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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