your finger the clothes absently, but none of them seem more appropriate than your work clothes."

# jurken

1. "dresses"

2. "Your fingers brush past the rough, stiff cloth of the dresses. Practical and without frills, they are the work clothes of a busy housewife. In the very back of the wardrobe hides the white satin of Hilde's bridal gown, as if it doesn't want to be seen with the other clothes."

# trouwjurk

1. "bridal gown"

2. "You hold the cool, soft cloth and close your eyes for a moment. Memories of your wedding resurface with great intensity; it is as if not a single day has gone by, so clearly can you see it all in your mind."

# broeken

1. "jeans"

2. "These tough jeans are the ideal clothing for a lumberjack: indestructible."

# houtsnijwerk

1. "carvings"

2. "Hearts, birds, flowers and other figures that dwelt in your amorous mind when you carved these decorations circle artfully about each other."

# hartjes\_snijwerk

1. "carved hearts"

2. "Small hearts run along the entire edge of the wardrobe."

# vogels\_snijwerk

1. "carved birds"

2. "The carved birds circle gracefully around long trails of flowers."

# bloemen\_snijwerk

1. "carved flowers"

2. "The large wardrobe is decorated with trails of flowers wherein both local and exotic flowers can be seen. Flocks of little birds circle around them."

# raam

1. "window"

2. "Unworldly moonlight enters the room through the window. The village outside is covered under a thick layer of snow, making the church tower rise like an accusing black finger from a white sea. ~How is it possible,~ you wonder, ~that this scenery seems so lovely and charming, but is so icy cold and hostile?~"

3. "You close the window, and the cold wind no longer blows through the room."

4. "The window swings open, and an icy wind immediately enters the room. Standing in the moonlight, you let your gaze glide over the winter landscape. Somewhere to the right, far in the woods, lies the castle of the baron - the black structure wherein your little girl suffers mortal fears."

5. "Although that is a way to get outside and start your journey to the castle, it seems more sensible to use the stairs."

# barentopf\_raam

1. "Barentopf"

2. "Through the window you can see the snow-covered Barentopf rising behind the village. It is the highest hill in the neighbourhood."

3. "You can see the snow-covered Barentopf rising behind the village. It is the highest hill in the neighbourhood, but it does not lie in the right direction if you wish to reach the baron."

# dorp\_raam

1. "village"

2. "Because your house lies on a hill at the edge of the village, you have a good view of the other residences from the window. Lights burn behind only a few windows; in this winter night, the rest of the village is wrapped in darkness and snow."

3. "Your house lies at the edge of the village, which in this cold December night is burdened with a thick layer of snow. At this time of the night, nobody walks the streets anymore. The village wraps itself in silence."

# sneeuw\_raam

1. "snow"

2. "During the past few days, a thick layer of white snow has settled on the landscape. The snow gives the world a pristine appearance, except in the streets, where it has degenerated into a dirty brown sludge."

# kerk\_raam

1. "church"

2. "The church tower rises from the white snow like an accusing black finger."

3. "The top of the church tower just peeks above the houses on the other side of the street, like a black finger against the star-filled sky."

# sterren\_raam

1. "stars"

2. "The night sky is spangled with thousands of flickering stars, eyes keeping watch over the animals."

3. "The night sky is spangled with thousands of flickering stars, eyes keeping watch over humanity."

# maan\_raam

1. "moon"

2. "Through the window you can see the full moon against a sky of stars. For a moment it seems as if the man in the moon winks at you reassuringly, but then he returns to his usual mysterious expression."

3. "The silvery light of the moon flows from the bedroom into the landing."

4. "The door to the bedroom is closed, so you cannot see the moon."

5. "The man in the moon regards you coldly, almost accusingly, from his elevated position."

6. "The white ball gives more than enough light for you to see by."

# bos\_raam

1. "woods"

2. "The woods lie as an ink-black mass over the hills. At this hour and in this season it is a dangerous place, full of wild animals."

