Monday 7th March 2022

Features of a Letter

LI: To understand texts.

Success Criteria

On fire: I can annotate and highlight all the features of a persuasive letter and explain what features create a persuasive letter.

Hotter: I can highlight some features of a letter and discuss the main features of a persuasive letter.

Hot: I can highlight the main features of a persuasive letter and define what persuasion is.

Last week we have explored what letters look like and how different and similar they are to diaries.

You used your independence to pick out language features that YOU could identify!

Today we will go into depth and look at a letter and pick out all the features like we have done in the past for when we were exploring diaries.

Before we start picking out features let's remind ourselves what letters are!

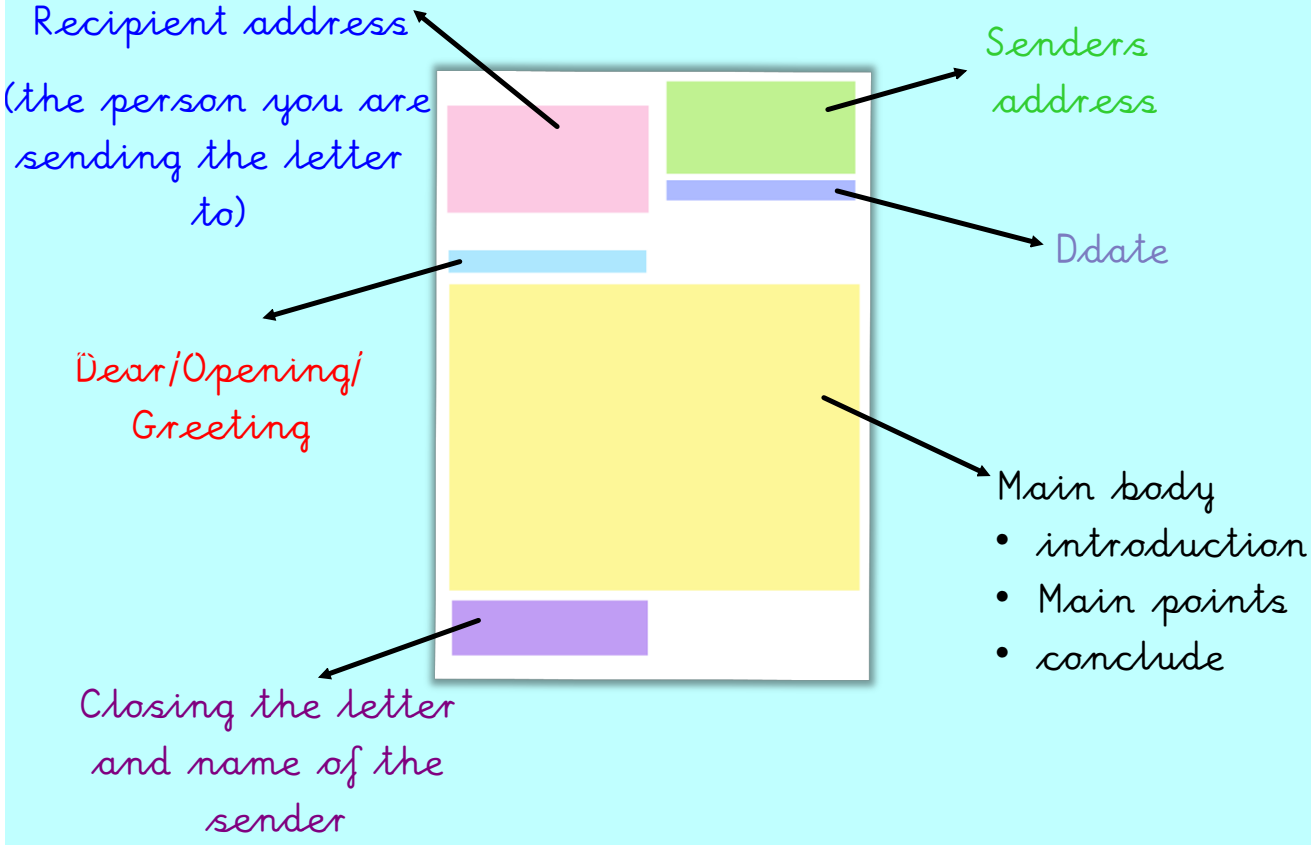
Discuss the following questions with your partner.

What are letters?

Who would we write a letter to?

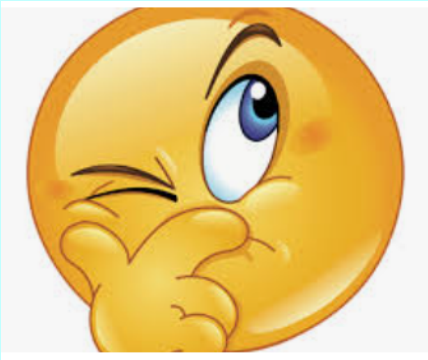
Why is letter writing important?

Looking back at your Venn diagrams, can you tell me some features you identified when you were comparing letters and diaries?



We will be looking at a persuasive letter this half term.

Does anyone know what persuasive means?



Definition of Persuasive

Good at convincing someone to do or believe something through reasoning or the use of temptation.

We will now look at an example persuasive letter.

You will get one each and you will highlight the features of the letter.

123 Apple House,
Blueberry Road,
Exeter,
Devon

Tuesday 1st March 2016

125 Banana House,
Blueberry Road,
Exeter,
Devon

Hi Jack,

I need to discuss a really serious problem: your monkey. Merlin the monkey! You know, I absolutely love your monkey, he is beautiful, cheeky, energetic and hilarious. However, I have had enough of it stealing all my bananas and it has to go! Merlin must, must, must be given to the zoo!

Firstly, I work every day to earn enough money to buy my favourite snack, but every time I go to eat one of my precious bananas, they've been stolen by Merlin the monkey! Friday evening for example – he stole my best bunch! Is that fair on me?

