

Paragraph Unit

Lesson 7 Staying on Topic
Tennessee Standard - 6th Grade
Assessed - Identify sentences irrelevant to a paragraph's theme or flow.

Directions:

Cross out one or two sentences in each paragraph below that does not stay on the topic.



In *Holes* three stories from different times in history are combined. As we read we learn of all three stories while Stanley and Zero only know the small bits and pieces that have been passed down to them. Both boys are surprised that they know the same song, yet they do not know the song was passed down from their ancestors living in the same town in Latvia. Latvia is a small country in eastern Europe. Stanley is able to make a survival plan because of the information he knows about God's thumb. The boys could have been aided further if they had known Kate and Sam's story.



The past and the present come together in an interesting way in *Holes*. When Stanley and Zero reach God's thumb the reader recognizes that this is Sam's onion patch where Sam claimed water ran uphill. It is at this point in the story that we realize a parallel between Stanley and Zero's lives and that of Elya Yelnats and Madame Zeroni. Elya promised to carry Madame Zeroni up a mountain to a place where a stream ran uphill and sing to her about the wolf and the woodpecker. Stanley, unlike his great-great grandfather, does just that with Zero. Stanley takes care of Zero and sings to him. The song tells about a wolf who is hungry and lonely howling at the moon. By doing this Stanley shows great commitment and determination.



Louis Sachar establishes links between the past and the present. Kate turns violent when the people of Green Lake kill Sam. When Mr. Pendanski repeated taunts Zero he becomes violent. Camp Green Lake is dry, hard, and hot. It is a physically unpleasant place to be and the people who live there lead unpleasant lives. After learning that Sam uses onions to heal Becca Tennyson, we find that Stanley is also using onions to heal Zero. We know the yellow spotted lizard killed Kate Barlow. Will lizards also be the end of Stanley or Zero?

Practice

Using the outline you created in Lesson 2, and the topic sentences written in Lesson 4 continue writing your paragraphs by adding detail sentences. Use the graphic organizer provided.

Graphic Organizer

The Topic Sentence

An interesting subject _____

Your feeling about it. _____

Interest + feeling = topic sentence

The Body (Use detail spaces as needed.)

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

Detail

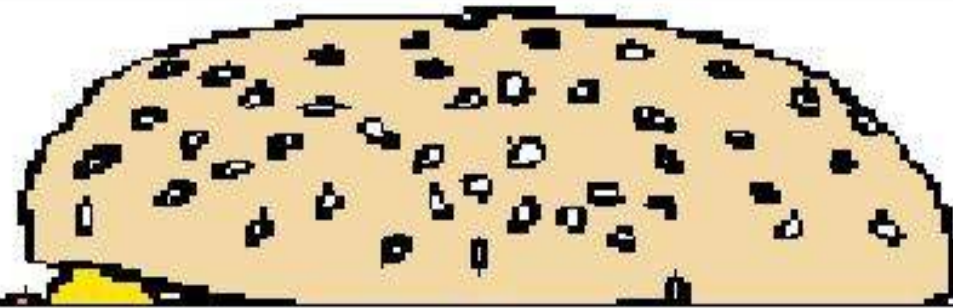
Detail

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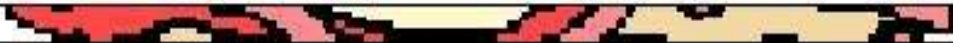
The Closing Sentence

Graphic Organizer - Hamburger Model

Topic Sentence



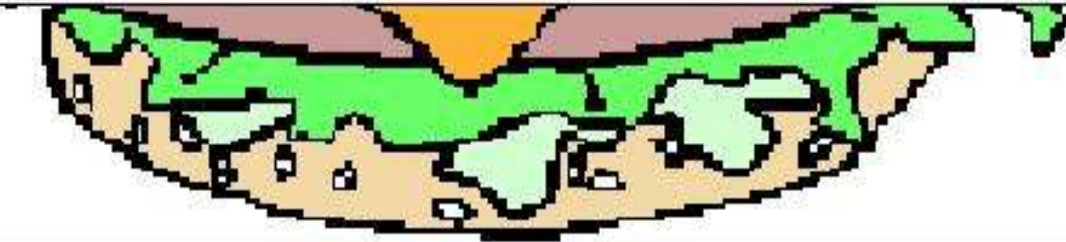
Detail



Detail



Detail



Conclusion