# over\_deur

1. "door to the landing"

2. "door to the bedroom"

3. "The close-fitting door separates your bedroom from the landing, and hence from the rest of the house."

4. "This door leads back to the bedroom."

# nachtkastje

1. "pine night table"

2. "A simple night table made of pinewood, the very first piece of furniture you ever made."

3. " On the night table is a family photo."

4. "In the drawer of the night table lies nothing that could help you to free your daughter."

# deurtje

1. "drawer"

2. "A simple pine drawer without a lock."

# foto

1. "family photo"

2. "This photograph, made for the tenth anniversary of your marriage to Hilde, is a few years old. Solemnly, you stand next to each other like two black-and-white statues, once again clad in your wedding clothes. In the foreground, close against you, stands your daughter Maartje--little Maartje, in her beautiful white dress, a radiant smile on her face. In the picture you have laid a protective arm across her shoulder--but now she has been kidnapped by the evil baron. Once again you vow to do everything possible to free her.";

3. "This photograph, made for the tenth anniversary of your marriage to Hilde, is a few years old. Solemnly, you stand next to each other like two black-and-white statues, once again clad in your wedding clothes. In the foreground, close against you, stands your daughter Maartje. Little Maartje, in her beautiful white dress, wears a grave expression. She seems very uncomfortable with the arm you have laid across her shoulders."

4. "The photo that used to document your happy family life is utterly consumed by the fire, until nothing than the shadow of a lie remains."

5. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

6. "You can't use that to make a fire."

# overloop

1. "On the landing"

2. "The landing is enveloped by uneven darkness. [if]Moonlight enters through the open door to your bedroom in the south. [else]The door to your bedroom is closed.[fi] [if]To the north, the red door to Maartje's room is slightly ajar. [else]A red door to the north leads to the room of your daughter Maartje.[fi] Next to the stairs down stands an elegant cupboard, above which hangs a large ornate mirror in a gilded frame."

# kastje

1. "cupboard"

2. "This elegantly carved cupboard is one of the few pieces of furniture in the house that you have not made yourself: it comes from the inheritance of Hilde's grandmother. The two little doors in the front don't quite fit, a defect you have been planning to fix for years, though you somehow never got around to it."

# deurtjes

1. "doors"

2. "Made of the same cherrywood as the rest of the cupboard, wear and tear has made them hang slightly askew on their hinges."

# scharnieren

1. "hinges"

2. "Four copper hinges that still function perfectly, but have grown loose over the years."

# fotoboek

1. "album"

2. "Once again, you leaf through the photo album, but this time you don't let yourself get carried away by your memories. No matter how closely you look, the second half of the book remains empty."

3. "The album is already closed."

4. "With a melancholy sigh, you close the photo album."

5. "You decide not to look at the rest of the photos, and close the album."

6. "You relinquish the album to the flames and see, with a mixture of horror and grim satisfaction, how even the memory to a lost happiness falls to the flames' eternal hunger."

7. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

8. "You can't use that to make a fire."

# lijmresten

1. "traces of glue"

2. "Simple traces of glue, as if all the photographs made after a certain date had been torn out of the album."

# spiegel

1. "mirror"

2. "You gaze at yourself from the mirror"

3. ", heroism shining in your eyes. Your macho lumberjack outfit fits like a glove and accentuates the heavy muscles of your arms. "

4. ". In your nightshirt, you look more desperate than heroic, but appearances are deceiving. "

5. "A grim smile plays around the corners of your mouth when you think of the fear the baron will feel when you enter his castle to "

6. "decapitate him with your heavy axe."

7. "pound him into pulp with your strong fists."

8. "The time for that has not yet come."

# spiegel\_lijst

1. "frame"

2. "The excessively decorated frame, painted with gold, would fit in better with your mother-in-law's interior than it does with yours--no surprise, since she has given it to you. It is unfortunate that as long as she regularly comes to visit you, you cannot throw it away."

3. "You would love to, but social conventions stop you."

