

## Searching for Summer (page 41)

### Grammar SkillBuilder: Adjectives

**Key Concept:** Adjectives are important tools writers use to instill a tone or mood, to create vivid images, and to provide qualifying details about a place or character.

#### Adjectives

An **adjective** is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun. Adjectives change or limit nouns and pronouns by answering the questions *how much*, *how many*, *what kind*, and *which one*. Adjectives usually precede the word they modify, but they can come after the word. When two or more adjectives modify a word, they are separated by commas or combined with hyphens. Notice how Joan Aiken uses adjectives in the following excerpt from her story "Searching for the Sun."

"He was a big, red-faced man with wet, full lips, bulging pale-gray bloodshot eyes, and a crop of stiff greasy black hair. He wore tennis shoes."

#### Activity

Rewrite each sentence about "Searching for Summer." Write one or more adjectives to modify the underlined noun in each sentence.

*Example:* On the day she was married, Lily wore a dress.

*Rewritten:* On the day she was married, Lily wore a filmy, buttercup-yellow dress.

1. Tom and Lily set off in their search for the sun.
2. Under the sky, the newlyweds cheerfully began their search.
3. As they came to Molesworth, their engine died.
4. The people clambering slowly out of the bus were assisted patiently by the conductor, George.
5. George lifted the bicycle out of their path.
6. Mr. Noakes, with a grin, pinched Lily's arm and laughed his oily laugh.
7. To avoid Mr. Noakes's looks and comments, the bride suggested a walk before retiring.
8. They followed the long path until they reached the garden.
9. With surprise and kindness, Mrs. Hatching invited the pair into her home.
10. Suddenly Tom and Lily noticed the sunshine illuminating the room.
11. They wondered at the linens drying on the line.
12. With the slightest persuasion, Tom and Lily agreed to stay in the spare room.
13. Days passed before Lily and Tom returned to town for their things.
14. Mr. Noakes displayed an interest in their suntans.
15. With regret, Lily and Tom sped away from Molesworth, unable to return to the little cottage in the woods.