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Narrow Escape

Learn How to Write a Story Paragraph

Ontario Curriculum Writing Unit

Integrated with Reading, Language, and Technology



Name: _____

Ontario Curriculum Unit

Integrated Writing, with Reading, Language, and Technology

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Narrow Escape

Author: Patrick Lashmar
Illustrated by Christopher Grady



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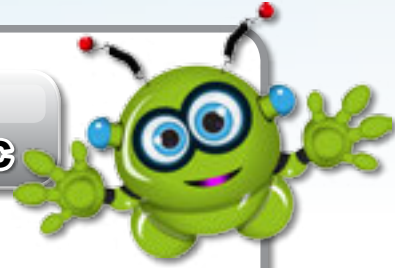
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Lesson Expectations and Rubric



Expectation	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Developing Ideas				
Organizing Ideas				
Form: Story Paragraph				
Sentence Fluency				
Language Links for Revision				
Producing Drafts				
Spelling Familiar Words				
Editing/Proofreading				
Publishing				
Technology: THPLink				

Comments:



Generate, Gather, and Organize



A story paragraph tells a tale about an interesting event. The event that is written about is the topic. Developing sentences add details about what happens.

Read this story paragraph.

NARROW ESCAPE

Yesterday, our little dog, Mackenzie, had a narrow escape. He was playing in the vacant lot next to our house. A big, black dog chased him. Yelping, poor Mackenzie put his tail between his legs. He dashed away. Just as the big dog reached him, Mackenzie found a small opening in the fence. He struggled into our own yard. Mackenzie was safe from danger. He whined and barked bravely at the large dog. It is easy to be brave when you are safe.



1. How do we know that Mackenzie was afraid?
2. What might have happened if Mackenzie had not struggled through the fence?
3. How did Mackenzie feel about his narrow escape?

THPLink Number 100023

Scan the QR code or go to the website below. Listen to the story and watch the video presentation. Search online for sample story paragraphs for children. Read some of these and find the topic sentence for each. Notice how detail sentences tell about the topic in each paragraph.

<http://thplink.tv/100023.html>



A story paragraph

- must deal with only one topic or happening
- has developing sentences that must tell about the topic
- has an interesting beginning sentence
- tells the events of the story in order

Compose a story paragraph. Some possible topics are:

- A Frightening Experience
- An Exciting Adventure
- The Championship Game
- Sleepover Fun

In point form, complete the paragraph plan below.

Topic: _____

Story Web

Who is in your paragraph?

Where and when does the story take place?

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What happens in your story?

How does your story end.



Draft and Revise



Use your story web ideas to help you write your first draft. Write in complete sentences.

SAMPLE

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Language Link for Revising



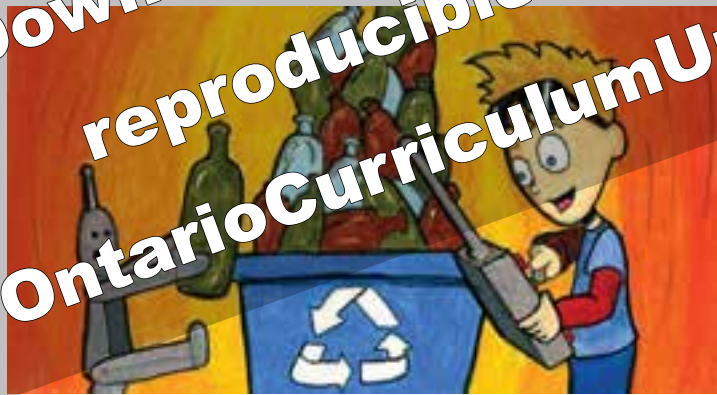
Complete the Language Link activity and use this information to improve the first draft of your story paragraph.

The Topic Sentence

The topic sentence in a paragraph tells the main idea of the paragraph. Every paragraph needs to have a topic sentence.

Read the paragraph below. Then answer the questions.

Devin helps clean the house on Saturday. He carries the bottles to the recycling bin, ties up the newspapers and puts them in the box. He cleans up his room, then he sweeps the garage. He likes to help.



What is the topic of this paragraph? _____

Print the topic sentence of the paragraph. _____

I shop at the corner store next to our house. I go there for my mom. I buy milk and bread there. All the people who work in the store are nice. Sometimes the owner gives me candy. I like going to the store.

