A narrative

A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT

'Bye, Oscar!' my mum called to me as I closed the door behind me. It was a freezing January morning and I was taking our dog for a walk on the beach. I walked carefully down the steep path behind our house to the beach. It was deserted. Suddenly, the dog ran off towards the sea and started to bark loudly.

I thought the dog had seen a seagull and wanted to chase it. But, of course, he couldn't have seen a seagull. There hadn't been any seagulls since the Great Storm a few years ago. Then, I noticed the dog had stopped barking and was digging at something in the sand.

I quickly walked over to have a look. I could see a strange object half hidden in the sand. I picked it up carefully and examined it. 'I wonder what it is?' I thought. It was a curious object – it was like a bottle but it had two openings, one at each end. When I shook it, it made a sound like rain, but how? There was nothing inside it. The dog didn't like what he heard and ran off.

Suddenly, I started to feel frightened. It felt like there was someone else on the beach. I was sure someone was watching me but I could see no one. I called for the dog but he had completely disappeared.

Extreme adjectives help to make your writing more interesting.

Use modals of deduction and speculation.

Add adverbs of manner to give more detail.

Use a variety of past tenses, such as the past perfect, to explain what had happened before that point in the story.

Include some surprising information to interest the reader.

1 **Read the story and put the events (a–g) in chronological order. Write 1–7.**

a Oscar finds an unusual object. ___
b Oscar's dog starts barking. ___
c Oscar feels frightened. ___
d Oscar calls for the dog. ___
e The noise frightens the dog. ___
f Oscar walks down the path to the beach. ___
g The Great Storm happened. ___

2 **Complete the sentences with the adjectives and adverbs in the box.**

ancient	carefully	downstairs	dramatic	
frightening	quickly	quietly	tiny	

1 I could hear people talking _____ but I could see no one.
2 She opened the envelope _____ and she found a _____ key inside.
3 The dark sky looked _____ and _____.
4 There was a loud knock at the front door so he _____ ran _____ to open it.
5 The wooden plate looked _____ – it must have been made a long time ago.

3 **Choose the correct option.**

It **(1) had been/was** a long day and Nadia was feeling **(2) exhausted/freezing**. She **(3) finished/had finished** her book that morning so she had nothing to read. She was sad that she had finished it as it had been a **(4) fascinating/disappointing** read. She **(5) had closed/closed** her eyes as the train pulled away **(6) slowly/fast** from the station. It started to go faster as it left the city. Suddenly, the train **(7) had stopped/stopped** and Nadia jumped. 'I must have **(8) fallen/fell** asleep,' she thought. She looked around. All the other passengers **(9) had disappeared/disappeared**. She was alone and it was dark on the train. 'I must **(10) be/to be** at the final station,' she thought. Nadia looked out of the window but she could only see trees. Where was she?

SKILLS BOOST

Task

Write a mystery story narrative about a key.

THINK

Look at the photo of the key and make notes about these questions.

1 Where was it? _____
2 Who finds it? _____
3 Who could have left the key there? _____
4 What might the key be for? _____
5 What happens next? _____

PREPARE

Organise your story into paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: Introduce the setting of the story and the main character

Paragraphs 2 and 3: Give the main events

Paragraph 4: Introduce some surprising information to end the episode

Useful language

- One day, …
- Suddenly, …
- Then, I noticed/realised …
- What could it be?
- We were looking at the … when we heard a strange sound.
- But how?
- My heart was beating fast.
- When I touched the … , I …

WRITE

Write your story. Use your notes and the stories on p112 to help you.

CHECK

Read your story. Answer the questions.

1 Have you used a variety of tenses as well as modals of deduction and speculation? ☐
2 Have you used a variety of adjectives and adverbs? ☐
3 Have you described the setting and the main events? ☐
4 Have you included thoughts or speech? ☐