

Plot Sequence & Narrative Techniques

Topic

You entered the 'Stories of Survival' short story competition. The theme of this year's competition is 'Nature: friend or enemy?'

Write a story about a hiker who gets caught in a storm while hiking in the mountains.

Writing topic taken from Paper 2 of the 2022 HKDSE English Language Examination ©HKEAA

This is not simply a survival story. The theme "Nature: friend or enemy?" should also be addressed.

Start your story using one of the following strategies.

Character Description

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Setting Description

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Peak Moment

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Dialogue

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Flashback

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Story Idea Words

Describing the Setting

- spectacular/breathtaking view
- slippery rocks/mossy stones
- rough/rugged steep slopes
- a narrow sandy ridge with sharp drop-offs
- full of dead-ends
- prone to flash floods and dangerous rock falls
- the sky was blackened with thick clouds
- rain poured
- thunders cracked/crashed/boomed/rumbled
- gales howled/whipped bitterly
- lightning struck/flushed/flickered across the sky

Describing the Feelings

- in a panic
- uttered with fear/fright
- yelled/shouted/cried at the top of my voice
- panted breathlessly
- a sense of unease overtook us
- my heart missed/skipped a beat
- got cold feet
- regretted (doing something)

Describing the Ordeal

- took shelter under the trees
- crouched down
- was drenched/soaked to the skin
- tripped over (something)
- my optimism was waning
- fainted/became semi-conscious
- rescuers coming from a helicopter
- a narrow escape/a close shave

What are the key events of your story?

2 Conflict

- What is the main problem in the story?

1 Exposition

- Who is/are the character(s)?
- What is the setting of the story?

4 Climax

- What is the most exciting part of the story?
- What is the moment of change?

5 Falling Action & 6 Resolution

- How did the story end?
- What did the character(s) learn from this incident?

3 Rising Action

- How did the character(s) cope with the main problem?
- What further complicated the situation?