

## 11+ Creative Writing — Story From A Picture

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



The towering, dark red rocket sprang into life, and the countdown proceeded.

“Three!”

Scientists ran all over the place, like foxes in a frenzy, running checks.

“Everything seems fine,” said one, importantly.

“Two!” **c**louds of smoke **seap** from the ship as it gets ready for take off.

“One!” **a** burst of energetic red, orange and yellow fly out of the rocket.

#### Notes for student

- This is a great, descriptive opening to your story Esah; well done!
- To improve, remember to always reread your work when you have finished to check for small mistakes. For example, in this paragraph you have misspelt “seep” and forgotten to capitalise a few of your sentences after speech.
- Well done for remembering to start speech on a new line, when a new speaker speaks.
- Well done for listing adjectives to describe the rocket. To improve, you could have used a hyphen here. You have written “towering, dark red rocket”; this could have two meanings. It could mean that the rocket was a dark-red colour, or it was dark AND red. To show it is a dark-red, use a hyphen to show the relation of the words.

“ZOOM!” The rocky ship shot upwards, a bullet, soaring through the sky. Just as it was beginning to be a speck of black on a blue background, it began to get bigger.

“Mayday! Mayday!” The words crackled through the speakers.

### Notes for student

- Brilliant use of onomatopoeia here Esah! It really helps bring the rocket to life! To improve, remember that onomatopoeia does not need to be in speech marks as it is not speech.
- You have used a nice metaphor here and alliteration of the 's' sound is almost like the sound of a rocket taking off; well done! This is great work.
- To improve, you could have added more description here. You describe the sky as 'a blue background' but you could have described it in more detail. Alternatively, you could have described how you were feeling at this moment. It is not clear until the next paragraph that you are writing in the first person as you have not mentioned yourself or your feelings up to this point. Remember to describe this too!

In a crazy panic, everyone began to type code only years of training could fathom. Even the computer felt the tension, as the internet was quicker than ever. We did not take any breaks, and until the last script was written no one even spoke. At last, I pressed 'enter' and my code was read by the rocket. Then, hopefully it would be listened to.

### Notes for student

- This is an interesting and original story Esah! Great work.
- Well done for personifying the computer and internet which help the team save the rocket. This is great!
- To improve, remember to describe how you are feeling. For example, are you stressed or strangely calm? Does your character shake in anticipation or feel sweat running down their forehead

which they don't have time to wipe away? You've done a brilliant job of describing your plot but don't forget your character.

Just as the rocket was a meter away from **annihilation** it began to ascend. Excitement flooded the room, as the ship began to continue its journey to the Moon.

"Hopefully our astronauts have an easier ride to Mars," I said much more relaxed.

But in rocket science, everything is hard.

### Notes for student

- This is a great ending to your story Esah! You have taken inspiration from the picture and created an original, exciting story. Well done!
  - Again, remember to reread your work at the end to check for small mistakes. Here you have misspelt "annihilation". This is a tricky spelling so well done for trying.
  - Finally, remember to use commas in your speech. For example, when you say "I said, much more relaxed", you need a comma in the middle.
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### Progress Plan

- Overall, this is a great story Esah! You should be proud of yourself!
- You have done a great job of describing your plot and setting. To improve, remember to include a description of your character and how they are feeling. Try to include the five senses: what can you see, hear, smell, taste and feel? This will help you deepen your description.
- Well done for including your writer's tricks. You have done this well.
- Remember to always reread your work when you have finished so that you can check for small spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes. You made a few errors here, but they were only small and you could have caught them yourself by rereading your work.



- As an extension task go back over the spellings I have highlighted and use the look, cover, write, check, method to learn them. They are spelt “seep” and “annihilation”.
  - Look at the word and try to memorise it
  - Cover it with your hand
  - Write it out
  - Check your spelling

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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.**