# maartje\_deur

1. "door to the landing"

2. "door to Maartje's room"

3. "This door, painted in a cheerful red, leads to the room of your kidnapped daughter Maartje."

4. "This door leads beack to the landing."

# over\_trap

1. "stairs"

2. "The wooden stairs circle downwards into ink-black depths."

## TrapNaarTuin

1. "Cautiously you seek your way downwards through the darkness. In the hall you grab your winter coat and put it on, then you open the front door and step outside into the garden."

## TuinNaarTrap

1. "Through the open front door you step inside again."

2. "Opening the front door, you step inside."

3. " You hang your coat on the hall-stand, and climb the dark stairs back to the landing."

# jas

1. "winter coat"

2. "You bought this winter coat recently, after much urging by your wife. True, there were holes in your old one, and it wasn't half as warm, but it was familiar, it was "; style bold; print "your"; style roman; " winter coat--but women don't understand that sort of thing."

3. "It is ice cold outside. Only your thick winter coat protects you against freezing."

4. "It is ice cold outside. The thick winter coat and your working clothes are necessary to protect you against freezing."

# haarslaap

1. "In Maartje's room"

2. "Without Maartje's radiant presence, her room seems dead and empty. It is a dreary sight: a bed in which nobody sleeps, a dollhouse with which nobody plays, a desk behind which nobody studies. The gay colours in which you painted her ceiling and furniture appear in the pale light of the stars as a pallet of greys. The door to the south leads back to the landing."

3. "If only you could fall asleep again and dream of Maartje, to do nothing, to think of nothing but her slender appearance. But you cannot. She has been kidnapped by the baron, and you can't sleep until you have at least tried to free her. You will keep thinking of Maartje, and even if you were somehow able to pretend she was contentedly sleeping in her bedroom, there will be another day tomorrow, and yet another the day after, and the truth would eventually overcome you. It is better to face the evil today than to postpone it until tomorrow."

# maartjebed

1. "Maartje's bed"

2. "Under the window is Maartje's bed, a spacious child's bed that is, like almost every piece of furniture in your house, a product of your diligent labour."

3. " The bed has been neatly made, the sheets perfectly straight, the pillow puffed up. Too virginal, too untouched, as if it was never meant to be used by humans."

4. " The bed has been neatly made, the sheets perfectly straight, although the pillow is missing. It has evidently not been slept in."

5. " The sheets on the bed are disorderly and the pillow lies to one side, as if someone has recently slept here. It makes the room look less sepulchral."

6. " The sheets on the bed are disorderly, as if someone has recently slept here. It makes the room look less sepulchral."

7. "You find a small copper key hidden under the pillow. Surprised, you pick it up."

# deken\_maartje

1. "Maartje's blankets"

2. "The red and blue blankets lie neatly on the bed."

3. "The red and blue blankets have been draped over the bed in a disorderly fashion."

4. "Fiercely, you hit and tear at the sheets and blankets on Maartje's bed to disturb their unbearable neatness."

5. "You look under the blankets, but do not find a thing."

6. "You pull at the sheets and blankets on Maartje's bed to disturb their unbearable neatness."

7. "You crumple the sheets and blankets on Maartje's bed to disturb their unbearable neatness."

# kussen

1. "Maartje's pillow"

2. "Maartje's pillow is comfortably soft, as it is filled with feathers. A jocund pillowcase in all the colours of the rainbow envelops it."

3. "You find a small copper key hidden under the pillow. Surprised, you pick it up."

4. "You find a small copper key hidden under the pillow. Surprised, you pick it up."

5. "The pillow is too big and awkward to carry along on your quest. The bed is a better place for it."

# dagboek\_sleutel

1. "ornate key"

2. "The small copper key, ornamented with delicate patterns, shows traces of intensive use."

