

11+ Creative Writing — Story From A Picture

Student assignment — “Create a story using the picture below.”



As the tall rocket left the launch pad, I could hear the fiery flames furiously firing from its fins. Sitting restlessly, my mouth as dry as the desert, butterflies fluttering around in my churning stomach, I apprehensively watched the enormous spherical Earth diminish and vanish into a microscopic ant. We were finally flying fearlessly like a bullet, zooming towards outer space. My eagerly anticipated dream of a lifetime was becoming a reality.

Notes for student

- This is a brilliant opening to your story Cara, well done!
- WOW, Cara!! “Fiery flames furiously firing from its fins” is amazing alliteration!
- Remember to always put a comma between two consecutive adjectives. For example, “the enormous, spherical Earth”.
- You have used plenty of writers’ tricks here! Great work.

“Bang!” Suddenly, we started falling as fast as a Formula One car racing in its final lap to glory. As I looked out of the window (again) I saw the sapphire globe expanding, like a huge smile on a child’s face when opening their main birthday present. I went to the tip of the rocket to see how the team was reacting. Rapidly reaching the nose of the ship, I saw

they were acting like wild geese on the chase. Thankfully, I noticed we had a spare engine.

“Why didn't anyone tell me that we had a spare engine in case of an emergency?” I just said this in my head though, so nobody else heard it but me. I grabbed the life-saving part and rushed down the stairs, as quick as a hyena chasing its prey.

Notes for student

- Great opening for this paragraph Cara! Your onomatopoeia works well.
- This is a very dramatic turn of events. You build tension well in this paragraph.
- Great punctuation of your speech here.
- To improve, don't forget to describe how you are feeling here, as well as what is happening. How do you feel when the rocket starts to fall? Terrified I bet!

Arriving at the enormous, empty engine room, there were so many big, bright buttons to press that I wanted to powerfully push them all, but I knew I was on a mission, a mighty mission. I felt like I was going to die (which I was if I didn't exchange the two engines). I was terrified. I had thousands, no millions of thoughts scrambling through my head. Then I saw the failed engine. I swapped the two as quickly as a horse galloping to its victory in the Grand National. I could feel the slimy sweat slithering down my spine. Immediately, the heart of the ship began to beat once more and we started rising rapidly again, the smoky smell of burning fuel filling the air.

“Yay”, I cheered excitedly – the time had come to continue my amazing astronaut adventure to the marvellous Milky Way!

Notes for student

- This is a brilliant, exciting ending Cara! You have taken inspiration from the picture but still made an interesting and original story. Well done!



- Good use of complex punctuation here. Well done for including brackets and a dash.
 - You've used plenty of amazing alliteration in this paragraph! You've clearly mastered alliteration - well done!
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Progress Plan

- Overall, this is an amazing story Cara! You should be very proud of yourself. This is an outstanding piece of writing.
 - You have done a great job of describing your plot and what your character is experiencing. To improve, don't forget to include how your character feels. You mention this briefly but not in detail. Are they scared, excited or exhilarated? Also remember to include the five senses: what can you see, hear, smell, taste and feel? This will help you deepen your description.
 - As an extension task look back over your writing here and think of one extra sentence you could have added to each paragraph to show how your character feels.
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Your work was marked by Ellie.

Qualifications: 1st class English and History degree

University: University of Southampton

Lives in: Surrey

A bit about me: I studied creative writing and children's literature while at University, as well as the Tudors and Cleopatra. In my free time I swim, read and play Pokemon. I love to write and I hope to become a published author one day.

This work was reviewed and approved by James Davey, The Exam Coach.