

Varied Fluency

Step 2: What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 3: Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support the understanding of a paragraph as a group of related sentences. Paragraphs to include mostly short, simple sentences. Two multiple choice options where relevant.

Expected Questions to support the understanding of a paragraph as a group of related sentences. Paragraphs to include a range of conjunctions to extend sentences and text. Three multiple choice options where relevant.

Greater Depth Questions to support the understanding of a paragraph as a group of related sentences. Paragraphs to include more complex and descriptive vocabulary including adverbs and a broader range of adjectives and conjunctions. No multiple choice options where relevant.

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What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

Everyone was quiet. The sound of a pirate drum came through the caves. It got louder with every hit. They were getting closer.

“Will they find us again?” Rosie asked. “How do they know we’re here?”

They heard a loud bark. It was Bonnie the dog! The pirates had found her. They had used her to find the group!

Rosie was shocked. She turned to run towards the sound. Caleb grabbed her arm to stop her.

“Everyone into the water!” said Caleb. “Bonnie can’t follow us if we swim away. We’ll save her later. We have to get away now!”

Rosie stopped and cried. Kwisera stared into the darkness. Caleb was scared but he got everyone to jump into the water.

“Swim!”

1a. Write down the first word of paragraph three.



VF

2a. True or false? A new paragraph would still be needed if the word “Swim!” was changed to “Go!”.



VF

3a. Does paragraph one focus on the children swimming away?



VF

4a. Why did the last paragraph have to be started?

to introduce
Bonnie the dog

to introduce a
new speaker



VF

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

I waited in the car park. I was shaking in the rain. He had told me to meet him there. That was all I knew.

A car came in. It stopped twenty metres away.

I pulled my hat down. The rain was bad. It went down my neck and my back.

A red van pulled into the car park. It stopped next to me and the front window rolled down. It was him.

“Get in, now,” he said. “They are here too.”

“They?” I asked. “Who?”

The van turned around and drove away. The car started chasing us!

“Welcome to the Unit,” my driver said. “Ready to save the world?”

1b. Write down the first word of paragraph three.



VF

2b. True or false? A new paragraph would still be needed if the word “They?” was changed to “What?”.



VF

3b. Does paragraph four focus on the black car?



VF

4b. Why did the second paragraph have to be started?

to introduce a new event or action

to introduce a new speaker



VF

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

Everybody fell silent. The sound of a pirate drum boomed through the caves. It got louder and louder with every beat. They were getting too close.

“Will...will they find us again?” Rosie squeaked. “How do they know where we are?”

All of a sudden, they heard a loud bark. It was Bonnie! The pirates had found her and had used her to find the group!

Rosie gasped and turned to run in the direction of the bark but Caleb grabbed her arm before it was too late.

“Everyone into the water!” whispered Caleb. “Bonnie will lose our smell if we swim deeper into the caves. We’ll find a way to save her later, but we have to leave right now!”

Rosie turned back and started to cry. Kwisera was staring back into the darkness. Caleb was scared, but he got the others to jump into the water.

“Swim!”

5a. Write down the first word of each paragraph.



VF

6a. True or false? A new paragraph would still be needed if the sentence ‘Rosie turned back and started to cry’ was changed to Caleb saying, “It’s our only chance!”



VF

7a. Which paragraph introduces Bonnie?



VF

8a. Why did the fifth paragraph have to be started?

to introduce a new character

to introduce a new point in time

to introduce a new speaker



VF

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

I waited on the corner of the car park, shaking in the rain. He had told me to meet him there but that was all I knew.

A black car turned off the road and parked twenty metres away.

I pulled my hat tightly down onto my head. The rain was awful. It ran down my neck and under my shirt.

An old, red van swung into the car park. It stopped next to me and the front window rolled down slowly. It was him.

“I need you to get in, now.” He was calm, but firm. “It seems that they got to you before I did.”

“They?” I frowned as I got into the van. “Who are ‘they’?”

The stranger spun our van around and sped away. The black car suddenly screeched after us!

