

grimace	a twisted, distorted expression on the face, as if somebody is in pain
wheelhouse	a shelter for a person at the wheel of a boat or ship
incomprehension	lack of understanding
unaccustomed	not used to
apologising	saying sorry

What you still need to know



When you read any text, you should summarise the main ideas in it: this will help you to know what the text is about. Look for the supporting ideas. Ask yourself what happened, who these events affect and where the events take place. It is also useful to compare one text with another, as every writer has a different style (way of writing something). From looking at some of the emotive words (words which show emotion), such as *yelled*, you can also work out what the characters are feeling. Read the extract below and then do the exercises.

Classroom activity 3

Sharkey's Son by Gillian D'achada

The girl continued to try to attract his attention while hugging herself in a futile attempt to keep warm. Grant continued to stare at her in fascination. He watched as she put her head on her knees and a long, thick strand of straight brown hair fell over her arm. Odd, Grant thought, Leentjie came from the community of fishermen in Langebaan who were of Khoisan descent: she should have short, tightly curled hair. In that second, Grant knew she was a real girl. And from what he could make out, she was in serious danger of hypothermia. He sprang into action. "Get back to the beach!" he yelled, running down to the water's edge. He knew that the water was shallow enough for the girl to be able to wade back to the beach in relative safety.

"Help!" came the pitiful response.

"Get back to the beach, I said!" Grant cupped his hands around his mouth and shouted, but the wind just blew his words back at him.

She must be getting dangerously cold out there. He felt cold in his anorak and shorts, but she had practically nothing on. Why didn't she get off that rock and walk back to the beach?"