

The Mystery Bookcase



TASK

Using the picture above for the setting, I would like you to write a **story** about a mysterious bookcase. Read the story I have written below for ideas about what might happen in your story.

Look closely at the example I have written (WAGOLL), the success criteria and the relevant assessment grid.

It is important to plan and draft your story carefully before producing your final piece. Once you have written your story, I would like you to edit your work. Think about how you could improve the vocabulary, punctuation and spellings.

I look forward to reading your stories!

Success Criteria

My story has an interesting title.	
I have described the setting and atmosphere using descriptive language.	
I have introduced my character or characters and told the reader about them.	
I have explained what is happening at the beginning of the story.	
My story has a believable but interesting problem.	
My character/s solve the problem in a believable way.	
I have shown the feelings of my character/characters as they deal with the problem.	
I have finished writing effectively to complete the story.	
I have written in paragraphs and each paragraph contains a new idea or event.	
I have used interesting language throughout the story to paint a clear picture for the reader.	
I have used time connectives to help guide the reader through the story.	
I have used different types of sentences to make my writing entertaining.	
I have used speech carefully with correct punctuation.	

The Mystery Bookcase

A fire crackled in the open fireplace, making the modest living room a snug retreat from rain outside. Across the room sat two men. One of the men, who had short auburn hair, was whispering quietly to the other. As Kitty sat in the corner of the room, she tried desperately to remember where she had seen him before.

Slowly, she walked across the room, through the old, wooden door frame, into the kitchen. She strolled across the room to the banquet table where she helped herself to a piece of chocolate gateaux and filled her glass with lemonade. Carefully, she juggled the glass and plate through the crowd, back towards the study where she would ask the man why he was so familiar.

On entering the room, Kitty noticed that the two men had disappeared. 'That's strange,' she thought to herself, 'I didn't see them in the kitchen.' Confused, she sat back down in the old, leather armchair and began to tuck into the slice of cake.

As she raised the fork to her mouth, she noticed that there was a faint indigo glow surrounding the mammoth bookcase. "I must be seeing things," she muttered to herself quietly, blinking hard to clear her mind. Slowly, she opened them. The light was still there.

Kitty put down her plate and stood up. Cautiously, she walked towards the bookcase. It was ajar. The misty haze was coming from inside the bookcase. Kitty reached out her hand and touched the antique pine. It was freezing cold. She edged nearer and nearer. She couldn't see beyond the bright lights. "Hello," she whispered. No-one answered. Every nerve in her body warned her not to go any further. Closer and closer she moved.

Her body froze. She tried to call for help. She couldn't. Her lips wouldn't move. She started to panic. Where was she going? What if nobody noticed she had gone? She closed her eyes. Tears started to roll down her cheeks.

Her throat was dry, her tongue thick and heavy in her mouth. She opened her eyes and couldn't believe what she was seeing.

The magnificent trees stood tall and proud, while a blanket of snowdrops danced towards the glittering ground. Kitty shivered. As she steadied her gaze towards the majestic trees in front of her, she noticed that icicles, which were hanging from every branch, glistened like liquid diamonds. Patches of misty light shone through the gaps in the trees with a trail of fresh footprints heading towards the clearing. She felt uneasy. The hairs on the back of her neck prickled with dread. She took a deep breath and followed the footprints.

Sentence Openers

Time	Order	Where	To add information	Comparisons
One day	At first	In the middle of the...	Again	However
One morning	First	Under the bridge...	Also	Yet
One evening	Second	Over the bridge...	Another	Despite
After that	Third	In the distance...	Along with...	Still
After a while	Then	Far away...	For example...	Unlike
Before long	Last	In a far off land...	As well as	Even though
Afterwards	Finally	Inside of...		Although
As soon as	Next	At the end of...		Rather than
At last		On top of the...		
A moment later		Next to the...		
In the meantime		Nearby...		
Later on		Opposite the...		
Meanwhile				
Soon				
During				
Now				



Using Higher Level Vocabulary: **Fiction Writing**

To Describe Settings

attractive
awe-inspiring
beautiful
breathtaking
glorious
magnificent
spectacular

grand
impressive
majestic
regal
splendid
stately
lavish

bustling
busy
crowded
hectic
lively
swarming
teeming

disgusting
hideous
horrible
ugly
unappealing
unattractive
unsightly

creepy
eerie
frightening
scary
sinister
spine-chilling
unnerving

calm
noiseless
peaceful
quiet
silent
still
tranquil

Using Higher Level Vocabulary: **Fiction Writing**

To Describe Feelings

delighted
ecstatic
elated
euphoric
happy
overjoyed
thrilled

angry
annoyed
fuming
furious
incensed
livid
outraged

anxious
apprehensive
jittery
nervous
tense
uneasy
worried

crestfallen
dejected
depressed
despondent
heartbroken
miserable
sad

afraid
frightened
panic-stricken
petrified
scared witless
terrified
terror-stricken

certain
confident
convinced
in no doubt
optimistic
positive
sanguine

Using Higher Level Vocabulary: **Fiction Writing**
To Describe Characters

amiable
charming
delightful
good natured
likable
nice
pleasant

attractive
beautiful
exquisite
gorgeous
handsome
stunning
winsome

audacious
bold
brave
courageous
fearless
plucky
valiant

disagreeable
horrible
insufferable
loathsome
nasty
obnoxious
unpleasant

grotesque
hideous
repugnant
repulsive
revolting
ugly
vile

almighty
big
enormous
gargantuan
gigantic
humongous
massive