

11+ Creative Writing — Story From A Picture

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



We sat silently in the safari truck as afternoon came. Before us was the spectacle that we wanted to see for our life; a small lake with a whole bunch of nature bursting out. We had been in the truck for a few hours, just sitting there in the sweltering sun, but it was worth it. My mouth gaped like a cave as I saw the beautiful view before me.

Notes for student

- This is a beautiful start to your story Kanav, well done! You have clearly used the picture as your inspiration for your story. Brilliant use of alliteration to begin - wow!
- You've done a great job at including high level vocabulary in this paragraph (such as "sweltering"). This makes it very interesting to read.

- Great use of a semicolon here. Well done!

The sun kept beaming at us and as elephants ~~to~~ drank and relaxed by the lake. I saw a few smaller elephants play in the lake, splashing around in and having the time of their lives. I resisted ~~the~~ to drink from the lake as I noticed how sweaty I was.

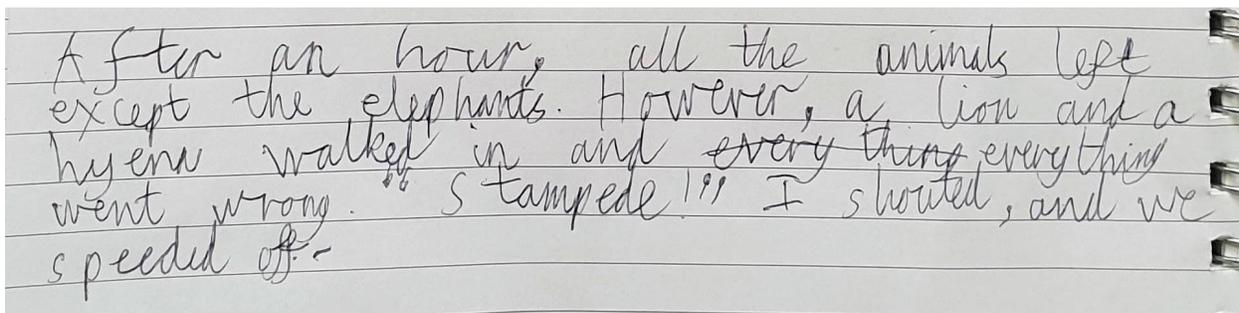
Notes for student

- This is great creative writing Kanav; well done. Amazing use of a personification to describe the sun.
- To improve, you could have described the elephants here. Look at the image above and think about what they look like.
- Could you have included a simile here? For example "The elephants seemed as happy as a pig in mud".
- Your last line is a little confusing. 'Resisted' means 'withstand the action or effect of'. Therefore, what are you 'resisting' in this sentence? I think you meant that you are resisting **the urge** to drink' or resisting 'your need for water'. Good attempt, Well done Kanav.

More animals started to flood in, birds started to come, deer ~~swarm~~ and antelope began to ~~come~~ ~~away~~ ~~to~~ in. There were also some ~~even~~ striped zebras, a herd of gazelles and a few giraffes. The elephants trumpeted in harmony. The view was breathtaking.

Notes for student

- Great use of a metaphor and listing to describe the animals arriving at the lake.
- To improve, you could have used a colon and semicolons in your list instead of commas. This would allow you to show off your use of complex punctuation. For example "More animals started to flood in: birds started to come; deer and antelope began to trot in and striped zebras suddenly appeared." Remember a complex list starts with a colon and uses semicolons to separate the items in the list.
- You've created a beautiful image of all the animals at the lake, Well done. To improve could you have added an adjective to describe each animal. For example "striped zebras" or "giant giraffes".
- "**Giraffes**" is spelt with one 'r' and two 'f's not "girrafes".



Notes for student

- This is a good ending for your story Kanav. How exciting. Well done!
- "Except the elephants" is a good alliteration. To improve, next time try to include three or more words in an alliteration. For example "except the extraordinary elephants".
- Great inclusion of speech at the end. This is punctuated nicely. To improve, remember to start a new line when someone speaks for the first time.



Progress Plan

- Overall, this is a great elephant story Kanav! This is an original and exciting story, based on the image you were given. I hope you were safe in the stampede at the end.
- You've done an amazing job at including MAPSO and SEW in this story. Well done.
- Your description of events and your surroundings is great in this story. To improve, remember to also describe how you/your character is feeling. Are they excited to see the elephants? Are they filled with spine-tingling fear when the elephants stampede?

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 Pokémon. 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.