

# AQA English Language Paper 1 Section B: Narrative Writing

Section B of Paper 1 is the creative writing section.

You **choose** ONE question from a choice of two.

There is usually a choice between **narrative writing (story)** and **descriptive writing**.

In this unit we will focus on **narrative writing**.

You have been asked to write the **opening** to a story about a **human meeting an animal**.

**Plan out an idea for a narrative about this.**  
**If you're not sure, plan a narrative about someone getting a new pet.**

**Bonus Challenge: Plan a clear beginning, middle and end to your narrative.**



# Learning outcomes

To describe ways of opening stories

To analyse how one writer begins their story

To evaluate the impact of our own story beginnings

# These are the types of questions you will see in the exam

Here are the kinds of questions you'll get:

- 1) Write a description of... using your imagination. You may choose to use the picture provided for ideas.
- 2) the picture provided for ideas.
- 3) Write a story about...
- 4) Write a story that begins with the sentence...
- 5) Write the opening to a story about...
- 6) Describe... using your imagination.
- 7) Write a story about... using your imagination. You may choose to use the picture provided for ideas.
- 8) the picture provided for ideas.

The questions highlighted are the types we will be focusing on in this unit.

The exam task will usually include a central idea or theme for you to work around, but it still gives you lots of flexibility in terms of what you could write about...

# A human meeting an animal is a brilliant idea to work with!

Saving a rare or endangered animal from deforestation/loggers.

Rescuing a hurt or baby animal

Meeting a new pet for the first time

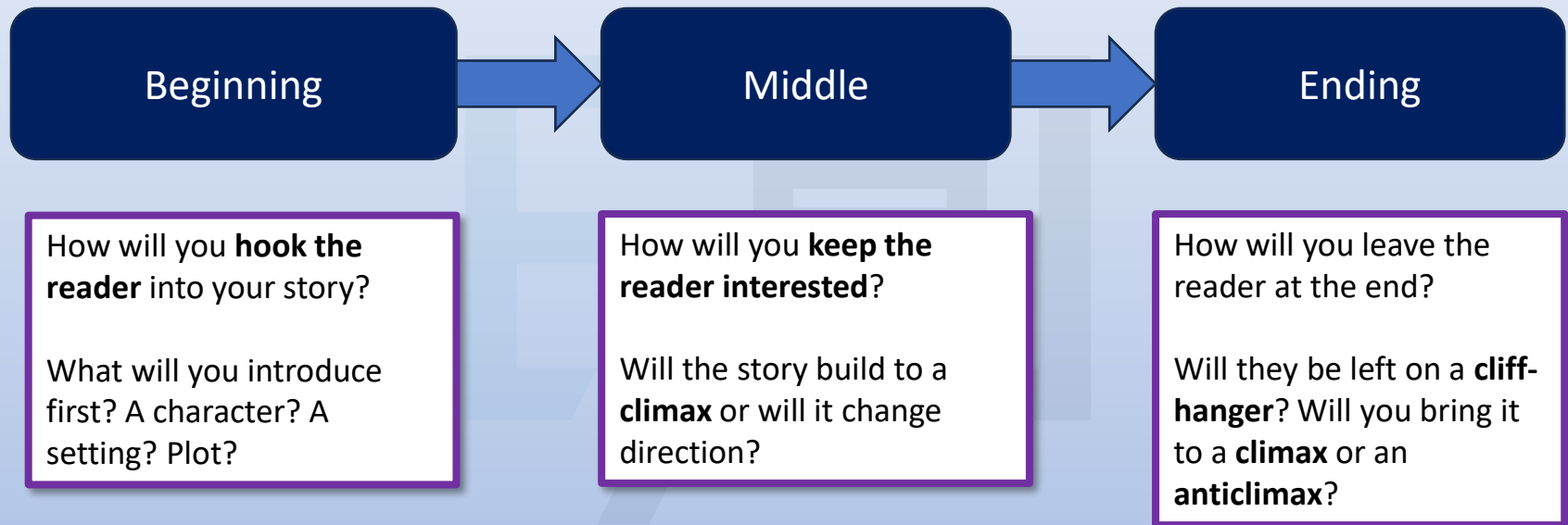
Escaping from a dangerous animal

A story about a war horse, pigeon, etc.