Secondly, he is actually breaking the law by trespassing into my home uninvited. In my opinion you should only have pets that you can control. I know some believe monkeys are fun pets, but I feel that they should just be enjoyed by safely visiting them in the zoo. I am sure that you would agree. Don't you think it would be kinder to the poor animal?

Merlin is, after all, a wild animal who should be spending his days climbing ropes, swinging on branches and chasing other glorious monkeys around. You know it's true! Please visit the local zoo as soon as you can, I could even come with you! Do the kindest thing... not only for me, but for Merlin.

Thankyou

Lucy (Your kind and thoughtful neighbour)

Dual Display to show layout in books.

Monday 7th March 2022

Highlighting Features of a Diary

Stick the letter in the middle of a new page so you have space to annotate.

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Exeter,
Devon

Tuesday 1st March 2016

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DUAL DISPLAY WITH NEXT PAGE

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Tuesday 1st March 2016

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Thankyou

Lucy (Your kind and thoughtful neighbour)

These are the features you need to label...

Concluding paragraph

Sign off

Date

Opening

Main body

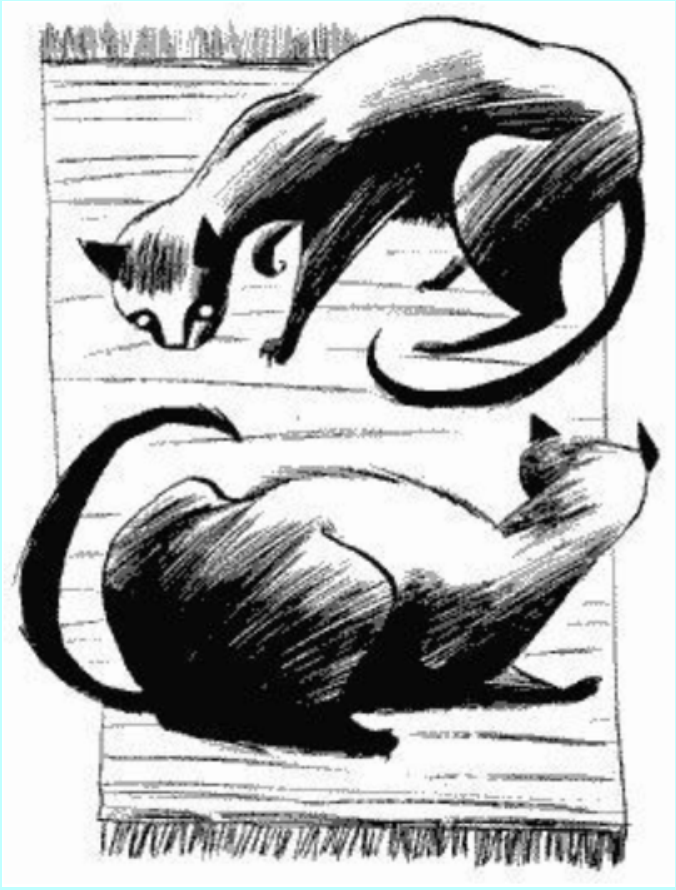
Recipient address

Sender address

Introduction

Tuesday 8th March 2022

Varjak Paw



LI: To use sentences appropriately.

Success Criteria

On Fire: I can read the next two chapters of Varjak Paw and independently summarise the chapters in no more than ten sentences and no less than six.

Hotter: I can read the next two chapters of Varjak Paw and with my partner write a short summary on what has happened.

Hot: I can read the next two chapters of Varjak Paw and use questions to help me summarise the chapters.

Yesterday we looked at features of a persuasive letter. Before we think about our letter writing, we need to recap the two chapters we have already read.

Here are some questions you need to answer to help you jig your memory...

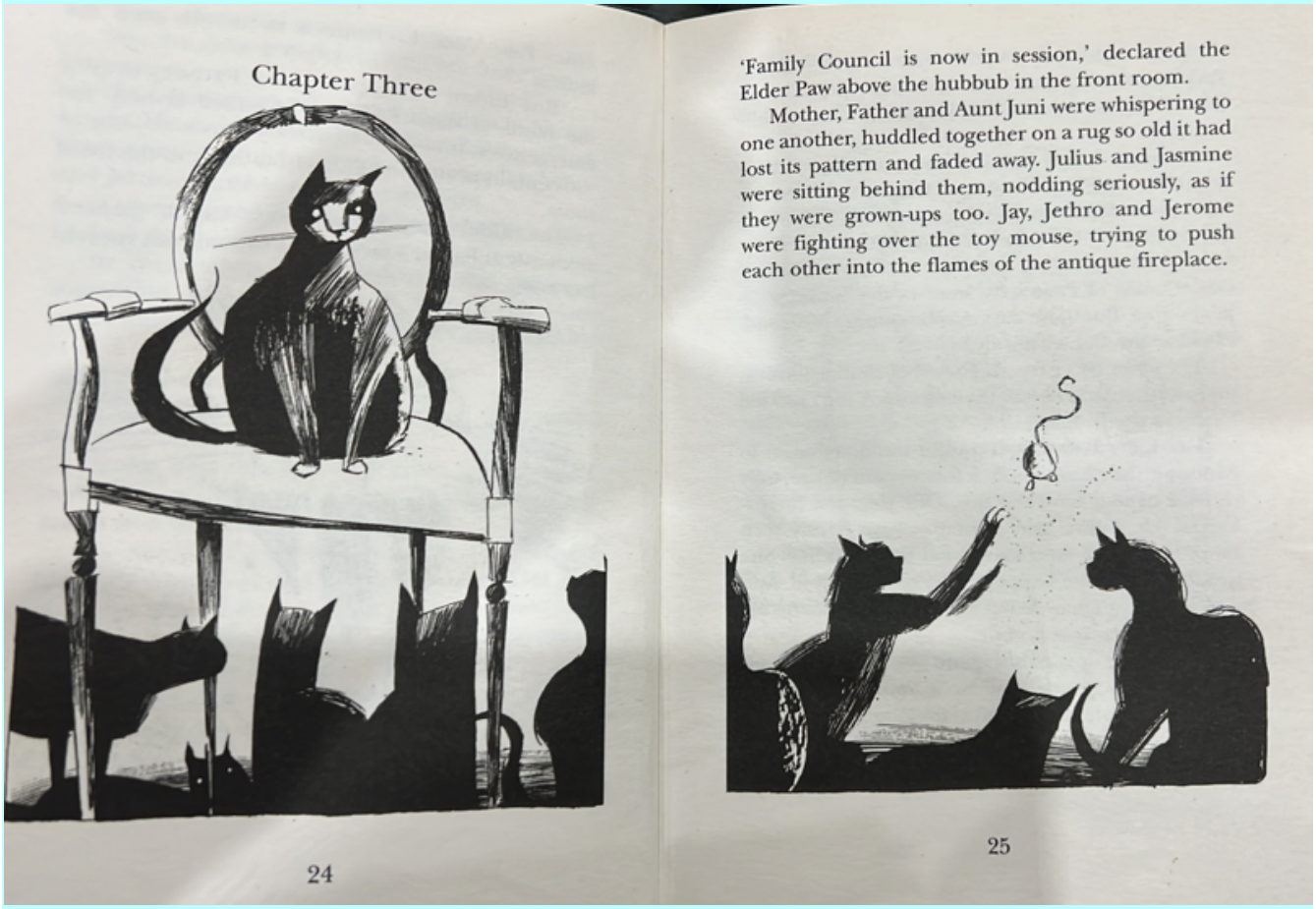
1. Who is Varjak Paw?
2. Where does Varjak want to go?
3. Why is he not allowed outside?
4. How do his family members behave with him?
5. Who has entered the house?
6. How does Varjak feel?

