

# Warm up

Modal verbs in sentences.

1. Rewrite the sentence below so that the modal verb 'can' is in the correct position in the sentence.

I can go to the party?

2. Rewrite the sentence below so that the modal verb 'may' is in the correct position in the sentence.

You wear your may shoes inside.

3. Rewrite the sentence below so that the modal verb 'could' is in the correct position in the sentence.

By the time he reached ten months old, could Ben walk around the house.

- Order the sentences below based on the necessity (least to most) that the modal verb implies. Can you explain your order?
- A. I should do my homework but I want to go out to play.
- B. I must do my homework but I want to go out to play.
- C. I could do my homework but I want to go out to play.

## The Beast Within

### Episode Three, part two

At last, he found a blurry, barely identifiable image. The creature was enormous, like nothing anyone had seen before: it was clearly a danger to anyone it met and had to be captured - quickly. After another week of torment, vandalism and mystery, a letter was received from the Ministry of Wild Animals (M.O.W.A) reporting that a sabre-toothed sloth had escaped from a local zoo. The creature was extremely dangerous. The school's head teacher made some urgent calls to the Ministry.

M.O.W.A arrived at school after hours to try and find evidence that the deadly beast was in the area. The ever-helpful Mrs Hood, one of Hornwood's most valued members of staff, was at school late on this particular evening.

She offered to supervise the Ministry zoologists whilst they searched the school. Hard at work at her desk in Year 6, Mrs Hood felt a cold draught race past her legs and flinched, taking in a quick gasp of air. Her breathing had quickened, as had her heart. After the week's mysterious occurrences, it was safe to say that Mrs Hood was already feeling uneasy.

She tried to focus back on her work, but she could not settle. She cautiously crept out of her seat and tiptoed to the door, checking the doors and windows were closed tight. She let out a little laugh and shook her head; she was just being silly.

It was then she heard it... barely audible, a very low but distinct snarl grew closer, louder. Frozen where she stood, Mrs Hood dared not move. She turned her head to see two glowing orange lights peering at her from the cracks within the damaged ceiling. Although she tried to call out to alert the trained professionals, she was breathless, helpless. Terrified, she wanted to race for the door to try and find somebody, anybody!

She was petrified. Shock held her with steel arms.

Time slowed. The eight-foot beast slid slowly, silently out of the ceiling void, settling before her on muscular hind legs, hypnotising her with its aggressive eyes, saliva dribbling between ferocious feral fangs, raising claws out to grab at her delicate form.

Then it all sped up into a blur. Mrs Hood felt herself being pulled back from the beastly creature. She saw its claw swipe out at her. An intense pain shot down her arm, where two deep cuts now blazed with blood. From nowhere, Mr Harrow and the MOWA officers began scuffling with the terrifying creature, which easily overwhelmed them in size, strength and power.

With a crash, the creature broke through the classroom window and raced towards the playground, desperate to escape. Officers cornered it against the fence, leaving it nowhere to run. They finally over-powered the monstrosity, shooting it with a powerful tranquiliser.

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A month passed. Mrs Hood was never quite the same again, even though the creature had been captured and incarcerated. The sloth was highly adapted; almost invisible in its environment; vicious, clever, toxic. That's what the letter from the ministry said.

Mrs Hood put the document down. She went over to the ceiling, rubbing her arm, looking at where the creature had nested in the roof void. The wounds throbbed. Her skin was oddly transparent there now.

She heard herself growl and felt the aggression rise. Her fingers curled into angry claws. With a leap, she drew herself into the ceiling and slowly, slowly, her transformation began.

**Episode three, part two - comprehension questions**

**Decode and explore language** - identify phrases and words you do not know by highlighting them.

Word	Possible meaning	Actual meaning

**Retrieval questions:**

1. Once he had seen the picture of the beast, what did Mr Harrow think should happen next? .....
2. Which word in the first paragraph suggests the head teacher is taking the matter seriously? .....

**Inference questions:**

3. Why do you think Mrs Hood wants to help the Ministry find the beast? .....
4. Why does Mrs Hood check the doors and windows are closed while working late? .....
5. Why was Mrs Hood described as 'never quite the same' - pick two possible answers:
  - Because she is so tired from working late.
  - Because she has seen the beast face-to-face.
  - Because her car was vandalised, upsetting her.
  - Wild animals scare her.
  - She was injured by the beast.
  - Her injuries were life-threatening.
  - She helped capture the beast.
6. **Choice question:** Why do you think the author included the last paragraph when it seemed the story was over?

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Possible answers

The Beast Within - Episode Three, part two - answers

Retrieval questions:

1. Once he had seen the picture of the beast, what did Mr Harrow think should happen next?

It had to be captured. / He wanted it catching and taking away.

2. Which word in the first paragraph suggests the head teacher is taking the matter seriously?

urgent

Inference questions:

3. Why do you think Mrs Hood wants to help the Ministry find the beast?

She wants to help capture the beast / she wants it all sorted out so she feels safer / she wants the danger to go away or stop.

4. Why does Mrs Hood check the doors and windows are closed while working late?

So that the beast cannot get to her / to make sure the room is safely closed and nothing can get in.

5. Why was Mrs Hood described as 'never quite the same' - pick two possible answers:

- Because she is so tired from working late.
- Because she has seen the beast face-to-face.
- Because her car was vandalised, upsetting her.
- Wild animals scare her.
- She was injured by the beast.
- Her injuries were life-threatening.
- She helped capture the beast.

6. Choice question: Why do you think the author included the last paragraph when it seemed the story was over?

To give a sense that the beast lives on / to keep the story open-ended... it could continue in another episode or a sequel / it introduces a new cliff-hanger and we want to hear even more / so someone could write a sequel.