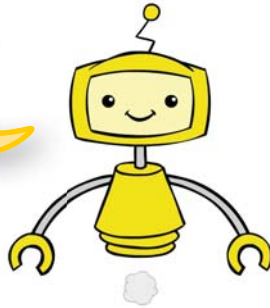


Tales of mystery and suspense

All these family mysteries about Nina and Ardi's ancestors have got my hard drive humming. I think if I set my mind to it I could write a mystery story to rival those by Agatha Christie. After all, a mystery is simply a narrative with a surprising twist, isn't it?



LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 15

Learning Object 4: What happened?

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 5 Work Sheet 3: *Telling stories*



The mystery of narrative structure

1

In Module 5, Work Sheet 3, *Telling stories*, you learnt that English language narratives usually consist of three elements or sections. These are the *orientation*, *complication* and *resolution*.

A narrative also needs a title, at least one main character (who is called the protagonist), and a setting.

In the same work sheet you learnt a range of transition words and phrases, which help to give your narrative cohesion and coherence.

Below is a template for a narrative, which provides a framework for planning a story.

Narrative template _____

Title:

A good title invites the reader into the story.

Orientation:

The orientation establishes the basic elements of your story. In particular, the orientation establishes:

- Who the story is about.
- When the story is set.
- Where the story is set.

Complication:

Narratives are usually about a problem that the protagonist is facing. This is known as the source of conflict in the story. The problem in a suspense story is often the threat of something bad happening, whereas in a mystery story

the problem is often the task of finding out the details of something that has already happened, such as who committed a crime.

Series of events:

Once you have set up the narrative by establishing the orientation and complication, the story further develops the problem.

In a mystery story, the 'series of events' are often linked to clues to solving the mystery, such as discovering the weapon, or finding footprints leading from the crime scene to the bus stop. In a suspense story, the 'series of events' often escalate the threat or sense of drama.

The important thing to remember about the series of events is that they should build up suspense, until finally the reader is on the edge of their seat, wondering what will happen next.

Resolution:

The resolution provides a solution to the problem. In a mystery story, this means that all the clues lead the protagonist to uncover the secret at the heart of the story. In a suspense story, the threat of something bad happening is finally either realised, or defused.

Coda:

Some stories include a coda. When you learnt about fairytales and fables, you learnt that many of these types of stories end with a moral, or with a standard phrase like 'they all lived happily ever after'. These are both types of codas, which are a kind of neat tying off of the narrative's loose ends.

2

Then what happened?

You have already learnt about using transition words and phrases in a narrative in Module 5, Work Sheet 3, *Telling stories*. Many of the transition words you met in that work sheet are conjunctions. That is, words that connect two elements of a sentence or narrative together.

Temporal conjunctions are conjunctions that connect elements in terms of time or sequence.

In addition to a wide range of conjunctions you can also use prepositions to link ideas at the sentence and paragraph level.

When we couple conjunctions and prepositions with pronouns to represent the characters in a narrative, you can see that the only other words we need to put a narrative together are objects (nouns) and actions (verbs).

Pronouns

<i>dia</i>	(he, she)
<i>mereka</i>	(they, them or their)
<i>-nya</i>	(his, hers, its or theirs)
<i>yang</i>	(who, which or that)

Conjunctions

<i>dan</i>	(and)
<i>tetapi</i>	(but)
<i>karena</i>	(because)
<i>jadi</i>	(so)
<i>kemudian</i>	(then)
<i>lalu</i>	(then)
<i>sesudah or setelah</i>	(after)
<i>sebelum</i>	(before)
<i>sesudah or setelah itu</i>	(after that)
<i>sebelum itu</i>	(before that)
<i>supaya</i>	(so that)
<i>sambil</i>	(while)
<i>walaupun</i>	(although)
<i>oleh karena itu</i>	(therefore)
<i>ketika</i>	(when [past tense])
<i>waktu</i>	(when [past tense])
<i>bahwa</i>	(that)
<i>atau</i>	(or)

+

+

Prepositions

<i>di</i>	(in, at or on)
<i>pada</i>	(at [for time])
<i>pada jam</i>	(at _ o'clock)
<i>ke</i>	(to [a place])
<i>kepada</i>	(to [a person])
<i>untuk</i>	(to [do something])
<i>dari</i>	(from)
<i>dari sana</i>	(from there)
<i>dengan</i>	(with)

Adverbs, adverbs everywhere

3

An adverb is a word that modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

In English, adverbs can be placed either before or after the word that they modify.