We will continue reading the book today as this will help us write our letter!

So...

Put everything away, equipment in trays, books away and relax...

Chapter 3



Chapter Three

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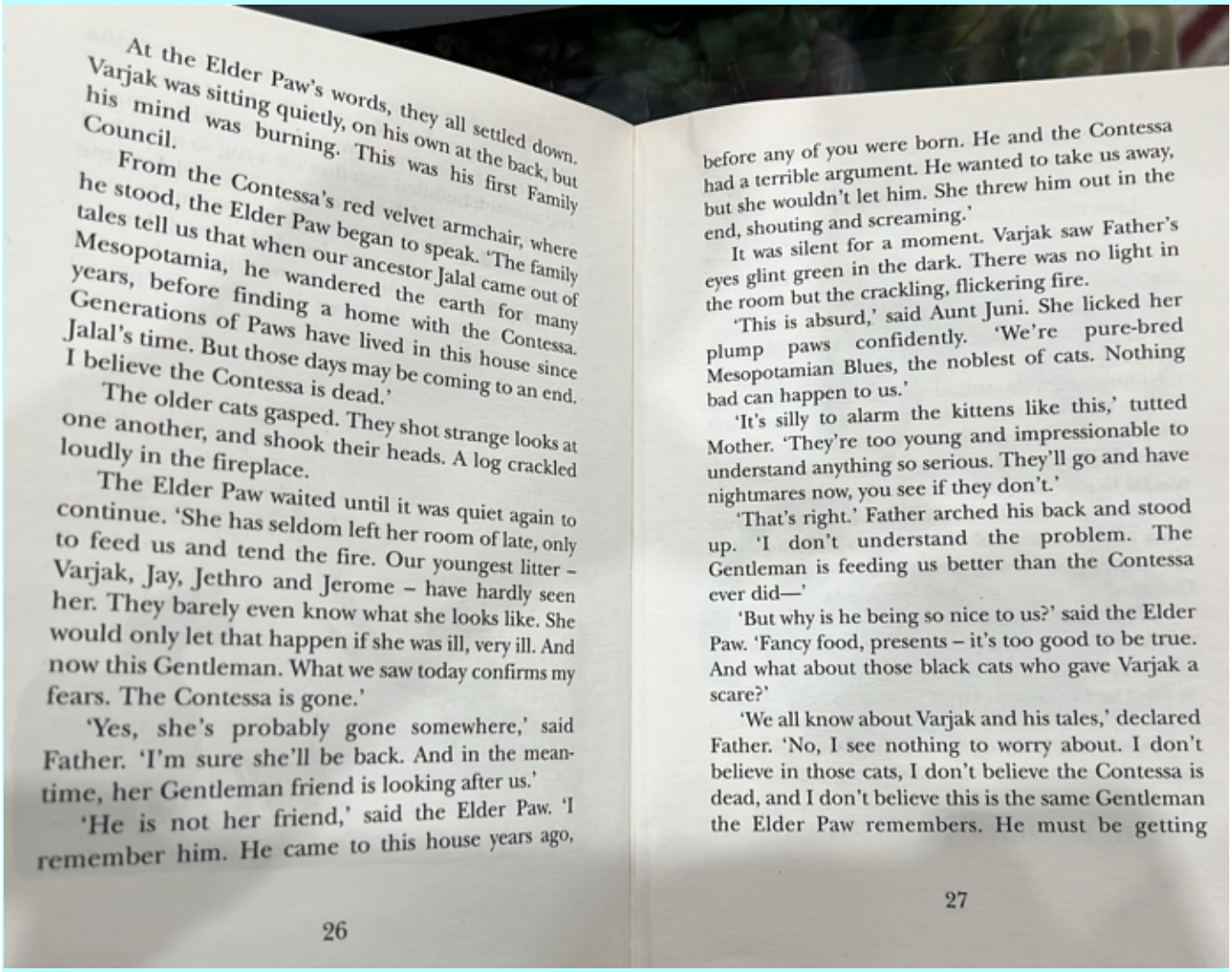
'Family Council is now in session,' declared the Elder Paw above the hubbub in the front room.

