

ACTIVITY 1

A01

SKILLS ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

▼ DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE

- 1 Copy and complete the following table, identifying different pieces of information or descriptive detail given in the passage. Explain how each detail helps us to understand the writer's character or feelings.

▼ INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION	▼ ANSWER AND COMMENT
'Instead of the walls widening after the drop-off, or opening into a bowl at the bottom of the canyon, here the slot narrows to a consistent three feet across at the lip of the drop-off and continues at that width for fifty feet down the canyon.'	This information shows us that he is able to assess his surroundings in an accurate and analytical manner. He uses terms such as 'consistent three feet' which shows that he is skilled at gauging distance – a necessary skill for a climber.
'With my right foot, I kick at the boulder to test how stuck it is.'	

- 2 From the second paragraph, find two phrases that show the writer is careful.

EXPLORING LANGUAGE

Ralston's style is largely factual and analytical. He is very clear and precise in what he says about the events and his reactions. His use of minute details and his step-by-step narrative style are strong techniques that he uses to make his writing effective and interesting.

ACTIVITY 2

A02

SKILLS ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

▼ LANGUAGE FOR EFFECT

Copy and complete the following table, thinking about other techniques that the writer has used and their effect.

▼ TECHNIQUE	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ EFFECT
Emotive language	'flaring agony'	This phrase shows the extent of the pain the writer feels as the first shock wears off. The word 'flaring' shows how the pain rapidly grows and spreads, while the word 'agony' shows how extremely painful it is.
Direct speech		
Variety in punctuation		
	'akin to climbing down from the roof of a house'	
Personification		