

Let's now read our story...

You can listen to an audio version of the story here

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/stone-trolls/s-bGWn1yz5NrI>

The Stone Trolls

On the southern coast of Iceland, near the small village of Vik, there once lived a band of trolls. They were huge, ugly creatures who were feared by humans and hid away underground in the dark caves of the nearby ice-covered volcano. All trolls knew that if they ever got caught outside in the daylight, they would immediately be turned to stone. So, each night, under the **cover of darkness**, they would **venture** outside to hunt and fish.

One stormy night, two **mischievous** trolls called Skess and Landra perched together on the craggy cliff, watching. Below, the sea bubbled and foamed. Above, the full moon glared down, casting a long shadow across the **ebony** beach. In the distance, they could hear the low rumble of other trolls, feasting on their **hoard** of freshly caught fish.

Suddenly, Skess jumped up, pointed at the horizon and roared. "Landra, look, a three-masted ship. I think it's in trouble!" Landra followed his gaze and stared at the magnificent ship, **pitching** and rolling on the bubbling sea. "Let's **wade** out and pull it into shore," Skess said, setting off down the beach. Landra frowned as it was already very late and the sun rose earlier and earlier in late spring, but then he jumped down from the cliff and followed close behind.

Slowly, they waded out into the sea until, at long last, they reached the **stricken** ship. Together they started to haul it towards the distant shore, which was now just a strip of silver moonlight.

For the rest of the night they heaved, and they heaved, and they heaved, but the ship was **hefty** and the sea was rough. Time passed. The two trolls didn't notice the moon slipping slowly away. Finally, they reached the blackened beach where the sailors quickly **clambered** to safety.

At that moment, the first glimmer of sunlight appeared. Shocked, Skess and Landra **shielded** their eyes and then stared at each other in horror. Their mouths widened. Their legs stiffened. Their arms ground to a halt. Their eyes closed. Both trolls and the remains of the ship instantly turned to stone ... forever.

To this day, what remains of the stone trolls and the ship can still be seen just off the coast of Iceland near the small village of Vik.

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Photo by [Rostyslav Savchyn](#) on [Unsplash](#)



The rocks in the distance are actually **basalt sea stacks**.

Glossary

basalt: volcanic rock. Here it is very dark in colour.

sea stacks: pillars of rock, formed by the wind and the waves. These were once thought to have been arches of rock attached to the nearby cliffs.

These rocks or sea stacks have real Icelandic names:

Skess in the story is actually called **Skessudrangur** in Icelandic.

Landra in the story is actually called **Landdrangur** in Icelandic.



Grammar Games

- ★ Let's investigate some of the words and phrases that help you to write interesting stories.

The Odd-One-Out Game

Words in sentences do different jobs.

Read the paragraph below again. Some words have been underlined. They all do the same job except for one word that is the 'odd one out'.

One stormy night, two mischievous trolls called Skess and Landra perched together on the craggy cliff, watching. Below, the sea bubbled and foamed. Above, the full moon glared down, casting a long shadow across the ebony beach.

- Which one word do you think is the odd one out? Why?

- What do think is the job of the other underlined words in these sentences?



Now check the end of this booklet to see if you worked out the Odd One Out and the job of the underlined words.



The Adjective Game

Adjectives are used to describe **nouns**.

Let's make a list of all the things (**nouns**) you can see in these pictures of Iceland. For example, I can see **rocks** and **clouds** ... what else can you see? Add your ideas to the table on the next page.



Now try and think of some interesting **adjectives** to describe the things in the pictures of Iceland. Remember you can always magpie some of the words in the story to get started!



Writing Tip – try and think about:

- **What is the colour?**
- **What is the size?**
- **What is the mood** (for example, a calm sea or lonely clouds or a terrifying crater)



Now think about using some of the other *senses*:

- *What might it feel like?*
- *What might it smell like?*
- *What might it sound like?*

For example:

Nouns	Adjectives
1. rocks	grey tall craggy sharp rounded lifeless slimy
2. clouds	white grey wispy thin silver soft
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
15.	

Challenge 1: Now use the **adjectives** you have thought of and have a look in a thesaurus or just type *alternative word for xxxxx* (insert your word here) online to find some other words that are similar. These are called synonyms.

For example: *Rocks could be described as tall.*

When I looked in my thesaurus (a book that gives you alternative words), I found some more alternative words (synonyms) that I could use to describe the rocks.

The rocks could also be described as:

towering soaring giant colossal

Remember to make sure the new words make sense. The trouble is the thesaurus also said another word for **tall** is **lanky**. **Lanky** cannot be used to describe the rocks because **lanky** is only used to describe someone or some creature that is very thin and has long legs!



Now use some of your best adjectives to fill in the gaps to describe the setting. Read your sentence out loud. Does it work? Does it sound right?

The _____ rocks stood and stared down on
the _____ canyon.

The _____ rocks steamed above the
_____ valley.

Challenge 2: Now try using 2 adjectives with a **comma** to describe the nouns – make sure both adjectives work, and they are not just saying the same thing!

The _____ , _____ iceberg shimmered
in the _____ lake.

I stared towards the _____ , _____
crater across rocks carpeted in _____ moss .

Challenge 3: Now try writing your own sentences to describe the setting using your best adjectives. Remember to read your sentence out loud first. Also use a capital letter, a full stop and, if you use 2 adjectives, remember the comma!
