Tangles

Having tried angles, let’s have a look at tangles. What kinds of things get in a tangle?

Balls of string  
Electric cables  
Spaghetti  
Chicken wire  
A litter of snakes

Students may then begin to suggest more personal items:

Our puppies  
My brother’s hair  
Paper clips  
Shirts in the washing machine  
My dad’s runner beans

And you might like to encourage some more abstract thinking:

My thoughts in maths lessons  
    or more precisely  
Me trying to solve an equation  
    then again -  
Relationships in novels  
    or more precisely  
Cathy and Heathcliff’s emotions in Wuthering Heights…

Or surreal: Two octopuses scrapping, or Friendly tape measures

As ever, try to get a certain amount of specificity:  Our puppies in their basket in the morning

And try varying the components: A ball / roll / coil / …..  of string / wool / hosepipe / ….

They might then try making some comparisons:

The cables behind our TV are like a nest of snakes  
My brother’s hair reminds me of two octopuses fighting

And a poem may evolve

When I try to remember  
All the things I need  
For every lesson of the day  
My brain becomes a tangled coil of cables  
A nest of snakes  
A struggling, heaving, twisting basket of pups…

And why not do a bit of tangling on the page to reflect the concept?  There are some things you can do with pen and paper that aren't so easy with electronic print!

Or try an E.E.Cummings approach:

When (I try  
                          to remember  
                          what - ?  
   
All      the things I need       All

For everylesson  
   
              My brain  
                    becomes

                    tangledcablecoil  
                    snakes-nest  
basket of (struggling / heaving / twisting) pups…

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