

The Explorer's Journal: A Narrative Writing Scaffold

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and varied sentence structures to craft an immersive adventure story.

Follow this structure to build your own creative adventure. Think about how your character interacts with their environment and use the vocabulary bank to add detail and atmosphere to your writing.

As the golden sun began to dip behind the jagged mountain peaks, Leo the lion gripped his worn map tightly, sensing that a grand discovery was mere moments away.

Word bank: meanwhile · unexpectedly · shimmering · treacherous · cautiously · as quick as a flash · beyond the horizon · mysterious · trembling · magnificent

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the environment your character has arrived in. Where are they, and what can they see, hear, or smell? Start with a fronted adverbial, for example: 'Deep within the ancient forest...' (3 marks)

2. The Character's Goal: Explain why your character is here. What object or mystery are they searching for? Justify why this discovery is so important to them. (3 marks)

3. The Rising Action: Describe an unexpected obstacle that blocks their path. What might happen if they fail to overcome this challenge? (3 marks)

4. The Turning Point: Compare how your character felt at the start of their journey to how they feel now. What has changed in their perspective? (3 marks)

5. The Resolution: Bring your story to a close. How does the adventure end, and what lesson has your character learned? (3 marks)

6. Vocabulary Challenge: Select three words from the word bank and weave them into a new paragraph that describes a sudden change in the weather. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine your character finds a hidden, ancient diary buried in the sand. Write a short journal entry from the perspective of the person who hid the diary 100 years ago. Explain why they felt it was necessary to keep their discovery a secret.