

A man with a beard is swimming in dark, turbulent water. His head is above water, looking up. His arms are outstretched, and his legs are kicking. A bright, circular light source, possibly the moon, is visible in the dark sky above the water. The water is dark blue and black, with white foam and splashes around the man.

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 Sipho's experience.

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

| | |
|-------------|--|
| darkness | |
| struggle | |
| ice-cold | |
| water | |
| gulp | |
| spluttering | |
| freezing | |

Select: [Check my answers](#)