The Fog



The first time the fog came it took us by surprise. Well, mostly. We'd seen the news reports in the weeks before it happened: flocks of birds dying mid-flight and plummeting out of the sky. Their broken bodies scattered across the ground like a bad art project.

'What does it mean?' I asked, as I sat in front of the TV with my sister and my dad.

'It doesn't mean anything, Eva,' Ines said. 'It's just a bunch of dead birds. Who even cares?'

Dad reached across and scruffed up my hair. 'I think what Ines is trying to say is that these things happen sometimes. It's not nice, but it's nothing to fret about.'

I looked at the birds, bent and twisted, loose feathers floating on the breeze. 'It feels like a warning.'

Ines rolled her eyes and opened her mouth to say something but closed it again when Dad gave her a look.

'Look out of our window,' he said. 'See those swallows over the trees? All healthy and normal and going about their business. There's no need to worry.'

I nodded, but the feeling of dread stayed with me. The fog came to us the next day.

We were in the car on the way home from school — Ines, Dad and I. It had been a grey day, the air wet even though it wasn't raining. It got darker and darker as we drove through the busy streets. I could see Dad's eyes flicking to the rear-view mirror more than usual.

'I'm going to find somewhere to pull over,' he said, turning into a side road.

'What's wrong?' I asked, twisting my neck as far as I could to look out of the back window. What I saw made my heart fall like a stone into my belly. Like one of those broken birds.

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Frayer Model

Accuracy

The Fog

Definitions

1.

2.

3.

4.

Visual Representation

1

2

3

4

1. plummeting
2. fret
3. swallows
4. dread

Related Words

1

2

3

4

Words in Context

1.

2.

3.

4.

Non-examples

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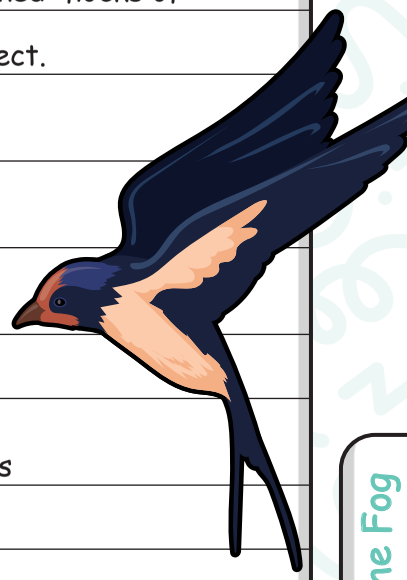
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Comprehension

1

Connect each character to their personality and then to a piece of evidence from the text to support this. Fill in any missing gaps.

Dad		"It feels like a warning."
Ines	sensitive/worried/anxious/fearful	
	annoyed/impatient/confident/irritated	"It's nothing to fret about."

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Comprehension



2a Number these events in the order that they appear in the text.

	The news reports about flocks of birds dying mid-flight.
	The first time the fog appears and takes everyone by surprise.
	Dad pulls over as something outside the car makes him worried.
	The next day, the fog appears while they are in the car on the way home from school.
	Eva, Ines and Dad react to the reports.

2b Which two events (from above) should come in a different order if we put them in the order they actually happened?

_____ and _____

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Comprehension

3 How does Ines show she is annoyed with Eva without using words? Find one phrase from the text.

4 Provide two different ways that the author uses 'the fog' in the story.



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Comprehension

5a

At the end of the story, Eva looks out of the back window of the car. The author writes that Eva's 'heart fell like a stone into her belly.' Find and copy one word from the story which is similar to this idea of falling.

How is Eva's heart falling 'like a stone' similar to how the birds fall? Explain how Eva's heart falls, how the birds fall and then compare the two.

Eva:

The birds:

Both:



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Performer's Corner!

Are you a FLUENT reader?
Use the FLUENT reader acronym to check if you are reading fluently.
Use it to check if someone you listen to is reading fluently.

	Me	A performer
F = Find your pace		
L = Look like you mean it!		
U = Understand it		
E = Every word right		
N = Naturally smooth		
T = Thoughtful phrasing		

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