

A Study Guide to...

Skellig at Key Stage 3

Below Level 3

Sample Pages

By Janet Marsh

MICHAEL'S DREAM

I was with the baby. We were tucked up together in the blackbirds nest. Her body was covered in feathers and she was soft and warm. Doctor MacNabola and Doctor Death were below us in the garden. They had a table filled with knives and scissors and saws. Doctor Death had a great syringe in his fist.



1. This is the first part of Michael's dream. What is his sister in his dream?
She is _____
2. What is a **syringe**?
A syringe is _____
3. Read the second part of Michael's dream, copy it out neatly and use the words from the box to fill in the blanks.

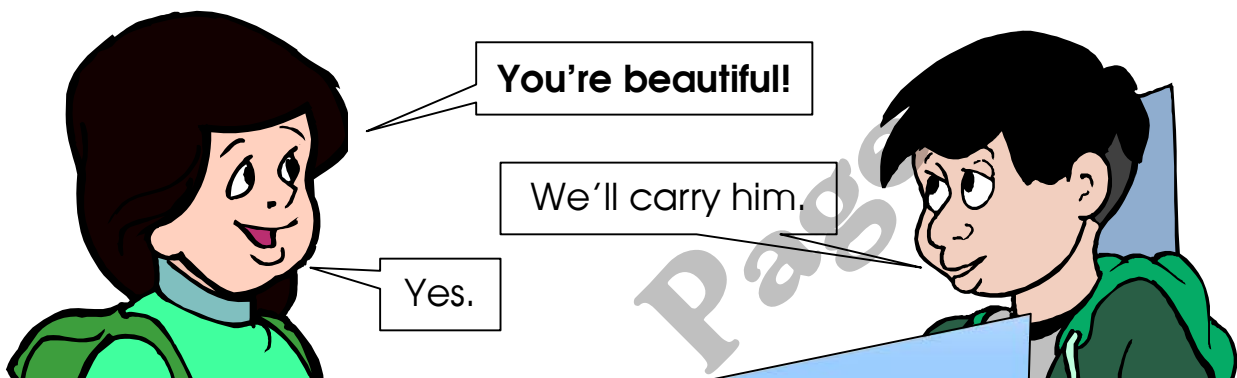
feathers	arms	reach	squeaked	strong
fly	skin	stone	wings	nest

The baby _____ and squealed in fright. She stood at the edge of the _____ flapping her _____, trying for the first time to _____. I saw the great bare patches on her _____: she didn't have enough _____ yet, her wings weren't _____ enough yet. I tried to _____ for her but my _____ were hard and as stiff as _____.



THE MOVE

His body shuddered. He whimpered in pain. At the door, he closed his eyes, turned his head from the intensifying light. Then he turned again and faced the daylight. Through narrowed veiny eyes he looked out through the door. Mina and I gazed at his face, so pale and plaster dry. His skin was cracked and crazed. His black hair was a tangle of knots. Dust, cobwebs, bluebottles, spiders, beetles clung to him and fell from him. We saw for the first time that he wasn't old. He seemed like a young man.



I stood behind him and he leaned back into my arms. Mina took his feet. We caught our breath at our ability to do this thing, at the extraordinary lightness of our load. I closed my eyes for a minute. I imagined that this was a dream. I told myself that anything was possible in a dream. We started to move. We walked through the back lane, hurried to the green gate of the boarded up house. Mina opened it with her key. We moved through into the darkness, then into the first room and we laid him on the floor.

My name is Skellig.

You're safe!
Who are you?

1. Look up and write down the meanings of these words used in the passages above :

Shudder

Whimper

Intensify

crazed

