Extract Analysis

LATE LIGHT

by Michael Malay

Read and annotate the extract below:

Eels are tiny when they are born, no bigger than a grain of sand, and completely transparent. If you could look through them, you would see into the world. As they grow older, though, they begin to absorb light, to bend and to capture it. Their skin darkens, their bodies lengthen, and their translucency is replaced by an oily brown. Streaks of yellow run down their flanks, like bars of muddy gold, and their eyes grow more pronounced. The grain of sand has become what is known as a 'yellow eel'.

The transformations continue, change following change. As they grow, their yellow flanks darken, shade into umber, until, reaching full maturity, they take on the colours of a starry midnight. A slick glossy black covers their top half, while their underbellies acquire a silvery sheen. Glints of brown and green cover their back like flecks of mica. The yellow eel has become a 'silver eel'.

Question: How does Malay use language to engage the reader in this extract?