

## DOCUMENT FOUR *The Dead Marshes*

An extract from the screenplay of *The Two Towers* by Peter Jackson.



EXT. THE DEAD MARSHES - DAY

GOLLUM leads SAM and FRODO into an area of the marshes where small flames *marécages* burn on the surface of the mist-covered waters.

ANGLE ON: SAM suddenly stops and glimpses beneath the water's surface.

to see quickly  
pale and sick

5 ANGLE ON: Pallid faces of dead men and elves float in the water.  
SAM

There are dead things! Dead faces in the water.

ANGLE ON: FRODO looks to the disturbing sight.

vision

GOLLUM

10 All dead. All rotten. Elves and Men and Orcses. A great battle long ago. Dead Marshes. Yes. Yes, that is their name. This way. Don't follow the lights.

ANGLE ON: SAM slips into the water again...GOLLUM turns to them quickly.

*glisser*

GOLLUM (CONT'D)

15 Careful now! Or Hobbits go down to join the dead ones and light little candles of their own.

ANGLE ON: SAM warily follows GOLLUM, but FRODO is drawn toward the water.

carefully  
under

ANGLE ON: One of the DEAD dressed in Elven armour. It floats just beneath the surface with a disturbing peacefulness.

ANGLE ON: FRODO draws himself closer and closer to the water.

pulls himself  
*s'affaïsser*

20 ANGLE ON: SAM looks around. His face drops when he sees where FRODO is.

ANGLE ON: FRODO pays SAM no mind, but continues to stare at the Dead Elf in the water.

to look at fixedly

CLOSE ON: Suddenly, the Dead Elf's eyes snap open. Its blank, pallid stare looks straight at FRODO.

fixed gaze

25 ANGLE ON: FRODO registers surprise only for a moment before falling face-first into the marsh...SAM bolts toward him.

to dash, to run

INT. THE DEAD MARSHES - DAY

30 ANGLE ON: FRODO floats beneath the surface. He looks about in fear...a decayed face silently screams and moves toward him, reaching out its rotten hand... Panicked, FRODO tries to escape. Two more DEAD grasp him from behind. The DEAD quickly surrounded him, grasping with decayed limbs. Another hand reaches around FRODO, and he collapses into the dead behind him.

decomposed  
to catch firmly

to fall, to fail

EXT. THE DEAD MARSHES - DAY

35 GOLLUM pulls FRODO out of the marsh...FRODO gasps for air...GOLLUM drags the struggling FRODO completely out of the water, and lays him on the ground.

to pull  
agitated

ANGLE ON: FRODO finally comes to and looks over to his saviour, in perplexed gratitude and disbelief.

to recover  
consciousness

# Understanding

1. Fill in the blanks of this summary with words underlined in the screenplay.

The scene takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_. It's a horrible \_\_\_\_\_. We can see dead faces \_\_\_\_\_ the surface of the water. Frodo \_\_\_\_\_ down into the water and feels dragged down by ghosts with \_\_\_\_\_ faces. Finally, he is \_\_\_\_\_ out of the water by Gollum. After some time, Frodo \_\_\_\_\_.

2. "Small flames" (line 2): what can they be?
3. What's strange about the dead elf?

## Grammar: adjectifs nominalisés

- le verbe s'accorde au pluriel : The dead are not completely gone.
  - Pas de terminaison en s: The living and the dead. The rich and the poor.
- Exception pour les adjectifs de couleur: The reds, the greens...
- L'adjectif nominalisé a une valeur générique uniquement, donc : un mort → a dead person
  - Adjectifs de nationalité: The Americans, the Germans, the Italians, the Scots  
The English, the Irish, the French, the Chinese, the Spanish

Au singulier: an American, a German, an Italian, a Scot  
an Englishman/woman, an Irishman/woman, a Frenchman/woman, a Chinese person, a Spaniard.

See my website for more details and exercises.

Translate into English.

1. Parmi les anciens peu se souviennent des jours heureux.
2. Les aveugles guident les aveugles.
3. Les saxons ont inventé de nombreuses légendes épiques.
4. Frodon a pitié de Gollum et de tous les sans-abris.
5. L'acteur qui joue Pippin est un écossais.

## British pronunciation Find out the odd one among the following.

- |                |              |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
| A. dead        | deed         | dean | deal  |
| B. dead        | lead (metal) | lean | leant |
| C. dear        | dearth       | mere | fear  |
| D. deal        | dealt        | heal | heel  |
| E. pleasure    | please       | ease | ease  |
| F. tear (verb) | pear         | bear | dear  |

## Gollum vocabulary: match English words with French words

Mocap	Emacé
CGI	Capture de mouvement
Split personality	Images générées par ordinateur
Skinny	Schizophrénie