Mother, Father and Aunt Juni were whispering to one another, huddled together on a rug so old it had lost its pattern and faded away. Julius and Jasmine were sitting behind them, nodding seriously, as if they were grown-ups too. Jay, Jethro and Jerome were fighting over the toy mouse, trying to push each other into the flames of the antique fireplace.

25



At the Elder Paw's words, they all settled down. Varjak was sitting quietly, on his own at the back, but his mind was burning. This was his first Family Council.

From the Contessa's red velvet armchair, where he stood, the Elder Paw began to speak. 'The family tales tell us that when our ancestor Jalal came out of Mesopotamia, he wandered the earth for many years, before finding a home with the Contessa. Generations of Paws have lived in this house since Jalal's time. But those days may be coming to an end. I believe the Contessa is dead.'

The older cats gasped. They shot strange looks at one another, and shook their heads. A log crackled loudly in the fireplace.

The Elder Paw waited until it was quiet again to continue. 'She has seldom left her room of late, only to feed us and tend the fire. Our youngest litter – Varjak, Jay, Jethro and Jerome – have hardly seen her. They barely even know what she looks like. She would only let that happen if she was ill, very ill. And now this Gentleman. What we saw today confirms my fears. The Contessa is gone.'

'Yes, she's probably gone somewhere,' said Father. 'I'm sure she'll be back. And in the meantime, her Gentleman friend is looking after us.'

'He is not her friend,' said the Elder Paw. 'I remember him. He came to this house years ago,

before any of you were born. He and the Contessa had a terrible argument. He wanted to take us away, but she wouldn't let him. She threw him out in the end, shouting and screaming.'

It was silent for a moment. Varjak saw Father's eyes glint green in the dark. There was no light in the room but the crackling, flickering fire.

'This is absurd,' said Aunt Juni. She licked her plump paws confidently. 'We're pure-bred Mesopotamian Blues, the noblest of cats. Nothing bad can happen to us.'

'It's silly to alarm the kittens like this,' tutted Mother. 'They're too young and impressionable to understand anything so serious. They'll go and have nightmares now, you see if they don't.'

'That's right.' Father arched his back and stood up. 'I don't understand the problem. The Gentleman is feeding us better than the Contessa ever did—'

'But why is he being so nice to us?' said the Elder Paw. 'Fancy food, presents – it's too good to be true. And what about those black cats who gave Varjak a scare?'

'We all know about Varjak and his tales,' declared Father. 'No, I see nothing to worry about. I don't believe in those cats, I don't believe the Contessa is dead, and I don't believe this is the same Gentleman the Elder Paw remembers. He must be getting

confused in his old age.'

There was a murmur of agreement around the room. Varjak couldn't stop himself. He had to speak.

'I saw the men carry something away,' he said. 'It could've been the Contessa's body—'

'Varjak!' hissed Mother. 'That really is too revolting!' She turned to the Elder Paw. 'You see what you've done?'

'But it's true!' said Varjak. 'And so are the cats! They're—'

'Shut up, you stupid insect!' snarled Julius. 'We're the only cats in the Contessa's house. And this is grown-up business, not kitten make-believe.'

Everyone started to shout at once. The flames roared louder and higher in the fireplace.

'Listen to me!' demanded the Elder Paw, struggling to regain control. 'We need to make a plan. If things change in this house, we will have to go Outside.'

'Elder Paw!' cried Mother. 'What can you be thinking of? Everyone knows the world Outside is full of monsters. At least here we're safe from dogs.'

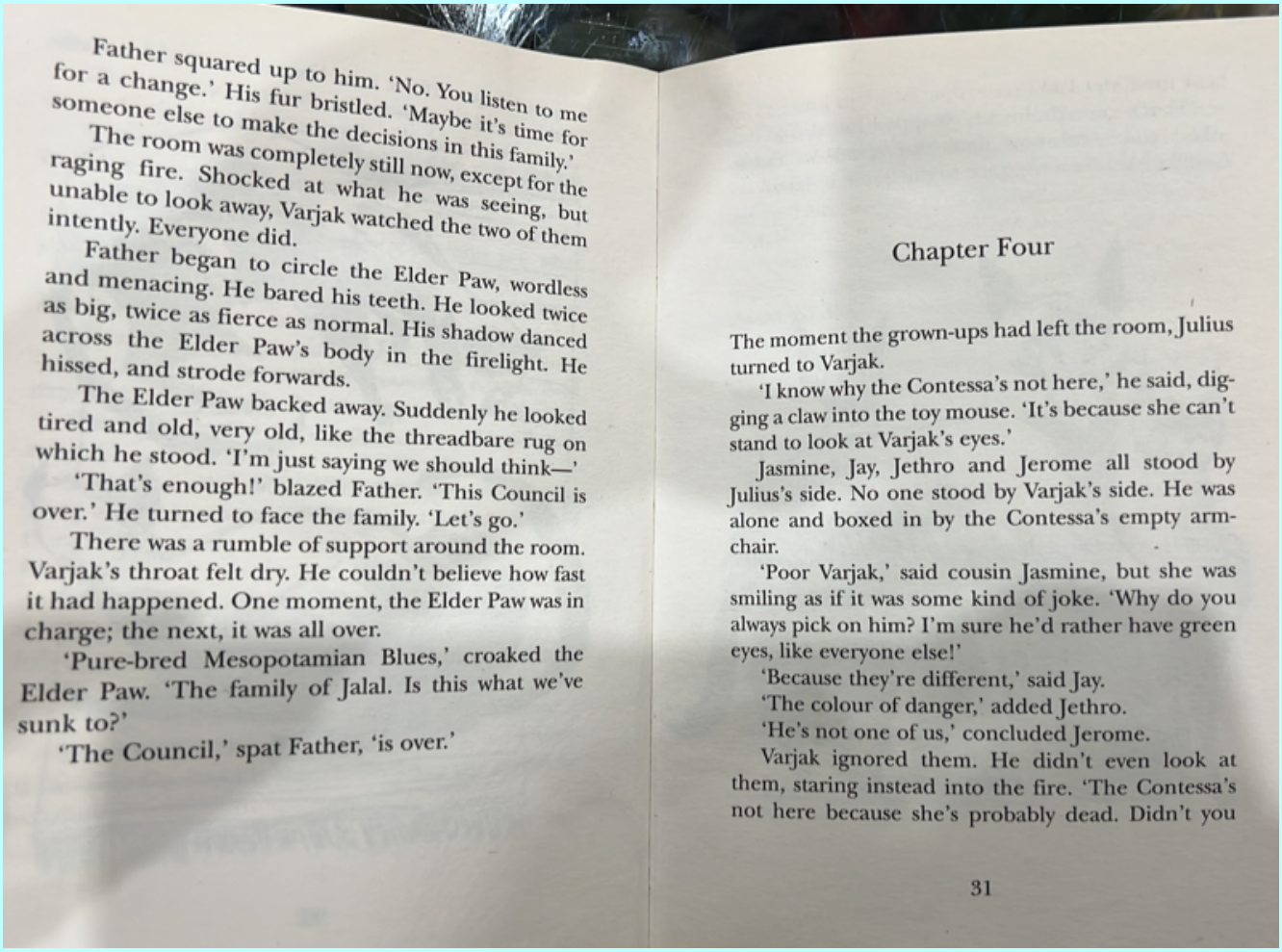
'But we don't even know what dogs are!' said the Elder Paw. 'This house is the only world we know.'

