

# PAPER I - LANGUAGE

A SOUND OF THUNDER

*Fluent*



## LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Identify explicit information in the text
- ✓ Identify language features in a given extract
- ✓ Consider your impression of the text using evidence



# A SOUND OF THUNDER – RAY BRADBURY



Using a time machine, an organisation called Time Safari transports clients into the past to take part in hunting expeditions. A group that includes Mr Eckels, together with their guide, Travis, is visiting a prehistoric jungle in order to shoot a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

The jungle was high and the jungle was broad. Sounds like music and flying tents filled the sky, and those were pterodactyls soaring with huge grey wings.

‘I’ve hunted tiger, wild boar, buffalo, elephant, but now, this is it,’ said Eckels. ‘I’m shaking like a kid.’

‘Ah,’ said Travis.

Everyone stopped.

Travis raised his hand. ‘Ahead,’ he whispered, ‘in the mist. There he is. There’s his Royal Majesty now.’

The jungle was wide and full of twitterings, rustlings, murmurs, and sighs.

Suddenly it all ceased, as if someone had shut a door.

Silence.

A sound of thunder.

Out of the mist, one hundred yards away, came Tyrannosaurus Rex.

‘It,’ whispered Eckels, ‘it.....’

‘Ssh!’

1. **Who is the first character that is introduced?**
2. **Where are they?**
3. **What comes out of the mist?**



It came on great oiled, resilient, striding legs. It towered thirty feet above half of the trees, a great evil god, folding its delicate watchmaker's claws close to its oily reptilian chest. Each lower leg was a piston, a thousand pounds of white bone, sunk in thick ropes of muscle, sheathed over in a gleam of pebbled skin like the armour of a terrible warrior. Each thigh was a ton of meat, ivory, and steel mesh. And from the great breathing cage of the upper body those two delicate arms dangled out front, arms with hands which might pick up and examine men like toys, while the snake neck coiled. And the head itself, a ton of sculptured stone, lifted easily upon the sky. Its mouth gaped, exposing a fence of teeth like daggers. Its eyes rolled, ostrich eggs, empty of all expression save hunger. It closed its mouth in a death grin. It ran, its pelvic bones crushing aside trees and bushes, its taloned feet clawing damp earth, leaving prints six inches deep wherever it settled its weight.

'Why, why...,' Eckels twitched his mouth, 'it could reach up and grab the moon.'

'Ssh!' Travis jerked angrily. 'He hasn't seen us yet.'

'It can't be killed.' Eckels pronounced this verdict quietly, as if there could be no argument. He had weighed the evidence and this was his considered opinion. The rifle in his hands seemed like a toy gun. 'We were fools to come. This is impossible.'

'Shut up!' hissed Travis.

'Nightmare.'

'Turn around,' commanded Travis. 'Walk quietly to the Machine. We'll remit half your fee.'

'I didn't realize it would be this big,' said Eckels. 'I miscalculated, that's all. And now I want out.'

'It sees us!'

'There's the red paint on its chest.'

1. **How is the t-rex described?**
2. **What does Travis tell the men to do?**
3. **What's on the t-rex's chest?**



The Tyrant Lizard raised itself. Its armoured flesh glittered like a thousand green coins. The coins, crusted with slime, steamed. In the slime, tiny insects wriggled, so that the entire body seemed to twitch and undulate, even while the monster itself did not move. It exhaled. The stink of raw flesh blew down the wilderness.

‘Get me out of here,’ said Eckels. ‘It was never like this before. I was always sure I’d come through alive. I had good guides, good safaris, and safety. This time, I figured wrong. I’ve met my match and admit it. This is too much for me to get hold of.’

‘Don’t run,’ said Lesperance. ‘Turn around. Hide in the Machine.’

‘Yes.’ Eckels seemed to be numb. He looked at his feet as if trying to make them move. He gave a grunt of helplessness.

‘Eckels!’

He took a few steps, blinking, shuffling.

‘Not that way!’

The Monster, at the first motion, lunged forward with a terrible scream. It covered one hundred yards in six seconds. The rifles jerked up and blazed fire. A windstorm from the beast’s mouth engulfed them in the stench of slime and old blood. The Monster roared, teeth glittering with sun.

The rifles cracked again, but their sound was lost in shriek and lizard thunder. The great level of the reptile’s tail swung up, lashed sideways. Trees exploded in clouds of leaf and branch. The Monster twitched its jeweller’s hands down to fondle at the men, to twist them in half, to crush them like berries, to cram them into its teeth and its screaming throat. Its boulder-stone eyes levelled with the men. They saw themselves mirrored. They fired at the metallic eyelids and the blazing black iris.

Like a stone idol, like a mountain avalanche, Tyrannosaurus fell.



1. **What does its armoured flesh glitter like?**
2. **What does Lesperance tell the men not to do?**
3. **What happens to the t-rex in the end?**





## Question 1 in PAPER 1 is worth 4 marks

You will be asked to **list four things** from the source – be careful to quote directly from the source and **only from the lines it states in the question** (not the full source!).

*An easy four marks but easily lost if you misread the question or quote incorrectly!*

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Q1. What four things do we learn about the jungle in this part of the extract?

# Language Features

**Simile**

**Onomatopoeia**

**Alliteration**

**Personification**

**Metaphor**

**Repetition**

**RECAP:**  
Match the language features on the left with their correct definition on the right

1. A word or phrase repeated to create effect or impact for the reader.

2. Attributing human emotions to something that isn't human to create an effect for the reader.

3. A descriptive technique that compares one thing to another usually using 'as' or 'like'.

4. Words that sound like what they mean.

5. A descriptive technique that names a person, place or thing as something else.

6. When two or more words, in the same sentence, start with the same letter to create an effect for the reader.

It came on **great oiled, resilient, striding** legs. It towered thirty feet above half of the trees, a great evil god, folding its delicate watchmaker's claws close to its oily reptilian chest. Each lower leg was a piston, a thousand pounds of white bone, sunk in thick ropes of muscle, sheathed over in a gleam of pebbled skin like the armour of a terrible warrior. Each thigh was a ton of meat, ivory, and steel mesh. And from the great breathing cage of the upper body those two delicate arms dangled out front, arms with hands which might pick up and examine men like toys, while the snake neck coiled. And the head itself, a ton of sculptured stone, lifted easily upon the sky. Its mouth gaped, exposing a fence of teeth like daggers. Its eyes rolled, ostrich eggs, empty of all expression save hunger. It closed its mouth in a death grin. It ran, its pelvic bones crushing aside trees and bushes, its taloned feet clawing damp earth, leaving prints six inches deep wherever it settled its weight.

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## Q2. HOW DOES THE WRITER USE LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE THE T-REX IN THE EXTRACT?

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## Q2. HOW DOES THE WRITER USE LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE THE T-REX IN THE EXTRACT?

- Find 5 examples from the text that describe the t-rex (these could be language features or relevant words/phrases)
- **Select 3 or your best examples:** What image do they create in your mind? Why are they effective?
- What are your overall impressions of the t-rex?