What is the topic of this paragraph? _____

Print the topic sentence of the paragraph. _____

Our hospital is St. Joseph's. It is a huge building. Lots of doctors and nurses work there. They make sick people better. My Aunt is a doctor at St. Joe's. Also, I was born there. If I must go to the hospital, I hope I can go to St. Joseph's.

What is the topic of this paragraph? _____

Print the topic sentence of the paragraph. _____

Alex and Meg went on a bicycle hike. They started on the rail trail. They rode for 2 km to the abandoned railway station. That's where they stopped for lunch. On the way back, they got caught in a thunder storm. They parked under a railway bridge until it was safe to go on.

What is the topic of this paragraph? _____

Print the topic sentence of the paragraph. _____

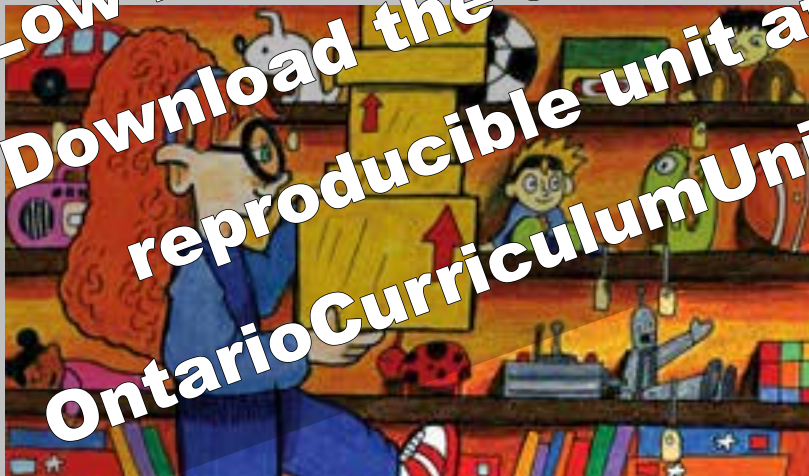
Topic and Detail Sentences

The topic sentence of a paragraph tells the main idea or topic of the paragraph. All the other sentences in a paragraph give details about the main idea. These are called detail sentences.

In the example below, the detail sentences are underlined. The topic sentence is circled.

My dad is a police officer. He wears a blue uniform. His job is to help people. He gets to ride in a police car. I am proud of my dad.

Read the paragraphs below. Circle the topic sentences. Underline the sentences that give details about the main idea.



1. I help my uncle at his store on Saturdays. I put things on shelves. I carry boxes from the back of the store. I also get to sweep the sidewalk. I like it when he pays me five dollars.

2. Mom is a lawyer. She works in a big office. Some days she goes to court. Mom had to work hard to get to be a lawyer. She loves her job.
3. We took a trip to my uncle's farm. We got to play in the barn. Then we helped collect the eggs. I tried to pet the goose but it chased me across the yard. The best part was we got to ride Sandy, their horse.

Read each paragraph below. Each paragraph has one sentence the does not belong because it does not tell anything about the topic. Underline the sentences that don't belong in the paragraphs below.

1. I play for the Screaming Eagles hockey team. I play right wing. My Aunt Josie is our coach. Our team is in first place. I love ice cream sundaes. I hope my team can win the championship.
2. Devin went to Zed's house on Saturday. First they played video games. Then they played football in the yard. After that Zed's Mom made them spaghetti for lunch. Devin's Mom is a teacher.
3. Alex and Meg went to the mall. Alex needed a birthday gift for her Dad. Meg needed school supplies. They like to go skating at the arena. The two girls stopped at Mr. Joe's for lunch. Then they took the bus home.

Now look at the first draft of your paragraph and improve it. Be sure you have a clear topic sentence that tells the main idea. Be sure all the other sentences add details that say something about the main idea.

E

dit and Proofread



Alone or with a partner, edit your first draft. Use the checklist below as your guide.

- Did I write a good opening sentence that tells the topic of the paragraph?
- Do all of my detail sentences provide more information about the topic?
- Should I cross out any sentences that don't belong?
- Does each sentence make sense?
- Have I punctuated each sentence properly?
- Did I spell words correctly, checking those I was unsure about?

You can cross out and replace words. Use arrows to add new words and sentences.

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P

ublish, Share, and Reflect



In groups of three, take turns reading your paragraphs. Talk about what you like best in each paragraph. How did using the editing and proofreading checklists help you improve your drafts?

Date: _____

Author: _____

Title: _____

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