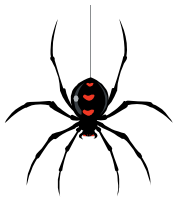


The Shadow

Giggling to each other, Holly and her younger sister Jess pitched their brand new tent. As they hammered in the pegs, the warm



sun was beating down on the quiet campsite. Jess jumped as she saw a small spider hanging from the tent. Holly laughed and picked it up.

Holly carried on unpacking as Jess made the phone call.

“Any news?” Jess timidly inquired.

“Soon,” came the reply. “I’ll let you know.”

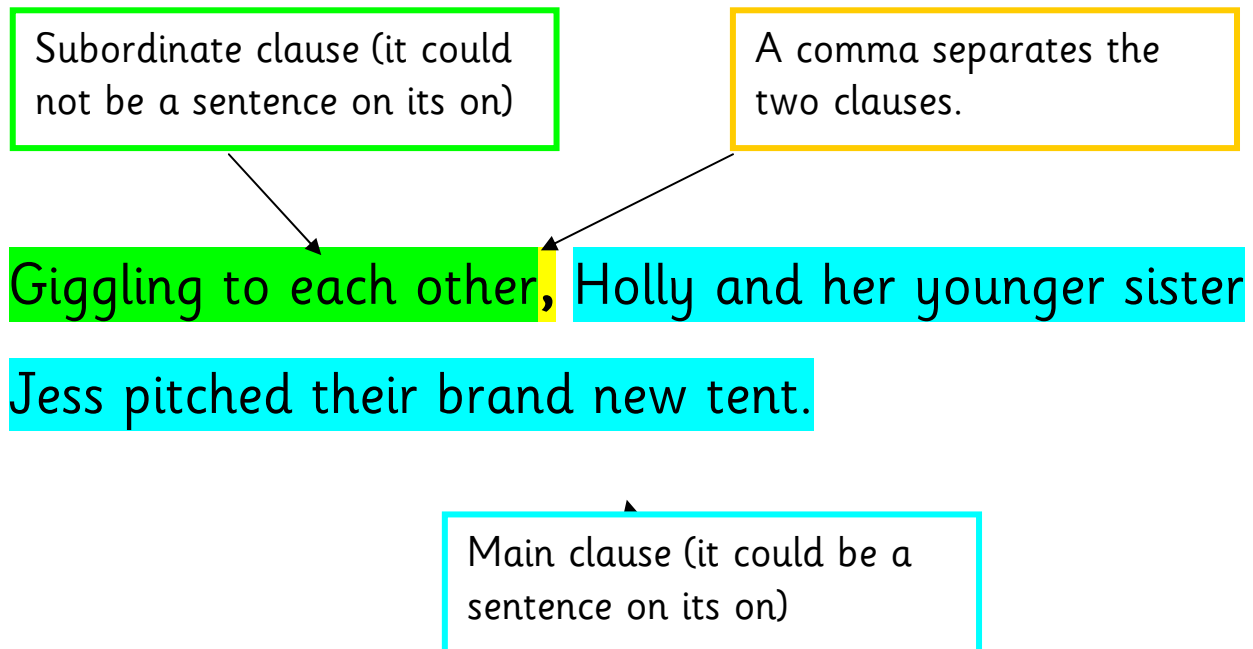
As it began to get dark, the girls happily got ready for bed. Holly dove straight into her cosy sleeping bag as Jess snuggled beside her. They chatted late into the night, slowly drifting off to sleep.



A twig snapped. Jess jumped. What was that sound? It wasn’t another camper; they were the only ones on the campsite. A faint rustling could be heard from outside the tent, followed by a deep, heavy panting. Someone or something was out there. Jess clutched onto Holly, her heart racing. Out of the silence they heard soggy footsteps coming closer and closer. Holly fumbled for the torch as Jess froze, white as a ghost.

Investigating complex sentences within the story

A complex sentence is made up of a main clause and at least one subordinate clause. Look at this example below from the story:



The subordinate clause adds more detail to the sentence. It can go at the beginning, the middle or at the end of a main clause. Which of these sentences do you think sounds the best?

Giggling to each other, Holly and her younger sister Jess pitched their brand new tent.

Holly and her younger sister Jess pitched their brand new tent, giggling to each other.

Holly and her younger sister Jess, giggling to each other, pitched their brand new tent.

Reread the story and see if you can spot any other complex sentences.

Here are some more complex sentences from the story. Try to highlight the main clause and the subordinate clause. Then try to put the subordinate clause in a different place in the sentence to see if it sounds better.

As they hammered in the pegs, the warm sun was beating down on the quiet campsite.

They chatted late into the night, slowly drifting off to sleep.

As it began to get dark, the girls happily got ready for bed.

Here are some simple sentences connected with the story. Can you add a subordinate clause to the beginning, middle or end of the main clause to make them into complex sentences?

Jess snuggled into her sleeping bag.

Holly got rid of the spider.

Jess made the phone call.

The sun shone brightly on the campsite.

The girls clung to each other.

The dilemma

A twig snapped. Jess jumped. What was that sound? It wasn't another camper; they were the only ones on the campsite. A faint rustling could be heard from outside the tent, followed by a deep, heavy panting. Someone or something was out there. Terrified, Jess clutched onto Holly, her heart racing. Out of the silence they heard soggy footsteps coming closer and closer. Holly fumbled for the torch as Jess froze, white as a ghost.

Use a key to highlight the features in this part of the story. The first one has been done for you.

Short sentences

Similes

Questions posed to the reader

Hiding the person outside the tent

Implying that the characters are scared

Powerful verbs

Beginning sentences with adverbs



What do you think these features have on the impact of the story? How do they make it appear more exciting?

Any questions?

Cut up these questions and place them in envelopes. Pupils need to work in pairs or small groups. They take a question out of the envelope and discuss the possible responses.

Why do you think the story is called ‘The Shadow’?	What do we know so far about the personalities of Holly and Jess?
Do you think Holly and Jess have been camping much before?	Who do you think Jess telephoned?
What news do you think they are expecting?	Who or what do you think is outside the tent?
What do you think will happen next?	How will the story end?

Provide pupils with the planning grid on the following page. They can decide what will happen at the end of the story and make notes on the grid. They are then ready to complete the story.

Mystery story planning grid

Title – *The Shadow*

Opening

Jess and Holly arrive at the campsite. They put up the tent. Jess makes a mystery phone call to find out if there is any news and is told ‘soon’.

Build Up

The girls happily snuggle into bed, chatting and cosy.

Dilemma

They hear a sound from outside. It sounds like panting and footsteps. They are afraid. The noise comes closer.

Events

Resolution and ending