

## EXPLORING SENTENCE STRUCTURE

### Sentences taken from:

Geraldine McCaughrean - *Beauty and the Beast*

Florence Parry-Heide and Judith Heide-Gilliland - *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*

Colin Thompson – *The Paradise Garden*

If possible, do try to share the reading of these books with the children .

### Activity:

- Cut up the sentences below so that they are chunked syntactically, either as clauses, noun phrases or adverbials. Remove all punctuation so there are no punctuation clues.
- Invite children to sort them into sentences, clauses or phrases: then begin to explore the sentence structure.
- For younger children, begin by handing out the simpler structures: single clause sentences, and explore Subject Verb Object and how adverbials can be at the start or elsewhere in the sentence.
- Develop this understanding with the very elaborated single clause sentence beginning *In the rose garden...*
- Ensure all understand that the verb/verb phrase is the heart or hammer of the clause: finding the verbs will help find the clauses.
- Move to multiply clausal sentences, stressing first the verb phrase in each clause, before looking at whether there are conjunctions

### Sentence Examples

In the west of the city was a fabulous garden.

Only in one place was there any peace.

That night Peter slept beneath the stars.

Beneath their crystal skies it was forever summer.

The air smelled clean with the breath of trees.

In the rose garden, the last scarlet petal of the last rose fell like drops of blood onto the face of the beast.

Beauty waited.

I make more steps and now I am hungry again.

He has shown me how to find my way in the city and he has taken me to each place where I now have to bring the heavy bottles.

My father has told me the wall is a thousand years old and even our great-great-great-grandfathers were not yet born when it was built.

NB the last sentence has a 'catch' but if you are emphasising the finding of verbs/verb phrases you will find it! There is a 'zero that' clause (the wall is a thousand years old – where the word 'that' is omitted. This is a subordinate clause)

1. My father **has told** me
2. the wall **is** a thousand years old
3. and even our great-great-great-grandfathers **were** [not yet] **born**
4. when it **was built**.