

# Adventure stories



Achieved?



## Story structure




This could be quite simple, like this:

<b>1</b>	Beginning	<b>Rob, Jamie, Parminder – day off school because of snow.</b>
<b>2</b>	Build-up	<b>Go to build camp in woods.</b>
<b>3</b>	Problem	<b>Get chased off by farmer. Hear cry for help – find farmer trapped by fallen tree.</b>
<b>4</b>	Resolution	<b>Rescue farmer who lets them play in woods whenever they like.</b>
<b>5</b>	Ending	<b>Tea and buns in farmhouse.</b>

For Level 5, it could be better to use a rather more complicated structure, where you start in the middle of the action. A plan might look like this:

<b>1</b>	Problem	<b>Sally and little brother Simon stuck on cliff with tide coming in.</b>
<b>2</b>	Beginning	<b>End of family holiday – last day.</b>
<b>3</b>	Build-up	<b>Sally and Simon wanting to go and have last look for dolphins off the beach.</b>
<b>4</b>	Return to problem	<b>Tide came in as they watched dolphins – trapped.</b>
<b>5</b>	Resolution	<b>Parents come round in boat and rescue them.</b>
<b>6</b>	Ending	<b>Dolphin leads parents to children.</b>

This gives you a real chance to show how well you can handle the different parts of a story.

### Characters and setting

It's best to keep the characters simple and like people you know. Remember, you don't usually need more than three people in this kind of story!

Keep the setting simple, too. You're most likely to be able to write well and quickly about the sort of places you know.

### Other tips

- ★ To create an atmosphere of tension in your story, it's a good idea to use words and phrases that make your reader feel cold, e.g. *She froze in her tracks.*
- ★ It's also a good trick to use questions, e.g. *What was that? Why did it suddenly feel so cold?*
- ★ At Level 5, you must try to use different kinds of sentence in your writing. Short simple sentences add emphasis, while complex sentences give your reader lots of information quickly.

An adventure story might look like this:

## Noises in the Night

Toby was petrified. He lay awake in the tent, listening to every rustle in the night. He knew he should never have agreed to this, but Josh had been so keen on the idea. It had all started when Uncle Fred had been clearing out his garage and had found his and dad's old tents.

'Fancy camping again, Jim?' he'd joked with Toby and Josh's dad. 'Not on your life!' Dad said. 'I'm too old for that lark nowadays. We used to have fun though, didn't we, pretending to be explorers. Hey, boys – would you like to have the tents? You could camp in the garden tonight.'

'Cool!' yelled Josh, before Toby could say anything. 'OK,' he agreed, hoping he didn't look as unenthusiastic as he felt. It was always the way. Josh was younger, but he always seemed to rush into things, and Dad teased Toby about his little brother being braver than him. So Toby often found himself saying yes to things he would prefer to have thought about first.

Now here he was, wrapped in a sleeping bag, lying wide awake in the middle of the night in the dark garden, and longing to be inside in his cosy bed. There was no light, not even the moon, and every little noise sounded frightening and unfriendly. He told himself that there couldn't possibly be anything worse than a hedgehog in the garden, and they weren't fierce, but – what was that? If that was a hedgehog, it was a giant one, and it was coming straight for Toby's tent! He screwed up his eyes and buried himself deep in his sleeping bag, barely daring to breathe as whatever it was came nearer and nearer.

'Toby,' said a little voice, 'can I come into your tent? I'm scared on my own!' Almost laughing with relief, Toby unzipped his tent to let in a very small and scared-looking Josh, wrapped in his sleeping bag.

'Come on, then,' he said. 'I'll look after you.' And they curled up and went to sleep. Before they knew it, it was morning, and Dad was bringing out bacon sandwiches. 'Well, Josh,' he said, 'were you scared?' 'Oh, no,' said Josh, 'I'm never scared when Toby's there. He's my big brother!' Toby took a huge mouthful of bacon sandwich. He felt great.



- Short sentence to start gives emphasis
- Setting established
- Starting with problem, getting right into the action
- Returning to beginning
- Dialogue used to move action on and establish character
- Build up – more about character of boys
- Return to problem
- Resolution
- Ending – Toby feels happy because Josh calls him brave

## Challenge

Plan three adventure stories using these titles and ideas. Don't try and write the whole story at the moment, just get used to planning in under 10 minutes. Time yourself! Remember, keep it simple!

**Around the corner** You've just moved into a new house. As the previous owner drove away, he shouted something that sounded like, 'Don't go around the corner!' What happened?

**Aunt Emma's visit** Mum has had to go and look after gran and Aunt Emma is coming to look after Gina and her little sister Rosie. Gina wants everything to go really well so that her mum won't be worried. Rosie goes missing just as Aunt Emma is due.

**Mum's new sari** Dad has bought a beautiful new sari for mum as a birthday present. Devinder offers to pick it up on his way home from school, but then something happens ...

Now choose one of your plans and write the story – remember, stick to the plan and time yourself. You have 35 minutes.