

Varjak Paw contains a great deal of inventive vocabulary, particularly when it comes to describing how the various cats move around the city. This activity is brilliant at showing students how many great alternatives there are for describing movement using just a carefully chosen verb.

Instructions:

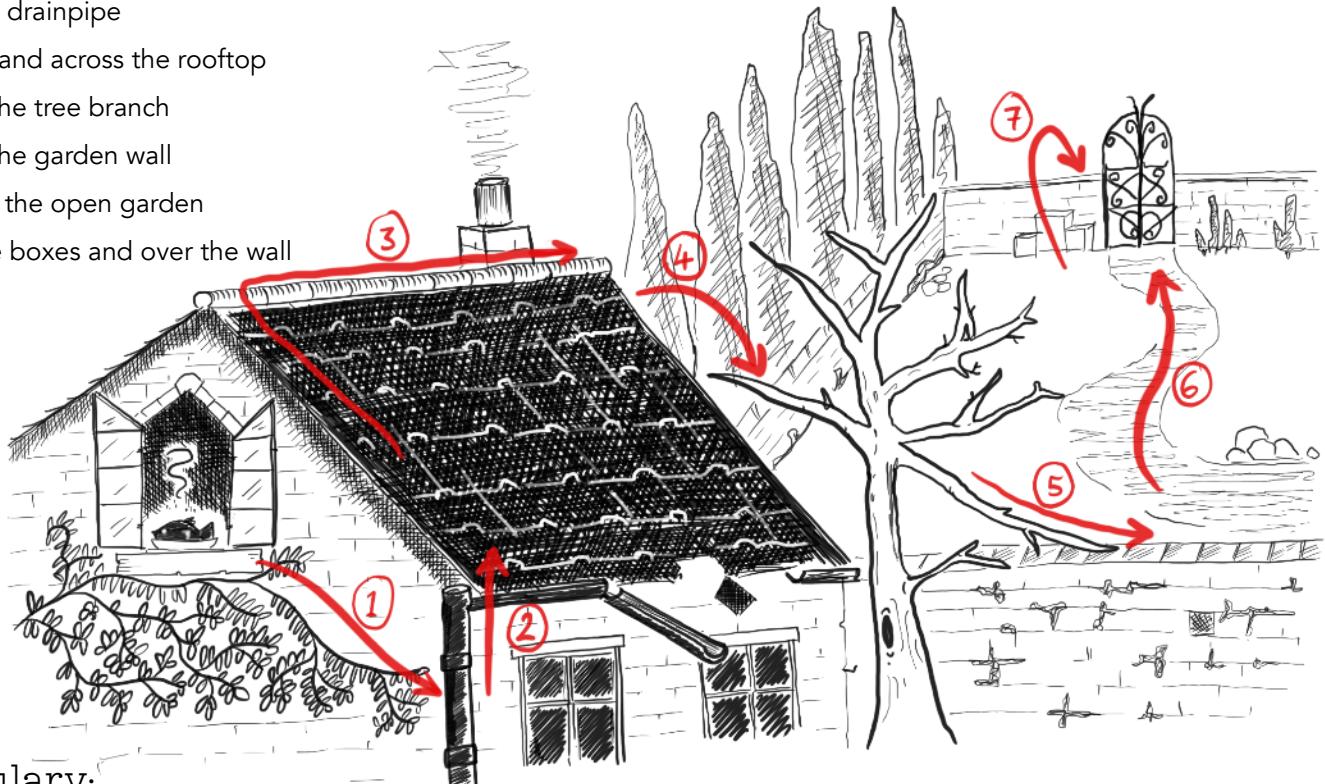
Aim:

Describe Varjak's journey from an open window with a tasty fish, to his friends Tam, Holly and Cludge, waiting on the other side of the garden gate.

Each stage of the journey as shown in the picture, should be accompanied by a sentence of description. Each sentence should contain an appropriate verb for Varjak's movements.

The Route:

1. Along the vines
2. Up the drainpipe
3. Along and across the rooftop
4. Onto the tree branch
5. Onto the garden wall
6. Across the open garden
7. On the boxes and over the wall



Vocabulary:

You can use the vocabulary on the next sheet to help you. All of the verbs listed are used by SF Said in *Varjak Paw*. I suggest trying the activity twice: once with a student's own vocabulary, once with access to the sheet for help.

Follow-up:

You can draw or imagine all sorts of other challenges and obstacles for Varjak. Why not describe him hunting in the park or exploring a new part of the city? Add to the vocabulary list with any new words you like.

Purr-fect Vocabulary:

Verb	Definition
bolted	run away suddenly
bounded	leaping / running movement
charged	move quickly with force and purpose
circled	move in a circle around something
clambered	awkward or improvised climb
crept	move slowly, carefully and quietly
darted	short, quick, sudden movement
dragged himself	move reluctantly
edged	move very slowly, carefully or secretly
fled	run away (in a disorganised manner)
flew	move very quickly
flung himself	to throw yourself forward
followed	to move closely after
fought his way	to move in attack
glided	move smoothly and silently
headed	move in a set direction
led	to move with others following you
lumbered	move slowly, awkwardly or heavily
marched	move like a soldier
moved	move
padded	move softly on light feet
picked his way	move carefully around objects

Verb	Definition
prowled	move quietly and carefully like hunting
raced	move very quickly
ran	run
rolled	roll
rushed	move quickly without planning
scrambled	move quickly over difficult ground
scurried	move in a hurried, panicked manner
scuttled	move quickly with short steps
skidded	walk and slide
slid	slide
slipped through	move between objects or creatures quietly
sloped	move in a lazy or sad manner
slouched	move in a very depressed, lazy manner
slunk	move away secretly
sprinted	very fast run
staggered	move unsteadily, as if about to fall
stalked	to move following prey, out of sight
stole into	go into secretly
strode	move with proud, large paces
tracked	move following something or someone
ventured	move into a new or unknown place
walked	walk
wandered	move aimlessly, without a set destination