# raam\_maar

1. "window"

2. "Threateningly, the coniferous forest looks at you through the window, its hostile silence a promise of hardship and danger. Somewhere, hidden deeply within it, lies the baron's castle. And somewhere, deep in the castle, the dungeon where Maartje is imprisoned. You can almost see her, crying for her father, lonely, abandoned, locked up in a cold stony cell."

3. "You close the window, and a funereal silence returns."

4. "The window swings open, and the sound of the wind through the coniferous forest softly sneaks into the room. Somewhere, far away, you hear the howling of wolves."

5. "Although that is a way to get outside and start your journey to the castle, it seems more sensible to use the stairs."

# sneeuw\_maar

1. "snow"

2. "During the past few days a thick layer of white snow has settled on the landscape. The branches of the trees bow down under their white burden."

# maan\_maar

1. "moon"

2. "From this side of the house the moon cannot be seen."

# bos\_maar

1. "forest"

2. "The forest lies as an ink-black mass upon the hills. And in the heart of this darkness lives the malicious baron.

# heuvels\_raam

1. "hills"

2. "In the summer, the verdant hills give this area a picturesque appearance. But in these cold winter months, they cower beneath the sombre woods."

# wolven\_maar

1. "wolves"

2. "You can see no movement in the woods, at least not from this distance."

3. " But lamenting howls rise, hardly audible, from the far hills."

4. "You lean out of the window to better hear the howling of a pack of wolves. Their many lamentations form a single melody, for a moment, and then suddenly cease. An ominous silence follows, and you heave a sigh of relief when a minute later the sound of a lonely wolf comes from another part of the forest."

5. "From the depths of the forest, now and then rises the howling of wolves."

# wind

1. "wind"

2. "The wind sighs softly along the snow-laden branches of the coniferous forest."

# poppenhuis

1. "dollhouse"

2. "You built this dollhouse yourself: three stories, with little doors and windows that can actually open and close, all kinds of furniture, and wooden dolls with finely carved faces that make the house their home. Hilde made the curtains, the carpets and little clothes for the dolls."

3. "You lower yourself to your knees before the dollhouse, and gaze dispiritedly at the dolls. Then you pick up the mother with your left hand and the father with your right hand. You have father enter the house through a little door.^^~Well mum,~ he says, ~I have worked very hard today. You have no idea how hungry I am!~^^~Well dad,~ she answers in a strange high-pitched voice, ~that is good, because I have cooked an entire doll's kettle full of doll's porridge. Children, come and eat, father is home!~^^You put the two dolls on their doll's chairs, and pick up the daughter. She walks to the sitting room, en whan she sees her father she cries: ~Daddy!~^^^Distressed, you close your eyes and put the dolls away."

4. "As you reach for the dolls, you remember Maartje and your vow to rescue her."

# pop\_deurtjes

1. "doll's doors"

2. "Painted doors with moving handles separate the different rooms in the dollhouse. This way, the dolls have some privacy, and less nuisance from draughts."

# pop\_meubels

1. "doll's furniture"

2. "Small chairs are grouped around minature tables."

# pop\_raampjes

1. "doll's windows"

2. "The sides of the dollhouse are adorned with doll-sized windows, in front of which hang moveable curtains. Here the dolls can look outside: the front of the house is opened, but obviously not to them."

# pop\_gordijntjes

1. "doll's curtains"

2. "Hilde made small curtains that fit in with the rest of the interior. Dolls have style too."

3. "You pull the delicate doll's curtains closed, then push them open again."

# pop\_kleedjes

1. "doll's carpets"

2. "Soft carpets with wild patterns cover the wooden floor of the dollhouse, and give that cosy appearance to the rooms that they would otherwise lack."

# pop\_kleertjes

1. "doll's clothing"

2. "Hilde sowed these clothes with eye for the finest detail: dresses, pants, shirts, skirts, shoes, even tiny socks and hats have not been forgotten. It might well be that you have never seen Hilde as happy as when she could put all her love and creativity into this."

