**Tension: Chapter 3 extract**

**Task 1**: Highlight the words which refer to sounds in one colour- and those which refer to silence in another.

**Task 2**: Annotate the extract by answering the questions.

What is this a reference to?

Candy did not answer. The silence fell on the room again. It came out of the night and invaded the room. George said, ‘Anybody like to play a little euchre?’

What does the word ‘invaded’ suggest?

‘I’ll play out a few with you,’ said Whit.

What does the word ‘snapping’ anticipate?

They took their places opposite each other at the table under the light, but George did not shuffle the cards. He rippled the edge of the deck nervously, and the little snapping noise drew the eyes of all the men in the room, so that he stopped doing it. The silence fell on the room again. A minute passed, and another minute. Candy lay still, staring at the ceiling. Slim gazed at him for a moment and then looked down at his hands; he subdued one hand with the other, and held it down. There came a little gnawing sound from under the floor and all the men looked down toward it gratefully. Only Candy continued to stare at the ceiling.

Why is the ‘little gnawing sound’ important?

What does the ‘shot sounded in the distance’ signify?

Why is the phrase ‘The silence fell on the room again’ repeated?

‘Sounds like there was a rat under there,’ said George. ‘We ought to get a trap down there. ‘

Whit broke out, ‘What the hell’s takin’ him so long? Lay out some cards, why don’t you? We ain’t going to get no euchre played this way.’

Why does Candy stare at the ceiling?

George brought the cards together tightly and studied the backs of them. The silence was in the room again.

A shot sounded in the distance. The men looked quickly at the old man. Every head turned toward him.

For a moment he continued to stare at the ceiling. Then he rolled slowly over and faced the wall and lay silent.

Why is the last word of the extract ‘silent’?