

Paragraphs in Fiction

Maya gasped and wheezed as she struggled to twist her body through the narrow opening of the vent. For one stomach churning moment, she thought she was going to be wedged there forever. She had carefully planned every part of this escape but that did not mean it was all going to go smoothly.

Just outside the force shield, hidden safely from the heat scanners, Kona floated on her hoverbike. She glanced at the timer in her helmet. The display informed her that Maya had just over one minute left.

“She’s trapped... she’s been recaptured... she got her timings wrong for the laser gates...” As the timer ticked steadily on, thoughts buzzed through Kona’s brain like lights flickering in a dark hallway. So many things could have gone wrong. 5... 4... 3...

Suddenly, from within the confines of the force shield, the main gate exploded. Lit by the ferocious fireball, a triumphant Maya appeared like a phoenix emerging from the flames. She was looking particularly pleased with herself this time.

1. True or false? Paragraph one focuses on a character.

2. Has paragraph four started because of a change of time, location or character?

3. Find and copy the phrase in paragraph two which shows you the focus has changed to a new location.

4. The author adds the sentence below to the end of the story:

Her mission was complete and she was thrilled to be heading to the rendezvous point with Kona.

Where should the sentence go? Circle the correct option.

A. start a new paragraph

B. join the final paragraph

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The surface of the water was a rolling expanse of froth, concealing the world that lay underneath. Miniscule fish, dressed more exquisitely than royalty, dived and darted between towers of bright coral. Sunlight cut through the water like a knife and glinted off fish scales and the occasional metallic object that lay half-buried on the sea bed.

Frankie was at home here. Beneath the surface, deep in the heart of the reef, his busy mind could rest. It was easy to forget about the bills that needed paying and the failed friendships that he had left behind when he was surrounded by such overwhelming beauty. Down here, he could simply forget about the world above.

Frankie had completed almost two hundred dives, guiding customers to choice spots around the island and allowing them to take in the sights. Despite all of those dives, he had yet to glimpse a manta ray. As a child, he had read obsessively about these immense, oddly shaped giants of the oceans, yet he had never been fortunate enough to see one swimming in its natural habitat.

5. Add a sentence opener to the first sentence of paragraph three so that it marks a change in time.

6. The author adds the following sentence to the end of paragraph one: Sand was disturbed by crabs, in search of their lunch, scuttling sideways across the sea floor.

They do not start a new paragraph. Is their choice correct? Why?

7. Add one sentence to the end of the final paragraph, making sure the focus stays the same.

Write the first sentence of the next paragraph to show a change in location.