# poppen

1. "dolls"

2. "Four dolls live in the dollhouse: a father, a mother, a son and a daughter. Father is sitting on the couch, reading a newspaper, while mother, probably busy cooking a meal, stands in the kitchen. The son gazes thoughtfully out of the window, while the daughter doll, dressed in her little red dress, lies on her bed in her bedroom."

3. "Four dolls live in the dollhouse: a father, a mother, a son and a daughter. Father and mother are sitting on chairs around the dinner table, where you just put them yourself. The son gazes thoughtfully out of the window, while the daughter doll, dressed in her little red dress, lies on the floor of the kitchen."

4. "Right now, the dolls are the only ones in your house that have a normal family life, and you're not planning to disturb that."

# bureau

1. "desk"

2. "The small desk made of lacquered beech wood is covered with sheets of paper, notebooks and crayons."

# papier

1. "sheets of paper"

2. "Several neat stacks of blank paper lie on the left side of the desk, but dozens of drawings chaotically cover the rest of the tabletop."

# tekeningen

1. "drawings"

2. "All the drawings Maartje has made are gay and happy: butterflies flap about a meadow full of flowers; a small house with your family in front of it; a father pulling a sledge on which his daughter is sitting. The bright colours burst from the white paper, even in the pale light of the stars."

# dagboek

1. "diary"

2. "You insert the copper key into the lock, and turn it carefully. With a soft click, the diary springs open."

3. "After several failed attempts, you conclude that ", (the) second, IsorAre(second), " not the key to this diary."

4. "The book, bound in fake red leather, must be a diary, since it is locked by a small copper lock. But although you burn with curiosity, you will not damage Maartje's diary."

5. "You feel absurdly guilty when you open the diary to read what secrets your little daughter has entrusted to it. Of course a father shouldn't do this, but this is an emergency. Perhaps it contains something that can help you free her.

^^

But nothing is written in the diary, not a single word. Instead, the pages of the first half of the diary have been completely filled in with black ink. From top to bottom, from left to right, with unfailing precision each white page has been transformed into solid black. The second half of the diary is still blank, untouched, stainless. Distraught, you close the diary."

6. "Once again you examine the diary, and once again are there only pages coloured a solid black in the first half, and lily-white pages in the second half. Maartje has never written a word, or she has made them all unreadable."

7. "The diary immediately goes up in flames, and the deep black of the ink changes into the grey black of ashes. After several minutes only the non-flammable fake leather cover of the diary remains, a form without content."

8. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

9. "You can't use that to make a fire."

# plafond

1. "ceiling"

2. "Painted with sweet scenes, normally the ceiling of Maartje's room radiates gaiety and carefreeness. Her absence seems to have robbed them of their lustre."

# meubilair

1. "furniture"

2. "A bed, a desk and a beautiful dollhouse, complete with tiny beds and tiny desks and--no, not with a tiny dollhouse--make up the furniture in Maartje's room."

# beer

1. "teddy"

2. "Brown has been Maartje's favourite toy animal and most loyal companion for years. The smile on his face is reassuring, and even if his eyes are merely buttons, some kind of intelligence seems to reside in them."

3. "Brown has been Maartje's favourite toy animal and most loyal companion for years. But the smile on his face is melancholic rather than reassuring, and even if his eyes are merely buttons, they nevertheless seem to be about to start crying bitterly."

4. "You take the bear into your strong arms, and hug him as if your life depends on it. A tear rolls over your cheek when you remind yourself that Maartje doesn't even have the consolation of her teddy."

5. "You give the teddy a kiss on his brown snout, and whisper in his ear that you will bring back Maartje."

6. "Brown burns like oil, and smokes like a chimney. When the flames reach his head, he looks with a sad expression of incomprehension. ~I thought you loved me...~ is the message in his button eyes.

^^

~Brown, no, I'm sorry,~ you stammer, and you try to extinguish the fire. But you are too late, and nothing remains of the teddy but the two buttons, half-melted."

7. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

8. "You can't use that to make a fire."