'This house is the only world we need,' said Aunt Juni. 'The Contessa is fine. Everything will go on as before.'

'Listen to me,' pleaded the Elder Paw. He

stepped down off the armchair and into the middle of the room.

Chapter 4



Father squared up to him. 'No. You listen to me for a change.' His fur bristled. 'Maybe it's time for someone else to make the decisions in this family.'

The room was completely still now, except for the raging fire. Shocked at what he was seeing, but unable to look away, Varjak watched the two of them intently. Everyone did.

Father began to circle the Elder Paw, wordless and menacing. He bared his teeth. He looked twice as big, twice as fierce as normal. His shadow danced across the Elder Paw's body in the firelight. He hissed, and strode forwards.

The Elder Paw backed away. Suddenly he looked tired and old, very old, like the threadbare rug on which he stood. 'I'm just saying we should think—'

'That's enough!' blazed Father. 'This Council is over.' He turned to face the family. 'Let's go.'

There was a rumble of support around the room. Varjak's throat felt dry. He couldn't believe how fast it had happened. One moment, the Elder Paw was in charge; the next, it was all over.

'Pure-bred Mesopotamian Blues,' croaked the Elder Paw. 'The family of Jalal. Is this what we've sunk to?'

'The Council,' spat Father, 'is over.'

Chapter Four

The moment the grown-ups had left the room, Julius turned to Varjak.

'I know why the Contessa's not here,' he said, digging a claw into the toy mouse. 'It's because she can't stand to look at Varjak's eyes.'

Jasmine, Jay, Jethro and Jerome all stood by Julius's side. No one stood by Varjak's side. He was alone and boxed in by the Contessa's empty armchair.

'Poor Varjak,' said cousin Jasmine, but she was smiling as if it was some kind of joke. 'Why do you always pick on him? I'm sure he'd rather have green eyes, like everyone else!'

'Because they're different,' said Jay.

'The colour of danger,' added Jethro.

'He's not one of us,' concluded Jerome.

Varjak ignored them. He didn't even look at them, staring instead into the fire. 'The Contessa's not here because she's probably dead. Didn't you

31

hear the Elder Paw?'

'That's enough, insect,' snapped Julius. 'No one asked you. And how dare you speak in Family Council? You're a disgrace to the name of Jalal.'

Julius's tail thudded menacingly on the rug. Very slowly, Varjak looked up and met his big brother's eyes. His own tail started to thud.

'Is that supposed to scare me?' sneered Julius. He towered over Varjak Paw. His claws came out. So did Varjak's.

'Fight! Fight! Fight!' Jay, Jethro and Jerome crowded round the two of them. Jasmine watched, grooming her fine silver-blue fur.

Varjak shook inside, but he didn't show it, didn't back off. He'd never had a real fight, and he knew he didn't stand a chance against Julius – but it was as if something inside him was rising up, something old and strong and buried deep. Who did Julius think he was?

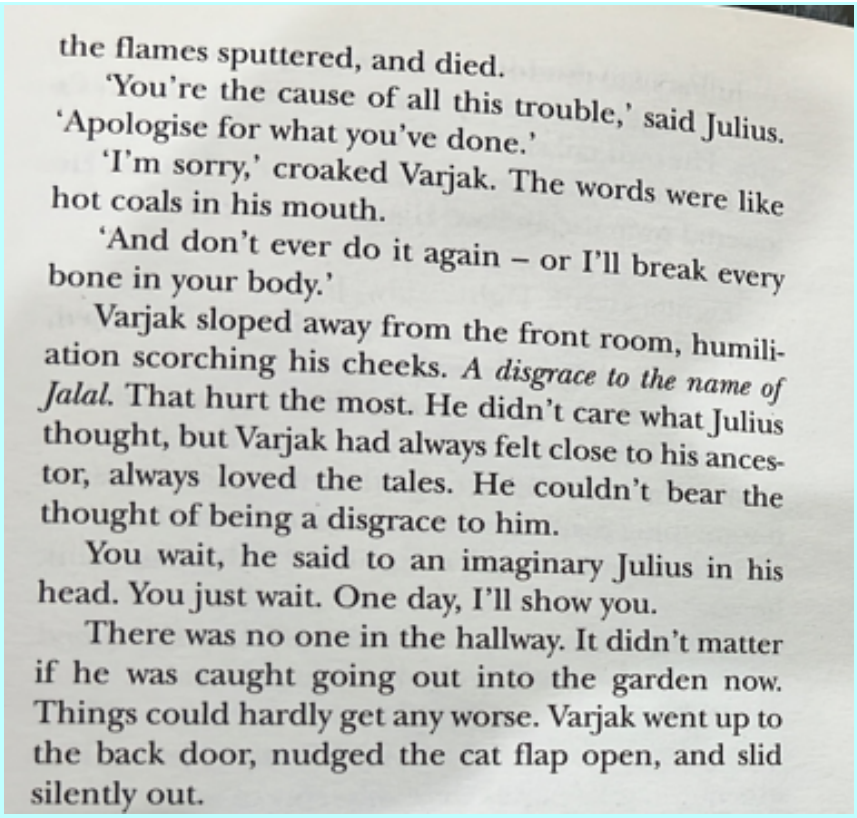
'Julius, darling, he's only a little kitten,' cooed Jasmine, in her milk-in-the-morning voice.

