David Walliams
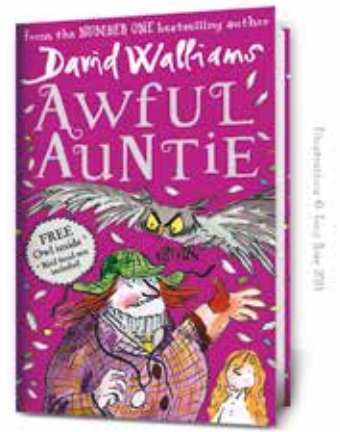
AWFUL AUNTIE

Exploring Typography

I can show how language, structure and presentation all contribute to meaning in texts I read

'Stella had a plan. Racing over to her desk she grabbed a pencil and a piece of paper. There was a small gap at the bottom of the heavy wooden door. Stella slipped the piece of paper through it. Then, using the sharp end of her pencil, she gently poked the key through the lock. Poke it too hard and it would miss the paper, and land with a loud CLANG on the wooden floor. That was sure to alert Aunt Alberta.

This had to be done very slowly.   CLANG

Little by little the key passed out of the hole. CLUNK.' (page 103)

C
L
U
N
K.

David Walliams' book *Awful Auntie* is an example of a 'multimodal' text because the words and images are carefully designed to work together to tell the story. Different fonts, letter sizes, shapes and positioning are important in engaging the reader. They help the reader to play an active role in experiencing the atmosphere and emphasis within the story. In the extract above the onomatopoeic words (words that sound like the object or action they refer to) 'CLANG' and 'CLUNK' are in a large-size font to suggest that they are loud; they are capitalised to encourage the reader to say them slowly; the irregular positioning of the letters in 'clang' shows the reader at which points in the word they should place emphasis while the vertical positioning of the word 'clunk' encourages the reader to deepen their voice as they read it.

Find ten other words from the book that have been presented in a visual manner to enhance the reader experience. Two examples have been provided on the next page:

David Walliams

AWFUL AUNTIE
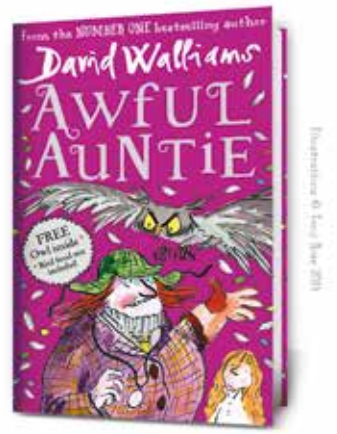
Exploring Typography

Page number	Word example drawn	Reason for typography
194	"Hello?"	Tall, narrow font used to encourage the reader to say this word in a quick, high-pitched, squeaky tone
316 - 317	KABOOOOM!	Capital letters, word getting bigger and bold font all show the force and volume of the explosion

Now write your own Awful Auntie-themed paragraph using examples of typography to convey meaning:

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