In Indonesian, there are two ways of forming an adverb. The first of these is by repeating an adjective, where it can be placed before or after the verb; and the second is by placing the word *dengan* and the adjective after the verb.



For example:

*Dia **cepat-cepat** mengerjakan PR supaya bisa bermain ke rumah temannya.*

*Dia mengerjakan PR **cepat-cepat** supaya bisa bermain ke rumah temannya.*

or

*Dia **dengan cepat** mengerjakan PR supaya bisa bermain ke rumah temannya.*

Exercise 1

You are now going to collaborate on a tale of suspense with Zak. Zak has started the story, but has left some of the details for you to complete.

You will need to read through the whole narrative first, to get a sense of where the story is going. You may like to jot down some ideas in pencil as you read!

The narrative template information is provided to guide you in building your story.

After you have read the narrative, go through and fill in the blanks Zak has left to complete the story.



For example:

Pada suatu hari Sabtu malam saya baru saja selesai makan malam.
One Saturday night I had just finished eating dinner.

Title	_____
Orientation Who is the story about? When is the story set? Where is the story set?	<p>Pada suatu hari Sabtu malam saya baru saja _____</p> <p>_____. Pada waktu itu saya</p> <p>seorang diri di rumah karena _____</p> <p>_____.</p> <p>_____.</p>
Complication What is the problem the protagonist faces?	<p>Tiba-tiba, terdengar suara yang aneh sekali datang dari _____</p> <p>_____. Perlahan-lahan saya berjalan menuju ke</p> <p>sumber suara itu. Bunyinya seperti _____</p> <p>_____.</p>
Series of events The first escalation	<p>Pada saat itu, telepon juga berdering. Saya cepat-cepat kembali ke</p> <p>kamar duduk untuk mengangkatnya. 'Halo,' kata saya dengan suara ____</p> <p>_____. 'Jangan masuk _____</p> <p>_____!' Kata seorang laki-laki tua</p> <p>dengan suara _____. 'Mengapa</p> <p>tidak boleh?' tanya saya. 'Apa yang ada di sana?' Teleponnya terputus.</p>

(continued on following page)

<p>The second escalation</p>	<p>Jantung saya berdebar dengan cepat, dan _____ _____ _____. Saya perlu melindungi diri. Saya mengambil _____ dari _____.</p>
<p>The third escalation</p>	<p>Bunyi itu bertambah keras. Pada saat saya _____ _____ untuk membuka pintu, ada seseorang yang mengetuk pintu depan. 'Sialan!' kata saya dan saya kembali ke kamar duduk. Ketika saya membuka pintu saya melihat seorang _____ yang _____. Dia bertanya, 'Apakah kamu tahu _____?' 'Tidak,' jawab saya, dan mulai menutup pintu. Tetapi sebelum saya menutupnya orang itu berkata, 'Jangan masuk _____ _____!' Saya menutup pintu dengan keras dan menguncinya. Setelah mendengar perintahnya itu, saya menjadi _____ _____. Mungkin lebih baik kalau _____. _____. Tetapi suara dari _____ semakin _____ dan semakin _____. Saya harus mencari tahu ada apa di _____ sebelum _____ _____!</p>
<p>Resolution</p>	<p>Akhirnya, saya membuka pintu _____. Dalam kamar _____, _____ dan _____. Tercium bau yang aneh.</p>

(continued on following page)

Resolution (cont.)

Baunya seperti _____
_____.

Tiba-tiba lampu menyala. 'Surprise!' teriak keluarga dan kawan-kawan saya. '_____.'

Coda

'_____
_____!' kata saya.

Tamat!

Exercise 2

I wonder if you can come up with an idea for an even more exciting mystery or suspense story.

Use the narrative template to outline a mystery or suspense narrative.

Write your answer in Indonesian.

Title

Orientation

Who is the story about?
When is the story set?
Where is the story set?

Complication

What is the problem the protagonist faces?

(continued on following page)

Series of events
The first escalation

The second escalation

The third escalation

Resolution

Coda