'He's not even a proper Mesopotamian Blue,' said Julius. He stared at Varjak with devastating green eyes. His pupils were thin slits of scorn, mocking, challenging, daring Varjak to move first.

Varjak couldn't. He couldn't even hold the gaze: it was too strong, too sure of itself. Whatever it was that had risen up within him had gone. He turned away, and backed down.

It was over.

Julius had beaten him with just one look, as Father had beaten the Elder Paw. In the fireplace,



the flames sputtered, and died.

'You're the cause of all this trouble,' said Julius. 'Apologise for what you've done.'

'I'm sorry,' croaked Varjak. The words were like hot coals in his mouth.

'And don't ever do it again – or I'll break every bone in your body.'

Varjak sloped away from the front room, humiliation scorching his cheeks. *A disgrace to the name of Jalal.* That hurt the most. He didn't care what Julius thought, but Varjak had always felt close to his ancestor, always loved the tales. He couldn't bear the thought of being a disgrace to him.

You wait, he said to an imaginary Julius in his head. You just wait. One day, I'll show you.

There was no one in the hallway. It didn't matter if he was caught going out into the garden now. Things could hardly get any worse. Varjak went up to the back door, nudged the cat flap open, and slid silently out.

Can you summarise these two chapters with your partner?

Tuesday 8th March 2022

Summarising Chapter's 3 and 4

TASK - Hulks and BP

You will summarise the chapters 3 and 4, making sure you include all the key facts and ensuring you summarise in no more than ten sentences and no less than 6.

TASK - Storms

You will get a list of questions you will answer about the story so far. Make sure you answer in full sentences and don't forget to add capital letters and fullstops.

Use these questions to help you summarise chapters 3 and 4

1. What happens in the family meeting?
2. Why is father angry with Elder Paw?
3. Do the family want to leave the Contessa's home?
4. How is Varjak feeling?
5. Why is Julius angry with Varjak?
6. Where does Varjak go?

Wednesday 9th March 2022

What Should Varjak Do?

LI: To organise writing appropriately.

Success Criteria

On fire: I can use my skills of debating to create a for and against argument on whether Varjak should stay or leave the house.

Hotter: I can pick either a for or an against argument and give two reasons why I chose this argument.

Hot: I can give one reason for why Varjak should stay and one reason why Varjak should leave.

Discuss the questions below with your partner.

Can you recap the story of Varjak Paw so far?

What did you receive yesterday?

What help does Varjak want?

We will re-read the letter to refresh our memories and put this on our Working Wall so we can refer to it!

You will be writing a PERSUASIVE letter to Varjak helping him to make the right decision.

The argument is...

SHOULD VARJAK LEAVE THE CONTESSA'S HOUSE OR SHOULD HE STAY WITH HIS FAMILY?

What does persuasion mean?

Think back to the beginning of year four. When did you have to write a persuasive piece of writing?

What kind of language do we use to persuade someone?

Sentence Starters

- First, lets talk about...
- Another important point worth considering...
- Astonishingly, some people don't know that...
- Yet another incredible thing about..
- Finally, and most importantly...
- Best/Worst of all...

Persuasive Language

Modal Verbs
(must, will, should)

Modal Adverbs
(definitely, absolutely, certainly)

Evaluative Language
(incredible, outstanding, awful, revolting)

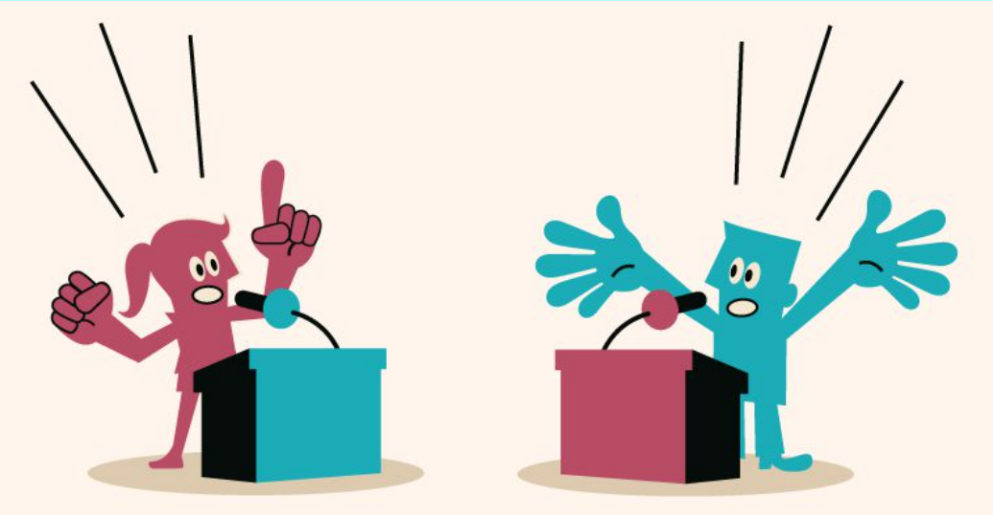
Powerful Statements

- Just think about it!
- It's out of this world!
- We can't let this go on!
- We must stop this now!
- You know I'm right!

Before you can help Varjak, I need to know what you all think!

Today we will be debating and thinking about reasons for and against whether Varjak should stay or leave.

