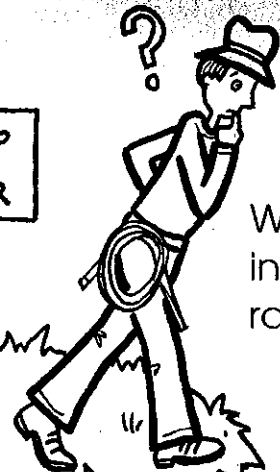


THE ADVENTURES OF Willy Maykit

BIG DROP TO RIVER



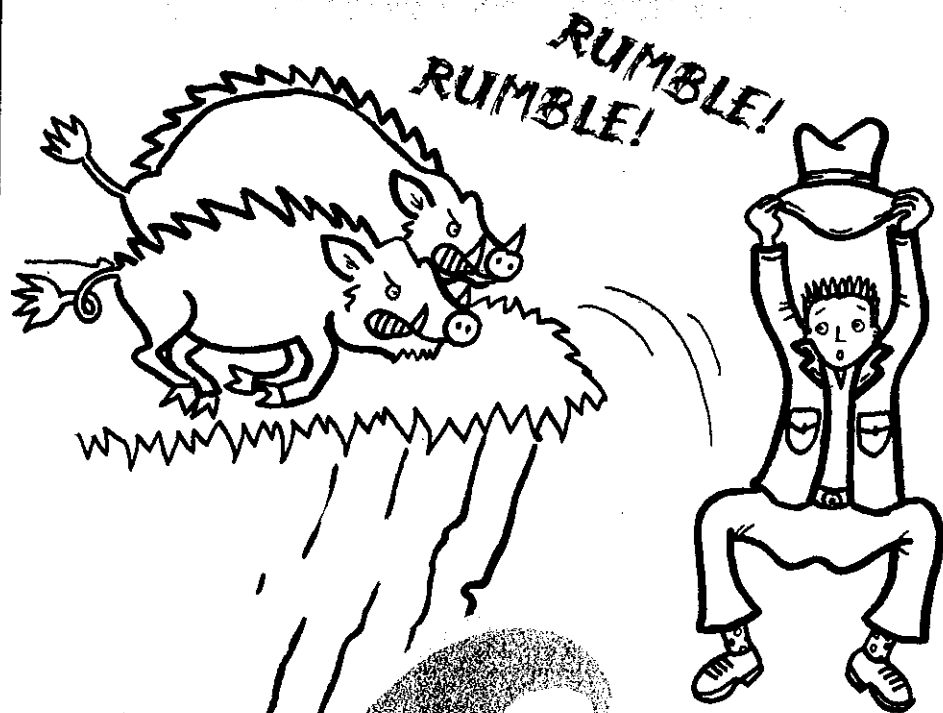
Willy might jump into the raging river rapids far below.

RUMBLE!
RUMBLE!



Willy should jump into the raging river rapids far below.

RUMBLE!
RUMBLE!



Willy MUST jump into the raging river rapids far below.

Some **verbs** are used with the main verb to give us an idea of the degree to which something might happen. They tell us the level of certainty or probability of something happening.

The text on page 32 shows three levels of certainty:

Willy might jump. (Willy is thinking about jumping so this is low certainty.)

Willy should jump. (Willy hears a rumbling so his thoughts about jumping have increased to a medium level of certainty.)

Willy must jump. (Willy needs to jump to escape the rampaging razorbacks, so jumping has become a certainty.)

The verbs *might*, *should* and *must* are called **modal verbs**.

1 Underline the **modal verbs** in these sentences.

- a I might go to the cinema tonight.
- b The boys will build their shelter on the beach.
- c "You need to write in your exercise books," said Ms Lewis.
- d When she sees that mess she could be angry.
- e "You may leave when the bell rings," said Mr Rosso.
- f Perhaps you should wear your raincoat today.

Modal verbs are auxiliary (helping) verbs.



Some adverbs can be modal adverbs. **Modal adverbs** can be used with verbs to add a degree of certainty or possibility. For example:

Perhaps you dropped your wallet. It seems likely. He definitely needs a new wallet.
Perhaps, likely and definitely are modal adverbs, because they tell us more about what is possible or certain.

2 Choose a **modal adverb** from the box to vary the degree of certainty in these sentences.

certainly never probably absolutely always

- a The boy had trouble passing his exams because he _____ studied.
- b "I am _____ sure I am a prince," said Rupert.
- c It is _____ cold in winter.
- d Willy would _____ have been scared when he heard the stampeding animals behind him.
- e Willy _____ panicked when the razorbacks appeared.

Star challenge

Write sentences of your own containing these **modal verbs** and **adverbs**.

might must possibly definitely