“Welcome to the Unit, kid,” my driver grinned. “Ready to save the world?”

5b. Write down the first word of each paragraph.



VF

6b. True or false? A new paragraph would still be needed if the sentence ‘An old, red van swung into the car park’ was changed to ‘Finally, I saw him.’



VF

7b. Which paragraph introduces the first spoken words?



VF

8b. Why did the third paragraph have to be started?

to introduce a new character

to introduce a new speaker

to introduce a new event or action



VF

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

Everybody fell silent instantly. The heavy beat of a pirate drum echoed noisily through the caves. It became louder and louder with every booming strike. Their enemies were approaching.

“Will...will they catch us again?” Rosie squeaked nervously. “How have they discovered where we are?”

A sudden, pained yelp answered her question. It was Bonnie! The pirates had caught her and used her sense of smell to track down the group.

Rosie gasped in horror and spun around ready to sprint towards the noise but Caleb gripped her arm and held her back before she could take a single step.

“Everyone into the water!” hissed Caleb urgently. “Bonnie will lose our scent if we swim deeper into this maze of caves! We’ll come up with some way of rescuing her when we can, but now we need to escape.”

Rosie froze then began sobbing quietly. Kwisera kept staring back into the darkness, listening to the endless beating of the drum. Caleb was terrified, however, he managed to persuade the others to jump into the water.

“Swim!”

9a. Write down the first word of each paragraph which contains a new character.



VF

10a. True or false? A new paragraph would still be needed if the opening sentence of paragraph three was changed to Caleb saying “I have no idea!”



VF

11a. Which paragraph introduces the escape plan?



VF

12a. Why did the fourth paragraph have to be started?



VF

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

I waited in the corner of the car park, shivering in the freezing rain. He had told me that he would meet me there, but that was the only thing I knew.

A sleek, black car turned off the road and came to a halt twenty metres away. It lingered for a moment before its engine cut out.

I tugged my hat tightly down onto my head. The rain pounded on, seeping down my neck and under my shirt.

A battered, red van swung violently into the car park. It stopped alongside me and the darkened front window rolled down slowly. It was him.

“I need you to get in, now.” He spoke calmly, but firmly. “It appears they reached you before I did.”

“They?” I frowned as I climbed into the vehicle. “Who are ‘they’?”

The stranger spun our van around and raced away without answering. The engine of the mysterious black car suddenly ignited and they hurled after us!

“Welcome to the Unit, kid,” my driver grinned. “Ready to save the world?”

9b. Write down the first word of each paragraph which includes a vehicle.



VF

10b. True or false? A new paragraph would still be needed if the opening sentence of paragraph seven was changed to “Am I in danger?”



VF

11b. Which paragraph introduces the car chase?



VF

12b. Why did the sixth paragraph have to be started?



VF

Varied Fluency

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

Developing

- 1a. **They**
- 2a. **True**
- 3a. **No, paragraph one sets the scene and focuses on the pirates getting closer to the children.**
- 4a. **To introduce a new speaker.**

Expected

- 5a. **Everybody, Will, All, Rosie, Everyone, Rosie, Swim**
- 6a. **False, the sentence would continue in the previous paragraph as part of Caleb's speech.**
- 7a. **Paragraph three**
- 8a. **To introduce a new speaker.**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **Everybody, Will, A, Rosie, Rosie**
- 10a. **True**
- 11a. **Paragraph five**
- 12a. **To introduce a new action.**

Varied Fluency

What is a Paragraph? – Fiction

Developing

- 1b. **I**
- 2b. **True**
- 3b. **No, paragraph four focuses on the man arriving in the red van.**
- 4b. **To introduce a new event or action.**

Expected

- 5b. **I, A, I, An, I, They, The, Welcome**
- 6b. **True**
- 7b. **Paragraph five**
- 8b. **To introduce a new event or action.**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **A, A, They, The**
- 10b. **False, the sentence would continue in the previous paragraph as part of the main character's speech.**
- 11b. **Paragraph seven**
- 12b. **To introduce a new speaker.**