What is a debate?



Wednesday 9th March 2022

Should Varjak stay or leave?

Reasons For	Reasons Against

Dual page with next slide

Before we start writing in our tables, can you write down 2 reasons why Varjak must stay and 2 reasons why Varjak should leave on your whiteboard?

Do this with your partner

Thursday 10th March 2022

Conscious Alley

LI: To use sentences appropriately

Success Criteria

On fire: I know what a conscious alley is and give viable reasons for and against on what Varjak should do.

Hotter: I can begin to explain what a conscious alley is and give one reason why Varjak should stay or leave.

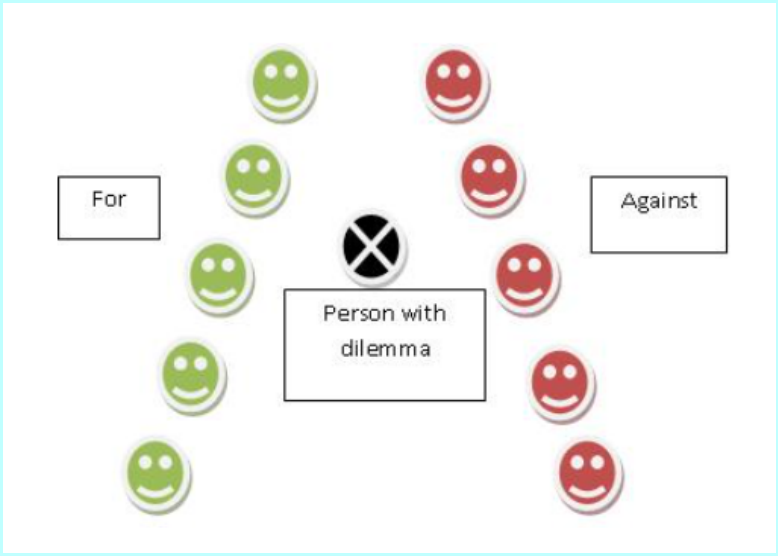
Hot: I can give a reason why Varjak should stay or leave.

What is a conscious alley?

A technique used to explore a dilemma faced by a character

Who is our character?

What dilemma is he facing?

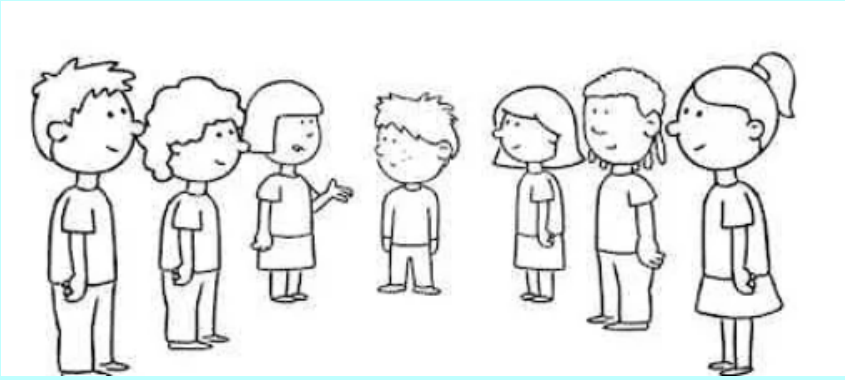


Today you will be creating a conscious alley.

The character with a dilemma walks down an "alley" made of people who are whispering advice to him. One side has the for argument, the other side has the against argument.

We will have a look at a short video explaining what a conscious alley is

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hs0LirW9v8



You will be split up into two groups.

One group will advise Varjak to leave home and one group will advise Varjak to stay

BUT FIRST...let's pick Varjak

Friday 11th March 2022

Guided Reading - Boudicca

LI: To analyse texts.

Success Criteria

On fire: I can read a fact file on Boudicca and use the information in the text to formulate a detailed answer and being able to explain and delve into the text to show a deeper understanding.

Hatter: I can read a fact file on Boudicca and explain my answers from the text using my skill of inference.

Hat: I can read a fact file on Boudicca and answer retrieval questions.

Today's guided reading lesson is on a very influential female in black history called BOUDICCA.

We will be celebrating Black History Month and we hve been asked to research all about Boudicca.

Boudicca was a British Queen who in 60CE led a revolt against the Romans.

Hopefully today during Guided Reading you will find out more about Boudicca and her life achievements.

You will be answering a range of questions.

Text for everyone

Boudicca

Who Was Boudicca and What Was She Like?

Boudicca was an ancient British queen who fought against the Romans as they invaded Britain during the first century AD. Scholars agree that she was of noble birth and, in ancient texts, she is described as having royal blood.

Boudicca is believed to have been very tall and to have had long, auburn hair. Ancient tales recount that she was intimidating to be around as she had a fierce look in her eye and a harsh, stern voice. Typically for the time, she is believed to have worn a thick, colourful cloak. Around her neck, it is rumoured that Boudicca liked to wear a large, golden necklace.

When Did She Live?

Boudicca is thought to have lived between AD 30 and AD 60.

What Is Boudicca Famous For?

Boudicca's husband was Prasutagus. Prasutagus was the king and leader of the Iceni people in the area mostly known today as Norfolk, England. After the death of her husband, the Roman army broke a promise that they had made to Prasutagus so Boudicca led the Iceni people in revolt against them.

What Exactly Was Her Name?

Most things that we know about Boudicca today come from the works of Tacitus, who was a Roman historian and writer. Having been born into a wealthy family, Tacitus was taught how to read and write and he documented the history of the Roman empire by writing about it in Latin. Many people were interested in the works of Tacitus and wanted a copy to read for themselves. However, copying books in ancient times was not easy: it needed someone who knew how to read and write to copy out the book, writing it word by word onto new parchment. It is thought that somebody who copied Tacitus's work in 1624 might have accidentally misspelt Boudicca as Boadicea – a name that many

people have been taught since. In fact, many British navy ships throughout history have been named HMS Boadicea rather than HMS Boudicca. Her name has even been spelt as Buduica, Voadiciea and Bunduca throughout the ages!

