**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo!**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Nausea
2. Palsy
3. Threshold
4. Parapet
5. Rotund
6. Ransack
7. Plateau
8. Prospect (n)
9. Glen
10. Merciful
 | 1. Paralysis, accompanied by involuntary tremors
2. A narrow valley, especially in Scotland or Ireland
3. Go through a place, stealing things and causing damage
4. Showing or exercising compassion or forgiveness towards someone whom it is within your power to harm
5. The possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring; chances for success; an extensive view of a landscape
6. A feeling of sickness
7. (of a person) large and plump
8. The bottom part of a doorway, crossed when entering a house or room
9. An area of flat, high ground
10. A low protective wall along the edge of a roof or bridge
 |

The Thirty-Nine Steps by John Buchan

The mill had been long out of use. The ladders were rotten with age, and in the **loft** the rats had gnawed great holes in the floor. **Nausea** shook me, and a wheel in my head kept turning, while my left shoulder and arm seemed to be stricken with the **palsy**. I looked out of the window and saw a fog still hanging over the house and smoke escaping from an upper window. Please God I had set the place on fire, for I could hear confused cries coming from the other side.

But I had no time to linger, since this mill was obviously a bad hiding-place. Anyone looking for me would naturally follow the **lade**, and I made certain the search would begin as soon as they found that my body was not in the storeroom. From another window I saw that on the far side of the mill stood an old stone **dovecot**. If I could get there without leaving tracks I might find a hiding-place, for I argued that my enemies, if they thought I could move, would conclude I had made for open country, and would go seeking me on the **moor**.

I crawled down the broken ladder, scattering **chaff** behind me to cover my footsteps. I did the same on the mill floor, and on the **threshold** where the door hung on broken hinges. Peeping out, I saw that between me and the dovecot was a piece of bare **cobbled** ground, where no footmarks would show. Also it was **mercifully** hid by the mill buildings from any view from the house. I slipped across the space, got to the back of the dovecot and **prospected** a way of **ascent**.

That was one of the hardest jobs I ever took on. My shoulder and arm ached like hell, and I was so sick and **giddy** that I was always on the verge of falling. But I managed it somehow. By the use of out-jutting stones and gaps in the **masonry** and a tough ivy root I got to the top in the end. There was a little **parapet** behind which I found space to lie down. Then I proceeded to go off into an old-fashioned **swoon**.

I woke with a burning head and the sun glaring in my face. For a long time I lay motionless, for those horrible **fumes** seemed to have loosened my joints and dulled my brain. Sounds came to me from the house—men speaking throatily and the throbbing of a stationary car. There was a little gap in the parapet to which I wriggled, and from which I had some sort of **prospect** of the yard. I saw figures come out—a servant with his head bound up, and then a younger man in knickerbockers. They were looking for something, and moved towards the mill. Then one of them caught sight of the **wisp** of cloth on the nail, and cried out to the other. They both went back to the house, and brought two more to look at it. I saw the **rotund** figure of my late **captor**, and I thought I made out the man with the **lisp**. I noticed that all had pistols.

For half an hour they **ransacked** the mill. I could hear them kicking over the barrels and pulling up the rotten planking. Then they came outside, and stood just below the dovecot arguing fiercely. The servant with the bandage was being soundly rated. I heard them fiddling with the door of the dovecote and for one horrid moment I fancied they were coming up. Then they thought better of it, and went back to the house.

All that long **blistering** afternoon I lay baking on the rooftop. Thirst was my chief torment. My tongue was like a stick, and to make it worse I could hear the cool drip of water from the mill-lade. I watched the course of the little stream as it came in from the moor, and my fancy followed it to the top of the **glen**, where it must issue from an icy fountain **fringed** with cool ferns and mosses. I would have given a thousand pounds to plunge my face into that.

I had a fine prospect of the whole ring of moorland. I saw the car speed away with two occupants, and a man on a hill pony riding east. I judged they were looking for me, and I wished them joy of their quest.

But I saw something else more interesting. The house stood almost on the summit of a swell of moorland which crowned a sort of **plateau**, and there was no higher point nearer than the big hills six miles off. The actual summit, as I have mentioned, was a biggish clump of trees—firs mostly, with a few ashes and beeches. On the dovecot I was almost on a level with the tree-tops, and could see what lay beyond. The wood was not solid, but only a ring, and inside was an oval of green turf, for all the world like a big cricket-field.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. How would you describe the man’s situation in this extract?
3. What do we think he is hiding from, and why is he hiding?
4. How is nature presented in this extract?
5. How does the author create tension in this extract?

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*
1. Loft
2. Nausea
3. Palsy
4. Lade
5. Dovecot
6. Moor
7. Chaff
8. Threshold
9. Cobbled
10. Merciful
11. Prospect (v)
12. Ascent
13. Giddy
14. Masonry
15. Parapet
16. Swoon
17. Fumes
18. Prospect (n)
19. Wisp
20. Rotund
21. Captor
22. Lisp
23. Ransack
24. Blistering
25. Glen
26. Fringed
27. Plateau

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today.
* How did Richard Hannay get into this situation? Write a diary entry exploring how Hannay ended up where he is in this extract.