A story about butterfly spotting

You can choose any 'a human meeting an animal story' you want! Like Sci-Fi? Write a Sci-Fi story. Like romance stories? Write about someone meeting a new partner who loves animals!

# Your narrative needs to have a clear structure



**Plan out a clear beginning, middle and end for your story.**

**Bonus Challenge: How will you hook the reader into your story? How will you ensure you keep the reader engaged for the entire story?**

# Let's look at two potential beginnings to a story

Student 1

I was really lonely, so I decided to get a dog to make my life more fun.

Student 2

It felt like there was something missing. Life was great for me: a decent flat, a job that I enjoyed, I was living in a town full of friendly folk and with my family nearby. I should have been happy, but I'd had this nagging feeling at the back of my mind for a while now. Ultimately, the flat was wonderful but often too quiet.

**What are the differences between the two beginnings?**

How do the two beginnings make you feel? Why?

**Why is 'show not tell' so important when planning stories?**

### Student 1

I was really lonely, so I decided to get a dog to make my life more fun.

This student has chosen to **tell** us what happens straight away. We know they get a dog to help them with their loneliness.

However, one of the most exciting parts of the story has already been revealed.

Great story writers will build up to important plot events. They will **show not tell**.

### Student 2

It felt like there was something missing. Life was great for me: a decent flat, a job that I enjoyed, I was living in a town full of friendly folk and with my family nearby. I should have been happy, but I'd had this nagging feeling at the back of my mind for a while now. Ultimately, the flat was wonderful but often too quiet.

This student hasn't even mentioned about getting a dog, but instead focuses on **character development**.

We learn lots about how the character feels, and they **show us** why the character is not happy.

They are pacing their story well before they go on to introduce the new dog.

**A puzzle!** Hook your reader in with something that isn't clear at the beginning, perhaps something unusual has happened?



**Direct address.** Talk directly to your readers as a way of engaging them.



**Visual hook.** Use a powerful image or description to engage the reader at the start.



**Amusing hook.** Use a joke to establish a comedic tone at the beginning of your text.



**Dialogue.** Have characters talking to each other right from the beginning to establish characters and relationships.



**Subtle hook.** Hint at what is going to happen in the rest of the text/chapter.

**Atmospheric hook.** Use your descriptive language to build up a particular tone and atmosphere right at the very beginning.



**Mid-action:** Start a narrative right in the middle of action and hook the reader in straight away. No need for long-winded introductions or descriptions.



**Subtle hook.** Hint at what is going to happen in the rest of the text/chapter.



It felt like there was something missing.

Write out the opening sentence of your story using a **subtle hook**.

**Bonus Challenge:** Write a different opening using one of the other hooks. Which one works better for your story? Why?





# Switch opening sentences with another student

It felt like there was something missing.

**Use your success criteria table to assess the effectiveness of their opening sentence.**

**Explain why their opening sentence was effective.**

Success criteria	
Did they use <b>show not tell</b> ?	
Does it use a <b>subtle hook</b> ?	
Why did this opening hook you into the story?	I know the character doesn't feel right or happy, but I don't know why.



Success criteria	
Did they use <b>show not tell</b> ?	
Does it use a <b>subtle hook</b> ?	
Why did this opening hook you into the story?	

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# Every story is a journey, and you need to plan your destination

Beginning



It felt like there was something missing.

Ending



Smiling at Lethe, we drove off, both on our way to our new lives.

Next lesson we will focus on our endings and planning out our middles

Beginning



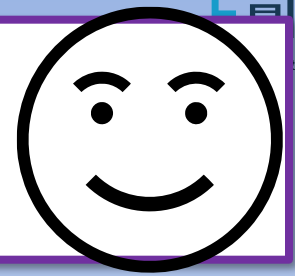
It felt like there was something missing.

Ending



Smiling at Lethe, we drove off, both on our way to our new lives.

# Plenary: Feelings



PRACTICE

How you felt about the **learning outcomes** at the start of the lesson:

How you feel at the end of the lesson:

What you want to feel like next lesson:

To describe ways of opening stories

To analyse how one writer begins their story

To evaluate the impact of our own story beginnings