

Dream Hunters: The Night Curse by Nazima Pathan



"Set in a fantasy, reimagined India where dreams can be captured and bottled and nightmares used against you, Mimi Malou and her dream creature Lalu must defend her Citadel as it is under threat again..." (Source: Simon & Schuster)

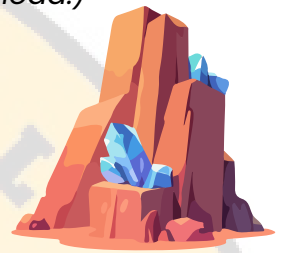
SATS REVISION PACK

Pre-teach: Vocabulary (Prologue)

(Introducing around 3-5 new words is ample before reading. Pre-teaching helps to avoid cognitive overload.)

willingly – readily, of one's free will

rocky plateau (pictured)



barren – little grows there, lifeless and bleak

vast – a great extent or quantity

vat – a large tub, used to hold liquid

convulse – uncontrolled shaking

oblivious – unaware

Top Tip: Pre-teaching vocabulary before reading allows for greater understanding and keeps the pace of the story. Good practice is to introduce the vocabulary and then to have it and/or any pictures displayed throughout the session for children to refer to. Even better – SWAG the vocabulary to 'read as a writer' later.



Before reading the prologue, show the front cover, blurb and map.
first impressions.

Read – Prologue (pages 1–3)

(Best practice is to read the text to your class, before any choral or repeated reading. You are the expert who can model fluency and expression. It also gives them chance to use the 'pre-teach' information as you are reading.)



Quick Retrieval

1. What did the dream threads pulse like? [Page 2]
2. What three nouns did not come willingly? [page 1]
3. What did the festival lights glow like? [page 3]



Dream Hunters: The Night Curse by Nazima Pathan



2a Vocabulary in Context

1. What does the word "barren" suggest about the plateau?

- A) full of life
- B) empty and lifeless
- C) dangerous and noisy
- D) bright and colourful

2. **Find** and **copy one word** that suggests the building is very old.

3. What does the phrase "pulse like wounded nerves" suggest about the threads?



A **phrase** is two or more words.

2b Retrieval

1. Where does the fly enter the building?

2. What does the boy do after he flicks the switch?

3. **Find** and **copy a phrase** to show that the boy is tired.

Based on the whole text, put one tick or cross against each statement:

statement	True	False
The glass vat contains threads made of silk.		
The boy immediately flicks the switch without hesitation.		
The text suggests the threads can learn.		



Prove it – How can you prove your answers are correct?

Make your own retrieval true or false question, based on the whole text. Quiz your partner.

2c Summarise

Number the events below from 1–4 to show the order they happen in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Threads react and then go still.
- ☐ The fly lands on the vat.
- 1** The fly enters the laboratory.
- ☐ A boy activates the switch.



Moore_Books

Dream Hunters: The Night Curse by Nazima Pathan



2d – Inference

How can you tell the place is unnatural or disturbing? Give **two pieces of evidence from the text**.

What impression do you get of the boy? Give **evidence from the text** to support your answer. (3 marks)

Impression	Evidence

2e prediction

Why does the writer suggest that *“it will be free”*? What might *“it”* be?

2f authorial language

Why does the writer use short sentences like:
“Something angry. Something hungry.”

2g authorial intent

The author describes the threads as *“pulse like wounded nerves”*. How does this description affect the reader’s feelings about the experiment?

2h comparison

Compare the atmosphere at the beginning of the extract with the atmosphere inside the laboratory.

How are they similar and how are they different?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



Dream Hunters: The Night Curse by Nazima Pathan



Suggested Answers

Quick Retrieval

1. wounded nerves
2. birds, beasts and men [any order]
3. distant dreams

2a vocabulary in context

1. B = empty and lifeless
2. cracked / bleached / lifeless
3. painful / alive in a disturbing way / sensitive / suffering / react like something that is injured [anything along these lines]

2b retrieval

1. through a crack in the window
2. rubs the back of his neck / checks his watch / exhales
3. 'eyes are rimmed with sleeplessness'

True or False?

1. False [proof - P2 - "Not silk. Not string. But nightmares."]
2. False [proof - "lips pressed with unease" "hovering over the switch" Both suggest hesitation/uncomfortable]
3. True [proof - "They learn humans can be cruel" "They learn to hate"]

Own True or False - Various responses/answers

2c sequencing

4, 2, 1, 3

2d inference

Evidence: "green light flickers" / "sickly, unnatural" / "nightmares" in the vat / "poisonous, tangled dream threads"

Impression e.g. nervous + evidence e.g. "he hesitates" / "lips pressed tight with unease"

Impression e.g. tired + evidence e.g. "eyes rimmed with sleeplessness"

Impression e.g. cruel/careless + evidence e.g. "he flicks it" (the switch) / "they learn humans can be cruel"

2e prediction

"it" = creature / force / magic / nightmares / suggests danger or loss of control

2f authorial intent

Short to create drama or tension / emphasises danger / builds fear / makes ideas feel more powerful



Dream Hunters: The Night Curse by Nazima Pathan



Suggested Answers

2f authorial intent

reader feels uneasy / disturbed / suggests the experiment is wrong and/or cruel / builds tension and fear

2h comparison

Beginning:

- empty, barren, lifeless
- quiet and still
- eerie but calm

Laboratory:

- active, tense, dangerous
- unnatural ("green light", "wounded nerves")
- something alive and threatening

Similarities:

- both feel unsettling / eerie
- both suggest danger

Differences:

- beginning = still and empty
- lab = active and threatening

Model answer:

At the beginning, the atmosphere is quiet and lifeless, with the barren plateau suggesting that nothing can survive there. In contrast, the laboratory feels tense and dangerous, as the threads "pulse like wounded nerves," making them seem alive and threatening. Both settings create an unsettling feeling, but the beginning is calm and empty, whereas the laboratory is active and full of danger.

