

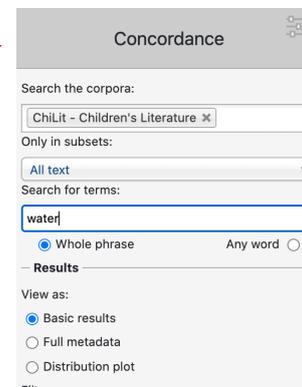


Activity: Let's look at the word *water* in a whole bunch of stories!

The word *water* appears to be a straightforward and uncomplicated word. Everyone knows what *water* means, right? With this activity we take a closer look at different roles water can play in fiction. The texts we look at are selection of classic children's fiction (e.g. *Alice in Wonderland*, *Black Beauty*, *The Jungle Book*).

- To access ChiLit, the 19th century corpus of children's fiction, go to <https://clit.bham.ac.uk/>

- Go to the concordance tab
- Select 'ChiLit' from the drop-down
- Put 'water' into the search box, and hit RETURN
- You will get a concordance, i.e. a list of occurrences of the word *water*. You can order the lines alphabetically on the left or right by clicking on these arrows.



- Look at the different adjectives in front of *water* – in the example below *cold* shows *water* is used to wash in (line 252), it is used to wake people up (line 256), it revives people (line 260) and it is refreshing (line 264). Also look at other constructions around *water* and describe examples of different types of situations where *water* is referred to.

Showing 251 to 300 of 2,467 entries, Rel. Freq. 555.40 pm, from 68 books				
Left	Node	Right	Book	In bk.
251	were arranged a large antique Bible, a jug of cold water,	and a pile of coarsely-knitted worsted stockings. Beyond these, on	holiday	— —
252	lessons, and thank God that you have plenty of cold water	to wash in; and wash in it too, like a	water	— —
253	devil come out is to give him plenty of cold water	and tea and coffee, and nothing at all that comes	wind	— —
254	till sundown. ¶ They brought up some iron pots of cold water	to pour on the besiegers instead of hot lead, with	five	— —
255	wake you. You must trust to your sponge of cold water	in the morning, unless your own admirable device succeeds." ¶ "I'm	girls	— —
256	found so soundly asleep that even the sponge of cold water	could not arouse her. ¶ "Pull the string at the foot	girls	— —
257	out of reach, and Martha emptied a toilet-jug of cold water	over him from a top window, and said-- ¶ "Go along	five	— —
258	for nothing!" said Anthea. ¶ [Martha emptied a toilet-jug of cold water--	over him] ¶ The third and miserablest silence of all was	five	— —
259	ffects of over-eating, and reflections thereon--Humble advice regarding cold water--	The "horrible cry" accounted for--The curious birds called penguins	coral	— —
260	hall table. "Good God! he's dying. Here, get some cold water--	run for the housekeeper." ¶ Flashman and one or two others	tombrown	— —
261	downtown to get your good wife to pour some cold water	over your head; and then you will finish dressing, see	brass	— —
262	Hester's wash-handstand, and taking up a glass, poured some cold water	into it, and gulped it down. ¶ "Now I can speak	girls	— —
263	only draw a gasping breath now and then. Some cold water	was thrown over my head, and some cordial was poured	beauty	— —
264	got back into the canoe much refreshed by the cold water,	and sat to dry in the sun, whilst Good undid	quatermain	— —

