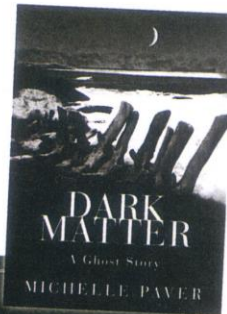


Reading & Vocabulary

1 Read the blurb from *Dark Matter*, a best-selling book for teenagers and young adults, and answer the questions.

- 1 Where and when is the book set?
- 2 Who is the main character and what happens to him in the book?
- 3 What kind of book is it?



*What is it? What does it want?
Why is it angry with me?*

January 1937

Clouds of war are gathering over a fogbound London. Twenty-eight year old Jack is poor, lonely and desperate to change his life. So when he's offered the chance to be the wireless operator on an Arctic expedition, he jumps at it.

Spirits are high as the ship leaves Norway: five men and eight huskies, crossing the Barents Sea by the light of the midnight sun. At last they reach the remote, uninhabited bay where they will camp for the next year, Gruhuken.

But the Arctic summer is brief. As night returns to claim the land, Jack feels a creeping unease. One by one, his companions are forced to leave.

Soon he will see the last of the sun as the polar night engulfs the camp in months of darkness. Soon he will reach the point of no return – when the sea will freeze, making escape impossible.

*And Gruhuken is not uninhabited.
Jack is not alone.
Something walks there in the dark.*

2 Read the first part of an extract from the book and answer the questions.

- 1 What time of day is it? How do you know?
- 2 What different colours are used to describe the scene?

The black bones of the mountains jutted through the snow. On the shore, the whale ribs glistened with frost and the rocks sloping down to the sea were white and smooth. The water was dark purple, vivid and strange.

We saw the sky turn bloody and inflamed as the sun struggled to rise. We saw a sliver of fire. An abortive dawn. The sun sank back, defeated.

Gone.

I shut my eyes and it was still there, blazing behind my eyelids. I opened them. Gone. All that remained was a crimson glow.

3 a Check the *Words2know* and match them with the definitions.

Words **2** know (0.0)

azure bronze copper ✓ crimson gold
indigo jade magenta maroon mauve
scarlet silver turquoise violet

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 1 reddish brown | copper | 8 dark bluish purple |
| 2 bright blue | | 9 light grey |
| 3 dark brownish red | | 10 deep red |
| 4 pale purple | | 11 yellowish brown |
| 5 bright greenish blue | | 12 bright yellow |
| 6 very dark blue | | 13 reddish purple |
| 7 bright red | | 14 light green |

b What colours can you see in the photos on this page and around you in the classroom? Use some of the *Words2know*.