

Introduction

J.R.R. Tolkien's novel, *The Lord of the Rings*, is extraordinarily popular, and has been a major influence on modern fantasy writing for both children and adults. Tolkien's books are so popular because of the remarkably detailed fantasy world he created, and his use of language to vividly bring this world to life. In this extract, Gandalf (a wizard) and Pippin (a hobbit) are travelling to the great stone city of Minas Tirith. As they read, encourage pupils to think about how Tolkien uses language to create the atmosphere in this extract.

Answers

1. "the wind sang" or "the mountains of the South marched past"
2. E.g. He uses verbs that describe quick movement, such as "was rushing", which show that Gandalf and Pippin are travelling quickly. He also describes the sound of the wind, which emphasises how fast they are moving.
3. E.g. It means that the men were so scared of the "winged shadow" that they shrank away from it.
4. E.g. Because this repetition emphasises how much travelling Gandalf and Pippin have done.
5. E.g. threatening; frightening; sinister
6. E.g. He feels afraid. The verbs "cried" and "clutching" suggest that he is frightened, and the exclamation marks make it seem as if he is shouting in fear.
7. Any appropriate answer. E.g. When Pippin is scared, for example, when the "winged shadow" flies past, Gandalf manages to comfort him. This shows that Pippin trusts Gandalf. However, Pippin is worried about where Gandalf is taking him, so he doesn't trust Gandalf completely.