**We are going to be completing work on the short story *The Way up to Heaven* by Roald Dahl.**

Task - Read the following extract it is the very start of the story. Any words that might be difficult have been highlighted and underlined the meaning of the words are in the glossary underneath each extract.

All her life, Mrs. Foster had had an almost **pathological** fear of missing a train, a plane, a boat, or even a theatre curtain. In other respects, she was not a particularly nervous woman, but the mere thought of being late on occasions like these would throw her into such a state of nerves that she would begin to twitch. It was nothing much - just a tiny **vellicating muscle** in the corner of the left eye, like a secret wink - but the annoying thing was that it refused to disappear until an hour or so after the train or plane or whatever it was had been safely caught. It was really extraordinary how in certain people a simple **apprehension** about a thing like catching a train can grow into a serious obsession. At least half an hour before it was time to leave the house for the station, Mrs. Foster would step out of the elevator all ready to go, with hat and coat and gloves, and then, being quite unable to sit down, she would flutter and fidget about from room to room until her husband, who must have been well aware of her state, finally emerged from his privacy and suggested in a cool dry voice that perhaps they had better be going now, had they not?

**Glossary:**

**Pathological –** obsessive

**Vellicating muscle -** a sudden muscle twitch; especially one caused by a nervous condition.

**Apprehension** – worry

What makes Mrs Foster nervous?

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Underline 5 words from the extract which tell us she is a nervous lady.

Write down 5 words from the extract which tell us she is a nervous lady.

1) **Word class:**

2) **Word class:**

3) **Word class:**

4) **Word class:**

5) **Word class**

**Challenge: what is the word class of each of these words?**

Find words from the extract that mean the same as:

* Worried –
* Unhappy –
* **Challenge: an odd habit** –

How is Mrs Foster presented in this extract?

*Mrs Foster is presented as\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because……………..*

Task- read the following extract:

**Mr. Foster** may possibly have had a right to be **irritated** by this **foolishness** of his wife’s, but he could have had no excuse for increasing her misery by keeping her waiting **unnecessarily.** Mind you, it is by no means certain that this is what he did, yet whenever they were to go somewhere, his timing was so accurate - just a minute or two late, you understand - and his manner so **bland** that it was hard to believe he wasn’t purposely **inflicting** a nasty private little torture of his own on the unhappy lady. And one thing he must have known - that she would never dare to call out and tell him to hurry. He had **disciplined** her too well for that. He must also have known that if he was prepared to wait even beyond the last moment of safety, he could drive her nearly into hysterics. On one or two special occasions in the later years of their married life, it seemed almost as though he had wanted to miss the train simply in order to **intensify** the poor woman’s suffering. Assuming (though one cannot be sure) that the husband was guilty, what made his attitude doubly **unreasonable** was the fact that Mrs. Foster was and always had been a good and loving wife.

**Glossary:**

I**rritated** – annoyed

**Foolishness** – acting silly

**Unnecessarily** – for no good reason

**Bland** – plain; not giving anything away.

**Inflicting** – causing something

**Disciplined** – controlling

**Intensify** – make stronger/worse

**Unreasonable** – doing something on purpose to be awkward.

1.What is Mr Foster doing to make Mrs Fosters nerves worse?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

2.Do you think Mr Foster is doing this on purpose? Yes/No. Explain why you think this (make sure you use a quote)

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3. What does this mean? ‘she would never dare to call out and tell him to hurry. He had disciplined her too well for that.’

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4. What does this suggest to us about the type of husband that Mr Foster is?

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