

Paragraph Unit

Lesson 1 Paragraph Structure

Paragraphs

- ! consist of one or more sentences about a single thought.
- ! usually have more than one sentence.
- ! never have more than one idea. (Sentences must be related to the main idea.)



Example Paragraph

Yellow-spotted lizards are a deadly threat to all humans at Camp Green Lake. They invaded the area after the life-giving lake dried up. Their bite is always fatal. It was a yellow-spotted lizard that killed Kate Barlow. The yellow-spotted lizards threatened Stanley and Zero while they were digging for Stanley's great-grandfather's suitcase. The reason Stanley and Zero survived is because they had eaten so many onions that the lizards, who do not like onion blood, did not wish to bite them. With this one exception, meeting a yellow-spotted lizard at Camp Green Lake meant certain death.

Structure of a Paragraph

Part of a Paragraph	Reason	Example
Topic Sentence	To generate interest States the main idea	Yellow-spotted lizards are a deadly threat to all humans at Camp Green Lake.
Details First Point and Support	Introduces Main Point #1 and gives information or examples	They invaded the area after the life-giving lake dried up. Their bite is always fatal.
Details Second Point and Support	Introduces Main Point #2 and gives information or examples	It was a yellow-spotted lizard that killed Kate Barlow.
Details Third Point and Support	Introduces Main Point #3 and gives information or examples	The yellow-spotted lizards threatened Stanley and Zero while they were digging for Stanley's great-grandfather's suitcase. The reason Stanley and Zero survived is because they had eaten so many onions that the lizards, who do not like onion blood, did not wish to bite them.
Conclusion	Restates the topic sentence Often leaves the reader with something to think about.	With this one exception, meeting a yellow-spotted lizard at Camp Green Lake meant certain death.

Questions

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?
2. What is the concluding sentence?
3. What do you notice about the first line of the paragraph?
4. Do all the sentences in the paragraph support the main idea?
5. What is the first main point? second main point? third main point?

Activity 1

Decide which group of sentences would make good paragraphs. Write yes or no before each paragraph to show your answer.

1. _____



Stanley Yelnats and his family have a history of bad luck. The first Stanley's great grandfather made a fortune on the stock market. The family's bad luck struck him when he moved from New York to California and was robbed by Kissin' Kate Barlow. Stanley's father is an inventor. He works very hard and is smart, however, none of his inventions ever work. Stanley is accused of a crime he didn't commit and is sent to Camp Green Lake as punishment. It seems none of the Yelnats can escape the family curse.

2. _____

Camp Green Lake dried up and the people who lived near it moved away over a hundred years ago. Now the lake is desert-like with temperatures around ninety-five degrees. Deserts cover one-fifth of the Earth's surface. The only place to find shade is between two trees in the Warden's yard. Rattlesnakes and scorpions hide under rocks and in the holes the campers dig. Deserts do not have many large animals because there is not enough water for them to survive.

3. _____

Stanley's father was an inventor. He was trying to discover a way sneakers. Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus invented an apparatus for applying sides of the soles and heels of shoes. George de Mestral invented Velcro he had noticed that burrs stuck to his clothing. He used this idea to create of nylon with loops, and another with hooks.



4. _____

Louis Sachar gave many of the characters in *Holes* nicknames to represent one side of their personality, while their given name represents someone entirely different. Kissin' Kate Barlow is the tough outlaw, while Miss Katherine is the mild schoolteacher. Stanley is the easy going boy who is picked on, while Caveman suggests a strong boy who is not easily frightened. Zero suggests a character who is worthless, while Hector refers to someone who is smart and has a sense of standing up for himself. Can you analyze these characters: X-Ray - Rex, Squid - Alan, Magnet - José, Armpit - Theodore, and Zigzag - Rick?

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### Sources of Information:

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Desert Biome <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/deserts.html>

Inventors and Inventions <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/>

There are four main types of paragraphs: descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive.



descriptive

tells what the subject looks, sounds, feels, tastes, and/or smells like



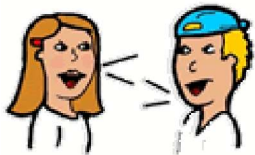
narrative

tells about something that happened



expository

gives steps, explains a subject, or shows how to do something



persuasive

proves your belief or feeling about something