### Writer's Craft: Nibble, Munch, Chomp!

Learning Objective: Analyse how synonyms enhance meaning.

Start working through the exercises, while continuing to read from chapters 34 - 40.

After reading Chapter 35 answer the comprehension questions.

**Ex. 1** Copywork this extract:

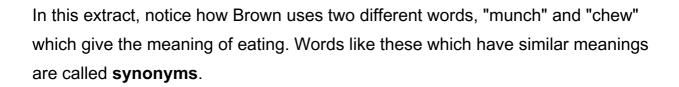




Digdown the old groundhog, popped up to munch on berries.

Broadfoot, the giant bull moose, came by to chew on tree

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Brown also describes other characters eating from Roz's garden:

- Tawny and Crownpoint and their fawns, happily nibble on the garden.
- The beavers gnaw on a shrub.

By using synonyms of eat, Brown makes his writing more interesting to read. It would be really boring if he just described each animal as just eating:

The deer came by to eat from the garden. The beavers came by to eat shrub. Digdown came by to eat the berries. Broadfoot came by to eat the tree shoots. Boring!

The different synonyms also give us an image of how each animal ate.

- "Nibble" suggests a small, delicate, and careful way of eating. This gives the deer family a sense of gentleness.
- "Gnaw" implies a more vigorous and persistent type of eating where you chew and bite with the teeth. This word choice emphasises the beavers' characteristic behaviour of using their sharp teeth to chew on wood.

# Synonyms for Shades of Meaning

Learning Objective: Learn a variety of synonyms for 'ate', and understand how they differ from each other.

Ex. 2 Read the following poem and underline all of the words that give the meaning "to eat".

#### The Dog Ate The Bone By Melissa Forney

The dog ate the bone. Don't you think that's kind of weak? The verb here is "ate" But it needs a little tweak. The dog ate the bone, Let's try another verb. One that's really fun to write, One that's quite superb. The dog could devour the bone, Nibble, gnaw, or munch it. The dog could snark-up the bone, Gobble, bite or crunch it. The dog could consume the bone, Oh yes, that dog could do it, Inhale the bone, impale the bone, Swallow, gulp or chew it. So when you're writing to impress, Don't use a verb that fizzles. Think of every word you know, And give me one that sizzles!

# Vocabulary Focus: Synonyms for Eat

Ex. 3 Read the following definitions of all of the words that mean "to eat" taken from the poem "The Dog Ate the Bone".

Time to role play, or get some real snacks! Have a go at eating like each of the words. What is your favourite way to eat?

- 1. Devour: to eat something very quickly
- 2. Nibble: to take small, quick bites
- 3. Gnaw: to chew something slowly
- 4. Munch: to chew noisily
- 5. Gobble: to eat quickly and greedily
- 6. Bite: to take a piece off with your teeth
- 8. Crunch: to chew very noisily when eating something crunchy
- 9. Consume: to eat or drink something
- 10. Inhale: to breathe in, but here it means to eat very, very quickly
- 11. Impale: To pierce through an object
- 12. Swallow: to pass food down your throat
- 13. Gulp: to swallow fast
- 14. Chew: to grind up with your teeth before swallowing

Ex. 4	Fill in the blanks	. Use different	words each time.

1.How do you eat c	risps?	
2.Emma wanted to	savour the last bit of he	er brownie, so instead of
gobbling it down,	she at	it.
3.When we	food, we first,	α piece off with ou
teeth, then we	it properly, r	mashing it into pulp,
before we	it.	
4 Hamsters	their food but I	horses theirs

# Writing Activity: I was so hungry I...

Learning Objective: Use the various of synonyms for 'ate' to write a short paragraph.

Ex. 5 Write a paragraph using as many synonyms for 'ate' as you can. Remember to be as descriptive as possible!

Use these words to help you with your writing. You can change the form of the word if you need to.

eat devour nibble gnaw munch
gobble bite crunch consume
inhale impale swallow gulp chew

Use this sentence to help you begin:

I was starving when I got home.

### **Comprehension Questions**

Ex. 6 Read Chapter 35 of "The Wild Robot" then answer these quest
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C	1 Early next morning, peeps and honks and splashes began
	echoing across the calm water.
	What does this sentence tell you about how the animals were
	feeling?

2	Why did	Roz	struggle	to	make	a	decision	٥f	whether	to	help	save	her
	son?												

3 How do you think Roz felt at not being able to help protect her son from Rockmouth?