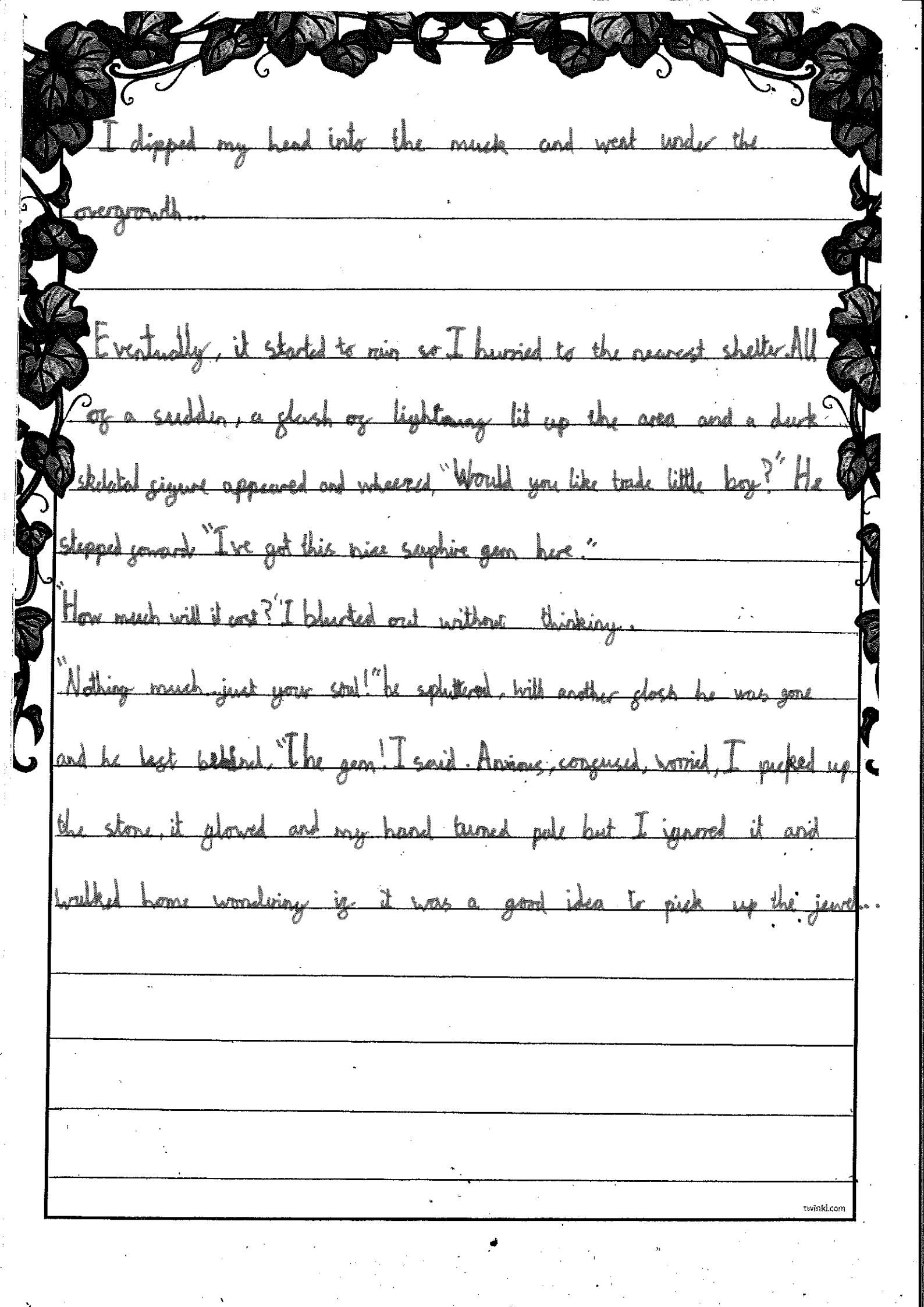


The adventures in Bloodhorn Bog...

The humid, eerie marshland lured me in with its gaseous and sinister surroundings. I knew I shouldn't ^{have} ~~go~~, but I trudged excitedly ~~out~~ through the thick mud, unintentionally disturbing the strange creatures in the sludge below.

Everywhere I looked, luscious green moss tightly hugged the bark of ancient trees; just like a baby hugging a teddy bear. Huge willow trees with low sweeping branches swayed left to right during peacefully, I could ^{practically} ~~practically~~ taste the trouble I was in as the marsh got deeper and deeper, until I was chest deep in sticky ooze.

The forest hummed with despair, reverberating with a cacophony of unearthly, unpleasant noises. Pausing for a moment, I wondered if I should turn back but my curiosity got the better of me so I trekked on. Brambles and stinging nettles guarded the heart of the forest. Slowly,



I dipped my head into the muck and went under the overgrowth...

Eventually, it started to rain so I hurried to the nearest shelter. All of a sudden, a flash of lightning lit up the area and a dark skeletal figure appeared and wheezed, "Would you like trade little boy?" He stepped forward "I've got this nice sapphire gem here."

"How much will it cost?" I blurted out without thinking.

"Nothing much... just your soul!" he spluttered, with another flash he was gone and he left behind. "The gem!" I said. Anxious, confused, worried, I picked up the stone, it glowed and my hand turned pale but I ignored it and walked home wondering if it was a good idea to pick up the jewel...