

**11+ Creative Writing — Story From A Picture**

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



As I stepped out of my shelter, the sun beat its rays down onto my face. I felt the warmth wrap itself around me like a blanket, along with the sudden, overwhelming urge to drink - a lot! My mother stomped her way over to me, dust flying in her quake. “Time to set off for the waterhole my dear,” she said gently, waving her trunk inviting me to follow. It would be my first journey to the waterhole - so far we had been using only the shallow, muddy pond behind our desert home. I had been told that at the waterhole there would be a great, harmonious gathering of African animals. I couldn't wait to get there...

**Notes for student**

- This is a great story opening Oscar well done! Good job writing from the point of view of an elephant!
- You have used a lovely simile to describe the sun's rays!
- You have used the word 'harmonious' correctly. This is tricky vocabulary so well done.

- To improve, remember when using speech, each new speaker has to start on a new line.

As we set off, there was no moisture in the air around us, instead it was dry and **baron**; the atmosphere arid and desiccated. I could feel the sand flying up around me and stinging my eyes. There was only endless, sun-burnt sand - any grass was as brown and shrivelled as the rest of this lifeless landscape. The sun ruled supreme in the desert. Nothing could grow. I was a pool of sweat and was beginning to dehydrate. "The sooner we arrive at this wondrous waterhole, the better" I muttered to myself.

### Notes for student

- Brilliant description of the heat - well done Oscar.
- You have used lots of good adjectives here and have gone into detail describing how your character feels. Great work.
- Good use of a metaphor and simile in this paragraph.
- Again, remember to start a new line for speech.
- I think you mean 'barren' not 'baron' and I have highlighted this in bold above.
  - 'Barren' means 'too poor to produce much or any vegetation' while 'baron' means 'a member of the lowest order of the British nobility'. These words are **homophones**.

My pace began to slow to a crawl as the walk dragged on and on. My mother noticed and encouraged me onwards, "Not much further now." Just as I began to feel as if I couldn't move another step... I saw it! A valley of luscious green appeared on the horizon. Crowds of animals of all different shapes, sizes and species were heading in the same direction as us. We had found the waterhole at last!

### Notes for student

- Great repetition of "and on" to emphasise the distance of the walk.

- Brilliant use of listing and alliteration - "shapes, sizes and species".
- This is a great plot for your story and you have described it well!  
Great work! To improve, you could have used more writer's tricks in this paragraph.

It was even more beautiful than I had ever imagined. It was wonderful to feel green grass beneath my feet and see flowers of such vibrant colours - it was a place of botanical beauty. I felt excitement bubbling up inside me like electricity as I ran fast as a cheetah down to the vast lake of refreshing, cool water. SPLASH! I waded deep into the water and allowed the ripples to wash over me. I was no longer covered in sand. Around me were giraffes with long, thin speckled necks and zebras with their monochrome stripes. Antelopes with horns as sharp as spears grunted and bleated to each other. Then I spotted other elephants, like me, even calves. They saw me too and splashed their way over. "This is your family," my mother said. "We will be living with them now."

### Notes for student

- Good use of different, smaller alliterations to give your description a poetic rhythm.
- To improve, you could have described the 'vibrant colours' you could see. This would have created a great contrast with the desert in the last paragraph where everything was brown.
- Well done for using onomatopoeia Oscar! It helps bring your story to life.
- You've included a double simile! Great work!

That day, I made new friends and many happy memories. Only when it was dark did we move on with our new herd. As the outline of this glorious place faded behind me, I realised why elephants never forget.

### Notes for student



- This is a brilliant, conclusive ending Oscar! You have combined a famous saying with your story's final line to create an amazing ending. You should be proud of yourself.
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### **Progress Plan**

- Overall, this is a great story Oscar! You should be proud of yourself. This is a heart-warming, original story.
  - You have done a great job of describing your plot and your character's feelings To improve, remember the five senses: what can you see, hear, smell, taste and feel? This will help you deepen your description.
  - As an extension task, write down the words "barren" and "baron" on post-it notes with definitions and make sure you know the difference for next time.
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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 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.**