# knopen

1. "Brown's eyes"

2. "Two black buttons, half-melted in the searing fire to which you committed Brown, are all that this honest bear has left to the world."

# tuin

1. "In the garden"

2. "Your front garden too has been buried by a thick layer of snow, which hides all plants from view. Only a few bare bushes that crouch against the garden fence penetrate the white blanket. Behind you, the front door leads back into the house, while the road to the east winds through the village and the forest to the baron's castle. From his unreachable heights the moon looks reproachfully down on you. The tip of the church tower can be seen above the houses on the other side of the road."

3. "That leads to the village square next to the church, far from Maartje."

4. "That road would take you out of the valley, each step taking you farther away from Maartje and the baron."

# tuinhek

1. "garden fence"

2. "A low wooden fence separates your garden from the street. The garden path leads to the opening in the fence."

3. "The fence does not enclose the garden entirely: an opening has been left in it."

# tuinpad

1. "garden path"

2. "There is but a little snow on the garden path, because you swept it only this afternoon. From the front door it leads to the opening in the fence."

# tuinstruik

1. "bushes"

2. "The bushes have long lost their leaves and their charm. They await the new spring as wooden skeletons."

# overkant

1. "other side"

2. "The houses on the other side of the street are much like yours: two stories, wooden, covered with snow. It seems that your neighbours are sleeping, as no light shines from their windows."

# straat

1. "street"

2. "The streets are full of the dirty brown sludge that remains when feet and cartwheels mix snow with mud."

3. "You see nothing of interest on the opposite side of the road."

# huis

1. "your house"

2. "Your house is, like almost every house in the village, built from wood and has been painted in simple, plain colours. It has two stories: the bedrooms are on the top story, the living room and the kitchen are on the bottom one. You glance through the window of your bedroom, but Hilde does not appear to wave you goodbye."

# tuindeur

1. "door"

2. "Last summer, you painted the front door a mustard yellow."

# brievenbus

1. "letterbox"

2. "A small letterbox hangs on the outside of the garden fence."

3. "That doesn't fit in the letterbox."

# baron\_brief

1. "letter from the baron"

2. "In elegant handwriting, a message has been written on the parchment:

^^

"To Maartje's parents,

^^

With this letter I want to tell you that your daughter Maartje has been taken from your home and brought to my castle at my command. Do not worry: she is safe here and is well taken care of. Do not try to visit Maartje or take her away from me; my castle is heavily guarded and you would only risk your own well-being.

^^

I understand that it must be difficult for you to lose your daughter, and I apologise for your suffering. What is my motive? I love her, and I cannot live without her at my side. With me she will be happy, I promise that on my honour and my hope of salvation. Someday you will understand that this is the best possible situation.

^^

The Baron.

^^

Trembling with anger you stare at the signature at the bottom of the page.

3. "In a fit of rage you tear the letter apart in dozens of shreds. How dare he! ~I love her,~ he writes. The heartless villain..."

4. "That feels good! You incinerate the baron's lies, that you will never have to read them again."

5. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

6. "You can't use that to make a fire.

# snippers

1. "shreds"

2. "These shreds are all that remains of the horrible letter from the baron."

3. "You put the shreds into your mouth, mash them to a pulp, and then swallow every memory of the infamous letter."

4. "You sprinkle the little shreds of paper into the flame of the torch; as a flight of foolish moths they are set ablaze, flutter downwards and are utterly consumed before they reach the ground."

5. "Now that the torch has gone out, it can't set anything on fire."

6. "You can't use that to make a fire."

# axe

1. "axe"

2. "This is your most important tool. Without doubt you have felled thousands of trees with it. The axe is well-honed, has a good balance, and with your muscles the weight is no problem at all. You will probably be able to cleave the baron's head in a single blow."

3. "This is your most important tool. Without doubt you have felled thousands of trees with it. The axe is well-honed, has a good balance, and with your muscles the weight is no problem at all."

4. "The axe won't burn; the wooden handle is much too tough and hard."