

# BritLit

## Moses Little Brother

### Word Work

#### Time Connectors

1. There are various devices for showing sequences of events. In the story, for example, we find:

**The day after** Moses and the Twelve Tribes of Israel set off .....

**That night, after** Moses and the Twelve Tribes had hurried off .....

**Next thing**, God was shaking him.

**A few days later**, Moses's little brother reached the Promised Land.

The Twelve Tribes showed up forty years **later**.

Three thousand years **after that**, everyone was still at it

A partition was **followed** by refugee camps



#### Activity 1

Put the sentences above into the order suggested by the context where the shortest time event comes first and the longest comes last. The first has been done for you.

1. *Next thing, God was shaking him.*
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



All of these time connectors refer to events that happen one after the other (first one thing happens, then another, then the next etc). The most useful word in this connection is 'after' which can also appear as 'afterwards' (or 'after that')

**After** Moses's little brother had gone to sleep, God woke him up.

Moses's little brother fell asleep. God woke him up soon **afterwards**.

Moses's little brother fell asleep. God woke him up soon **after that**.

Other useful connectors are

Moses's little brother fell asleep. **A little later**, God woke him up.

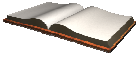
Moses's little brother fell asleep. **Then** God woke him up.

The event of Moses's little brother falling asleep was **followed by** God waking him up.

**Following** Moses's little brother's attempt to go to sleep, God woke him up.

*Activity 2*

Look at the penultimate paragraph of story. It contains some sequencing connectors, but some are simply implied. Rewrite the paragraph using as many sequencers demonstrating one event after the other as you can. (It may not make for good literary work, but it will demonstrate your mastery of the form!)



The Twelve Tribes showed up forty years later. There was a dispute. Several other gods, both local and freelance, got involved and, three thousand years after that, everyone was still at it. A partition was followed by refugee camps, suicide-bombers, missiles. Someone produced a new map. Someone started building a wall. God turned Himself into a burning bush. No one noticed.

2. Sequences of events are often expressed by referring to things that have already taken place.

**Before** Little Brother could speak, Moses had set off on the march. Little Brother lay down to sleep. **Earlier on** Moses had rejected his offer of the map. The tribes finally came to the Promised Land. Forty years **before that**, Little Brother had arrived there.

*Activity 3*

Using some of these words:

**before, earlier on, before that, after, a little later, then, followed by, following, afterwards, after that**

write sentences that describe in more detail the sequence of events that are recorded in Little Brother's diary (luckily he wrote in English!)

