

Desert Dunes

9 The oppressive heat of the midday sun beats down
17 upon the parched desert floor as cracks splinter
25 across the dusty, dry surface. Speckled sand glitters
33 in the sunlight while small creatures scuttle across,
42 searching for the sparse vegetation. A line of mighty
51 camels frames the horizon as they trek across the
55 fierce and barren land.

63 Colossal dunes, sloping and golden, weave across the
72 vast landscape like a snake. Moulded by the wind,
80 their rippled surfaces create a mystical illusion; their
86 natural beauty mesmerising amongst the desolate
96 land. A swirling sandstorm adds a sense of magic and
103 danger as hazy clouds encapsulate the surroundings.



Questions



1. Which word has the closest meaning to 'oppressive'? Tick one.

- ☐ murky
- ☐ suffocating
- ☐ bubbling
- ☐ isolated



2. Why do you think the sandstorm **adds a sense of magic and danger**?



3. Find and copy an example of alliteration.



4. Summarise in 30 words or fewer what each of the paragraphs is about.

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Answers



1. Which word has the closest meaning to 'oppressive'? Tick one.

☐ murky
☒ **suffocating**
☐ bubbling
☐ isolated



2. Why do you think the sandstorm **adds a sense of magic and danger**?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the sandstorm adds a sense of magic and danger because it may look mysterious and enchanting but it is also quite frightening and unpredictable.



3. Find and copy an example of alliteration.
Accept any of the following responses: dusty, dry; speckled sand; swirling sandstorm.



4. Summarise in 30 words or fewer what each of the paragraphs is about.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The first paragraph focuses on the heat and the creatures in the desert. The second paragraph describes the sand dunes and a sandstorm.