



Key Vocabulary: The book of lost things by John Connolly

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Context
Authoritarian	Favouring or enforcing strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom	"An authoritarian and his followers were not simply separated from the rest of society by their beliefs, they were separate in themselves, their emotions and desires taking a form that was foreign to most people."
Grief	Deep sorrow, especially that caused by someone's death	"Grief, it seemed, drove men to become as gods, to see themselves as creators, to remake the world."
Imaginative	Having or showing creativity or inventiveness	"David's imagination was a place of sanctuary that he retreated to whenever the world overwhelmed him, as it often did."
Landscape	All the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal	"He could see the landscape below him, rolling hills of green and gold, dotted with farmhouses and fields of wheat and barley."
Menacing	Suggesting the presence of danger; threatening	"David must navigate a dangerous landscape and confront a variety of menacing creatures."
Metamorphosis	A change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one	"The world around him was undergoing a metamorphosis, becoming something new and strange."
Metaphor	A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable	"His journey through the strange and dangerous world of the novel can be seen as a metaphor for the psychological turmoil and uncertainty that many people were experiencing at the time."
Oppressive	Unjustly inflicting hardship and constraint, especially on a minority or other subordinate group	"They were burdened by a weight, an oppressive sense of expectation that hung over them."
Perplexed	Completely baffled; very puzzled	"David was perplexed by the strange and unsettling world he had found himself in."
Reality	The state of things as they actually exist, as opposed to an idealistic or notional idea of them	"David soon finds himself transported to a strange and twisted version of his own reality."
Solace	Comfort or consolation in a time of distress or sadness	"Following the death of his mother, David found solace in the world of books."
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities	"The novel is rich in symbolism, with various characters and events representing different aspects of the human experience."



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Twisted	Distorted or perverted	"David soon finds himself transported to a strange and twisted version of his own reality."
Uncertainty	The state of being uncertain; doubt; hesitation	"David's journey through the strange and unpredictable world was marked by uncertainty and danger."
Visceral	Relating to deep inward feelings rather than to the intellect	"David's visceral reaction to the world around him was one of fear and confusion."

Historical and political context of the book

"The Book of Lost Things" is a work of fiction, and as such, it does not directly address any specific historical or political events. However, the novel is set in the period leading up to World War II, and its themes and characters are influenced by the cultural and social context of that time.

The novel takes place in England in the 1930s, a time of great social and economic upheaval. The country was still recovering from the effects of World War I, and many people were struggling to make ends meet. At the same time, there was a growing sense of unease as the threat of war loomed on the horizon.

The novel's protagonist, David, is a young boy who has lost his mother and is struggling to come to terms with her death. His journey through the strange and dangerous world of the novel can be seen as a metaphor for the psychological turmoil and uncertainty that many people were experiencing at the time.

The novel also explores themes of power and authority, as well as the relationship between the individual and society. The villains of the novel, such as the Crooked Man and the Huntress, can be seen as representations of oppressive and authoritarian forces that were gaining strength in Europe at the time.

In summary, while "The Book of Lost Things" does not directly address historical or political events, its themes and characters are influenced by the cultural and social context of the 1930s in England, a time of great social and economic upheaval and political uncertainty.