

A Vocabulary Vine for Leila and the Blue Fox

Language and Oracy in Context

1

Taken from the text: **mantra** (p29)
'Sunlight!' is her **mantra**. 'Sunlight so I shine!'

*Have you ever had a sentence in your head that helps you feel calm, brave or focused? For example:
I can do this! Stay calm. One step at a time.*

These are all **mantras**. A **manta** is a short phrase or sentence people repeat - kind of like a mental cheer or reminder.

In pairs, think of a time when something felt a little tricky. *What short sentence could you have repeated in your head to help you? How would it have helped? Share your new **mantra** with the class. As you do, consider the body language that would best support the aim of your **mantra** (for example, your posture, facial expressions and breathing).*

2

Idiom from the text: **'It's like a punch in the gut'** (p.40)

If something happens feels like a 'punch in the gut', it means it feels sudden, shocking, painful and hard to ignore. People often use this idiom when they feel emotional pain. In a small group, consider the following scenarios. Which do you think would feel most 'like a punch in the gut' to you? Why?

Being told you can't be involved in something you were looking forward to

Being blamed for something you didn't do

Being left out of a team

Hearing a friend is moving schools

You might like to draw on these sentence starters to help you:
*I would like to start by saying that I think would feel most like a 'punch in the gut' to me because...
I understand your point, but I think ...*

3

Taken from the text: **ricochet** (p142) - 'she felt every jolt of the sledge **ricochet** through her bones'

Ricochet means when something hits a surface and then bounces off in a different direction, often quickly, for example:
The ball hit the wall and ricocheted across the playground.
In pairs, consider:

- *What everyday object might **ricochet**?*
- *What might it hit?*
- *Where could it go next?*

Now create your own **ricocheting** sentence using the frame:

It hit the and then ricocheted ...

Eg. *It hit the floor and then ricocheted up into the air.*

4

Taken from the text: **indentations** (p127)

'They are deep **indentations**, showing a mouth wide as Leila's arm is long.'

Synonyms: dent, hollow, notch, groove

Antonyms: bump, lump, mound

Word origins: from the Latin *dens*, meaning 'tooth' + *indentare*, 'to furnish with teeth'.

Middle English: *indenten* - 'to make notches'; 'to give something a toothed or jagged appearance'

An indentation is a small dip or hollow in a surface, like a dent where something has been pressed in. In pairs, decide which of these sentences have use the word indentation correctly. *Why/why not?*

The pencil made an indentation in the paper.

The sun made an large indentation in the sky.

The coin left a small indentation in the clay.

5

Words and phrases to bank:

to flank something/someone (p146)

= to be on each side of

Leila feels the atmosphere shift between them (p16)

= the feelings between them suddenly change

with an impenetrable gaze (p31)

= looking in a way that you can't read their feelings or emotions

how friable the sea ice is (p197)

= how easily it crumbles or breaks

a widening abyss (p224)

= a gap, space or distance that is getting bigger