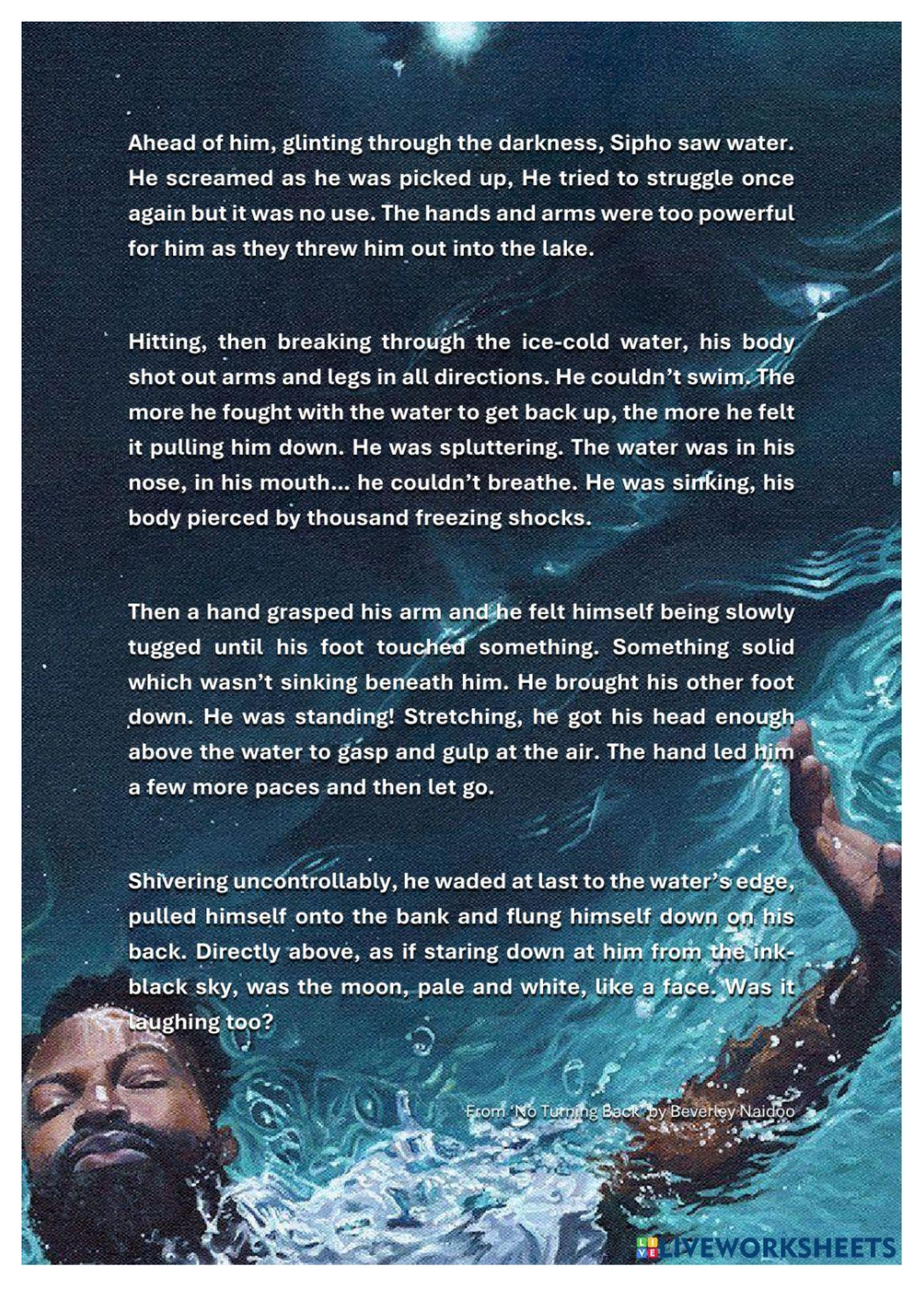


A dramatic illustration of a man with a beard and dreadlocks struggling in dark, turbulent water. His head is partially submerged, and his eyes are closed. His right arm is raised, with his hand open and fingers spread, reaching towards the surface. The water is dark blue and black, with white foam and splashes around the man's head and arm. In the upper center, a bright, full moon glows, casting a pale light over the scene. The overall mood is one of desperation and survival.

Ahead of him, glinting through the darkness, Sipho saw water. He screamed as he was picked up, He tried to struggle once again but it was no use. The hands and arms were too powerful for him as they threw him out into the lake.

Hitting, then breaking through the ice-cold water, his body shot out arms and legs in all directions. He couldn't swim. The more he fought with the water to get back up, the more he felt it pulling him down. He was spluttering. The water was in his nose, in his mouth... he couldn't breathe. He was sinking, his body pierced by thousand freezing shocks.

Then a hand grasped his arm and he felt himself being slowly tugged until his foot touched something. Something solid which wasn't sinking beneath him. He brought his other foot down. He was standing! Stretching, he got his head enough above the water to gasp and gulp at the air. The hand led him a few more paces and then let go.

Shivering uncontrollably, he waded at last to the water's edge, pulled himself onto the bank and flung himself down on his back. Directly above, as if staring down at him from the ink-black sky, was the moon, pale and white, like a face. Was it laughing too?

From 'No Turning Back' by Beverley Naidoo

QUESTIONS

The writer uses a range of sentence lengths and structures in this extract to build tension.

1. Are there examples of simple sentences in the second paragraph?
2. Is the last sentence in the first paragraph an example of a simple or complex sentence?

The writer uses vivid verbs, nouns and adjectives to describe Siphos experience.

3. Are the following words nouns, verbs or adjectives?

darkness	
struggle	
ice-cold	
water	
gulp	
spluttering	
freezing	

Select: [Check my answers](#)