

A GHOST IN MY SUITCASE

GRAMMAR ANALYSIS

Using probing questions

Re-read the last few paragraphs of Chapter 2 (p. 12) that describe Ting Ting's reaction to Celeste. Display the following text for the class:

She looks me up and down with a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips.

In this analysis:

- the verb process is colour coded **green**
- the participant is colour coded **orange**
- the circumstance of location is colour coded **blue**
- the circumstance of manner is colour coded **purple**

Help students locate the verb 'looks'. Tell them that this word can change the tense of the sentence. Here the author has used the present tense. Often in narratives the author will use past or future tense (looked, will look, is going to look), but they can also use present tense to make events sound more immediate.

Now ask students a series of probing questions.

Question	Answer
What's going on? What's happening?	'Looks'.
Who is looking?	'She' (Ting Ting).
Who or what is she looking at?	'Me' (Celeste).
Where is she looking?	'Up and down'.
How is she looking?	'With a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips'.

NOTE: Remind students to capture ALL of the words that answer each question, particularly the prepositional phrase 'up and down' and the adverbial group 'with a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips'.

The purpose of colour coded analysis is to help students learn the pattern of more detailed sentences. Whilst this is still a simple sentence (one independent clause), it is made up of the following coloured blocks:

She **looks** **me** **up and down** **with a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips.**

Discuss shifting the coloured blocks around, this time commencing the sentence with the circumstance of manner:

With a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips, she looks me up and down.

The verb 'looks' is technically a sensing verb, but we could also consider it alongside the adverb group 'up and down'. If we join these to make a compound verb ('looks me up and down') then this verb group feels more like an action verb.

Noun groups

Once students have identified the parts of this simple sentence, you could go on to analyse the prepositional phrase 'with a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips'. This prepositional phrase is made up of 'with' (preposition) + 'a cold icy glare that freezes the smile on my lips' (noun group).

Model the parts of the noun group:

Pointer	Describer (adjective)	Classifier (adjective)	Head noun (thing)	Qualifier
a	cold icy		glare	that freezes the smile on my lips

In this example, the author did not use a classifier.

Choose some other examples from the text where long noun groups are used. Break them up to identify the different meanings that are being made. This is an important step in reading comprehension.

Locate the following sentences on p. 72 for some good examples:

- Por Por laying out cloth and handing Celeste a sword.
- Celeste feeling a tingle when she touches the sword.
- Por Por taking a series of objects (including a mirror) out of a cupboard.