

Explaining Quotes: Concrete and Sensory Language Note-catcher

(Answers, for Teacher Reference)

Focus question: What does the author’s use of concrete language and sensory detail help you understand about the rainforest?

Context: When Meg is reading a story to the boys, the author zooms outside of their cabin to what is happening in the rainforest to show how life in the rainforest responds to the sound of her voice.

| Quote | What does this help us understand? | Source |
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| <i>The author tells us, “The words dissolve into the thick, humid air of the rainforest. They become meaningless sounds in the darkness.”</i> | <i>This helps us understand that the words don’t mean anything to the world outside.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 41 |
| <i>The author writes, “The palm viper coiled in the buttressed roots of the acacia tree....”</i> | <i>This description shows precisely how the palm viper moves in response to Meg’s words.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 41 |
| <i>The author writes, “... the flick of an anole’s tail on a nearby philodendron leaf.”</i> | <i>The author’s description helps the reader hear the precise sound that the palm viper is listening for.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 41 |
| <i>The author writes, “... ocelot on the prowl.”</i> | <i>This description helps the reader see and hear how the ocelot moves; prowl suggests he is low to the ground, moving slowly and quietly.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 41 |
| <i>The author tells us, “A chameleon clamps two toes on one side of a stem and three on the other and listens to the soft burr of noise from inside, the place it cannot see.”</i> | <i>This description provides precise details of how the chameleon looks on the stem.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 41 |

| Quote | What does this help us understand? | Source |
|--|---|---|
| <i>The author writes, "... a frog slaps its sticky padded feet on a palm frond and freezes."</i> | <i>The author helps the reader see and hear how the frog responds to Meg's voice.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 41 |
| <i>The author tells us, "... a fruit bat cocks its sonar ... as it swoops through the night dropping a seed here, a seed there."</i> | <i>This description helps the reader see in his or her imagination how the fruit bat responds to Meg's voice.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 42 |
| <i>The author explains, "... a tiny bromeliad begins to grow in silence and invisibility high above."</i> | <i>This description helps the reader imagine the bromeliad.</i> | The Most Beautiful Roof in the World, page 42 |