

Setting description (model text)

The house stood on its own little hillock as many churches do. There was something of the graveyard in its walled gardens and something of the church in its arched Gothic windows, its spikes and its ornaments. A path led across the lawn to the door, past a strange gathering of topiary bushes. At some time in the past, they had been artfully clipped into shape but since then, they had been left to sprawl and grow wild. These feral bushes now stood guard malevolently around the house. Their deformed shapes invited the imagination to see the hint of bared teeth, the suggestion of a leathery wing or the illusion of a claw or beady eye. Unnervingly, the interior of the house was no less forbidding. The pale, fluttering candlelight that illuminated the hall created grotesque shadows that seemed to leap about then scuttle away to hide under pieces of furniture or scurry up walls to skulk in ceiling corners. The heart of the house was as sunless as a cave and as cold as a mortuary.

WALT read as readers: analysing a setting description

Write the answers to these questions neatly in your Writing book (or Learning Log).

1. Circle any unknown vocabulary and talk to a partner to clarify its meaning.
2. Where is the house located? How does it look?
3. What impression do you get of the gardens and shrubbery? Explain, using evidence from the text.
4. What does '*...the interior of the house was no less forbidding...*' mean?
5. What impression do you get of the interior of the house? Explain, using evidence from the text.
6. What is the inside of the house compared to? What effect do these comparisons have on the reader?