Spring Term 1 – Whole Class Reading

Year 4

The Iron Man – Ted Hughes

Week 1

Activity 1 - new words table

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| Page | Word | Meaning (guess from context) | Meaning (checked) |
| 1 | brink | edge | The edge of a steep place or of a stretch of water.  The point beyond which something will happen – example ‘the brink of disaster’ |
| 2 | Swayed | Moved | To move or swing gently from side to side |
| 3 | Wheeling  (the stars went on wheeling in the sky) | Moving in a circle | Move in a curve or circle; change direction and face another way. |
| 4 | Gleefully | Happy | Great delight |
| 5 | Scuttling | Moving in a quick way | Scurry, hurry away |
| 7 | Torso | Body | The trunk of the human body |

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| Page 3 | The sentence ‘Night passed.’  Discuss this sentence. Why is it so short and what effect does that have? What does it mean? | |
| Answers that refer to it punctuating the story. It is simple and shows that the Iron Man lay there and nothing else happened.  This type of sentence is a feature of Ted Hughes’ writing in the Iron Man. Short sentences can be used to create some tension. | | |
| Page 3 | | The sentence ‘Just before dawn, as the darkness grew blue and the shapes of the rocks separated from each other…’ Discuss this sentence. What is it telling you? Think about what you know about that time of day. |
| Dawn is when the light begins to break in the day. This sentence is telling the reader that the darkness is beginning to change into daylight. It is therefore very early in the morning.  The shapes of rocks separated from each other means that in the dark you cannot make out the individual rocks, but when it begins to get light you can start to see them more clearly. | | |
| At the end of the chapter there was one part the Iron Man couldn’t find. What was it? | | |
| His ear | | |