As nobody alive today was around during the time when Latin was spoken in ancient Rome, there is nobody who knows exactly how her name would have been pronounced. Even if Boudicca herself could tell us, she would likely not have known how to write it down. However, most scholars now agree that the correct spelling is the one used by Tacitus (Boudicca) and that her name would most likely have been pronounced as:

Say it so that...

Bou	di	cca
it rhymes with the word 'you'.	the 'i' is like the 'i' in the word 'fish'.	the 'ca' is like the 'ca' at the start of the word 'cat'.

What Happened to Boudicca?

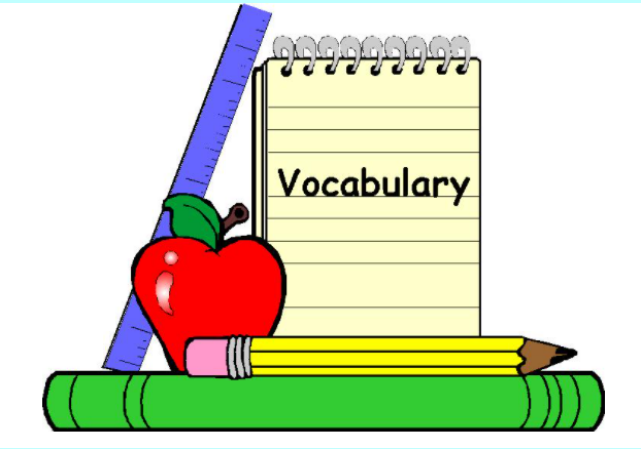
Exactly what happened to Boudicca and where it happened are unknown. While some scholars believe that Boudicca poisoned herself to avoid capture by the Romans, others believe that she simply contracted a fatal illness during battle.

Did you know...?

The name Boudicca is thought to come from the Celtic word 'boudā' which means 'victory'.

We will read the text together and if you spot any vocabulary you are unsure of circle the word and we will use a dictionary to find the definitions

Vocabulary Check!

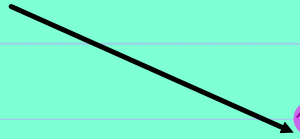


You will use the information from the text to answer the questions. Always remember the answer is in the text.

You will stick each question in one at a time.

Friday 11th March 2022

Guided Reading - The Life of Boudicca



miss a line and stick in your first question

Make sure you explain any answers you are asked to explain and read the questions carefully, highlighting the key information.

Questions

What is the key information?

Where do we need to look in the text?

Who is responsible for most of the historical records about Boudicca? Tick one.

- ○ Prasutagus
- ○ Tacitus
- ○ Iceni
- ○ Voadiciea

REMEMBER: Always return to your text.

Answers to retrieval questions are always there.

Questions

What is the key information?

Where do we need to look in the text?

...others believe that she simply contracted a fatal illness during battle.
Which word in this phrase implies that the illness caused Boudicca's death? Tick one.

- ○ believe
- ○ contracted
- ○ fatal
- ○ battle

REMEMBER: Always return to your text.

Answers to retrieval questions are always there.

Questions

What is the key information?

Where do we need to look in the text?

Fill in the missing words:

Boudicca had a _____ look in her eye and a harsh, _____ voice.

REMEMBER: Always return to your text.

Answers to retrieval questions are always there.

Questions

What is the key information?

Where do we need to look in the text?

Boudicca is thought to have lived between...
What do the words 'is thought to have' imply in this phrase?

REMEMBER: Always return to your text.

Answers to retrieval questions are always there.

Questions

What is the key information?

Where do we need to look in the text?

In which area of modern-day England were the Iceni people mostly thought to have lived?

_____

REMEMBER: Always return to your text.

Answers to retrieval questions are always there.

Questions

What is the key information?

Where do we need to look in the text?

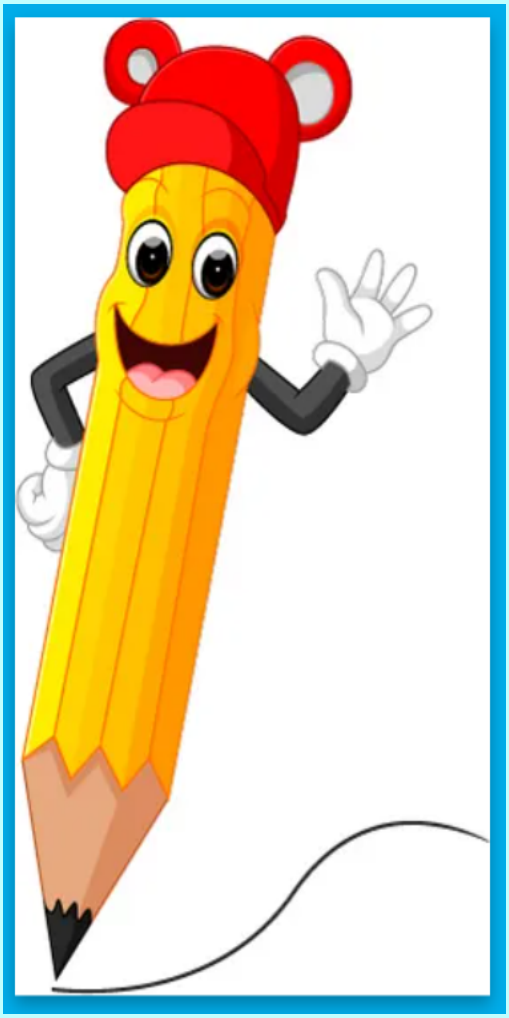
Summarise Boudicca's appearance in 20 words or fewer.

REMEMBER: Always return to your text.

Answers to retrieval questions are always there.

Poster/Leaflet on Boudicca's Achievements

You will use the information you have gathered from the guided reading session to create a poster or a leaflet about all of Boudicca achievements.



Here is an example one I did earlier...