



Extract from *The Silver Chair* by CS Lewis

The instrument dropped from her hands. Her arms appeared to be fastened to her sides. Her legs were intertwined with each other, and her feet had disappeared. The long green train of her skirt thickened and grew solid, and seemed to be all one piece with the writhing green pillar of her interlocked legs. And that writhing green pillar was curving and swaying as if it had no joints, or else were all joints. Her head was thrown far back and while her nose grew longer and longer, every other part of her face seemed to disappear, except her eyes. Huge flaming eyes they were now, without brows or lashes.

All this takes time to write down; it happened so quickly that there was only just time to see it. Long before there was time to do anything, the change was complete, and the great serpent which the Witch had become, green as poison, thick as Jill's waist, had flung two or three coils of its loathsome body round the Prince's legs. Quick as lightning another great loop darted round, intending to pinion his sword-arm to his side. But the Prince was just in time. He raised his arms and got them clear: the living knot closed only round his chest — ready to crack his ribs like firewood when it drew tight.

The Prince caught the creature's neck in his left hand, trying to squeeze it till it choked. This held its face (if you could call it a face) about five inches from his own. The forked tongue flickered horribly in and out, but could not reach him. With his right hand he drew back his sword for the strongest blow he could give.

Meanwhile Scrubb and Puddleglum had drawn their weapons and rushed to his aid. All three blows fell at once: Scrubb's (which did not even pierce the scales and did no good) on the body of the snake below the Prince's hand, but the Prince's own blow and Puddleglum's both on its neck. Even that did not quite kill it, though it began to loosen its hold on Rilian's legs and chest. With repeated blows they hacked off its head. The horrible thing went on coiling and moving like a bit of wire long after it had died; and the floor, as you may imagine, was a nasty mess.



**Purpose:** To entertain the reader with a thrilling battle scene

**Key features**



**Structural:**

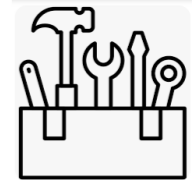
A typical structure of a battle scene:

- Paragraph 1: the beast enters
- Paragraph 2: the beast is surprised by the hero
- Paragraph 3: the beast fights back and the hero loses hope
- Paragraph 4: the hero manages to fight back and win

**Language:**

- Include dramatic verbs to show action, e.g. flung, darted, choked
- Include dramatic adjectives to describe, e.g. huge flaming eyes
- Include a final dramatic, short sentence e.g. It was over.

**Writer's toolbox**



**Dramatic verbs word bank**

Hacked	Seize	Flung
Grapple	Combat	Wrangle
Bellow	Screech	Roar

**Alan Peat:**

'3 bad – (dash) question' sentences  
Example: Thirst, heatstroke, exhaustion – which would kill him first?

**Punctuation:**

Remember to use commas in lists and to mark fronted adverbials  
Try and use a dash to add extra information

**Vocabulary:**

Snatched	Gnawing & gnashing
Pounced	Agony
Vainly	Merciless
Ferocious	Writhe
Deadly embrace	Cacophony

**Recommended reads**

