

# Lesson 1 Paragraph Structure

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## Activity 1 - Author's Purpose

Authors write for many reasons. Some of the following are:

to entertain	<i>Entertain</i> means to amuse someone. fictional stories, comics, poems, jokes, riddles
to inform	<i>Inform</i> means to give someone information about something news reports, research papers, encyclopedias, school newsletters, instructions, pamphlets from health clinics, maps, timelines, schedules, charts, graphs
to persuade	<i>Persuade</i> means to try to convince someone to think the same way you do. advertisements, newspaper editorials, junk mail, posters
to share feelings	<i>Sharing feelings</i> means to tell the reader what you are thinking. journals, diaries, letters

## Practice

Read each of the following writings. Decide the author's purpose for writing each text. On the blank after each selection write persuade, inform, entertain, or share ideas.

1. Kate Barlow's Prize Winning Spiced Peaches

5 cups brown sugar  
6 inches of stick cinnamon  
pinch of nutmeg  
2 cups white vinegar  
2 tablespoons whole cloves  
4 quarts peeled whole peaches

Cook sugar, vinegar, and spices over low heat for 20 minutes. Add peaches and cook until boiling hot. Serve over ice cream.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

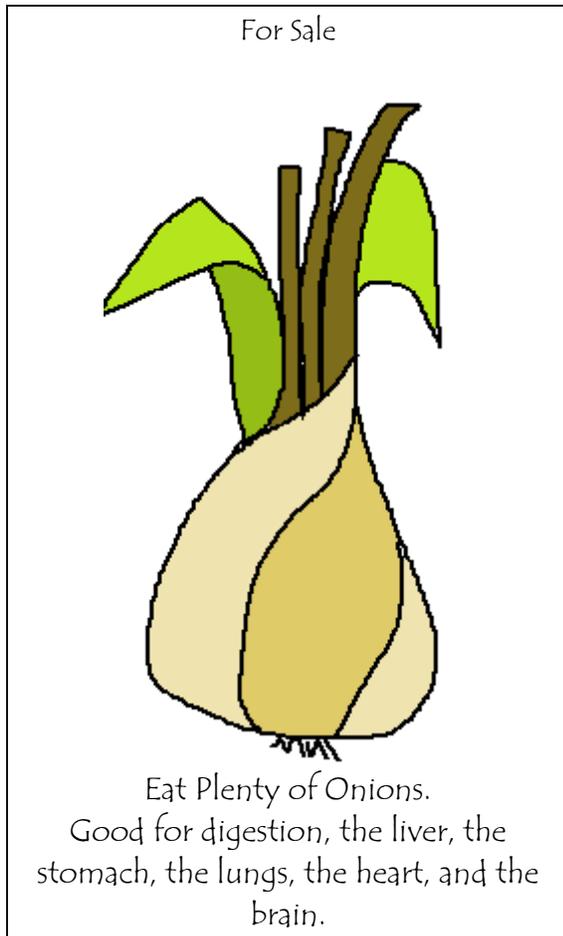
2. You can own Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston's shoes. Just make a bid. The best part is the money you give for the famous sneakers will be tax deductible since it is going to charity.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

3. Latvia is a country in north-eastern Europe. It is bordered by Estonia to the north and Lithuania to the south. Russia and Belarus are to the east. In the west Latvia is bordered by the Baltic Sea. The capital of Latvia is Riga which is located on the northern shore. Forty-one percent of the country is covered with forests. Latvia holds over 12,000 small rivers and over 3,000 lakes.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

4.



Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

5. To make a diorama of the Texas desert, you will need the following materials: a shoebox, construction paper, sand, clay, plastic animals, and cacti. First cover the inside of the shoebox with construction paper to make the sky. Next place a layer of sand to make the desert floor. Plant cacti in the sand. Finally add plastic animals or animals made from clay to your desert scene.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

6. July 20

I must leave today for Camp Green Lake. I've never been to camp before. This could really be an adventure. I'm kind of looking forward to the experience.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

7. O Sinners, Let's go down  
Let's go down, let's go down  
O Sinners, Let's go down  
Down in the valley to pray

Show me the way  
Good Lord, show me the way  
Show me the way  
Good Lord just show the way

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

8. Forecast for Camp Green Lake.  
Clear skies. Low 75°. High 105°. Winds 10 to 15 mph.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

9.

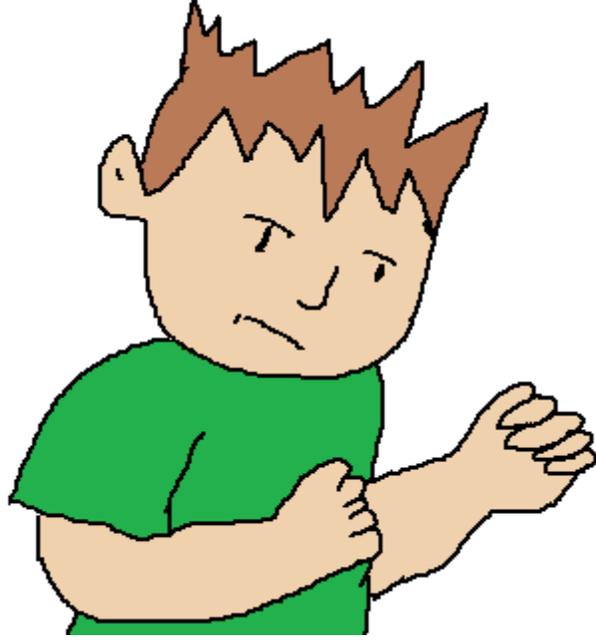


Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

10. A man was sitting with his feet up on a desk. He turned his head when Stanley and the guard entered, but otherwise didn't move. Even though he was inside, he wore sunglasses and a cowboy hat. He also held a can of soda, and the sight of it made Stanley even more aware of his own thirst.

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

11.

Number One Bully Service	Derrick Dunne
	Bully
	I will help you get the job done.
	Toilets are my specialty.
	Texas

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

12. Dear Mom,

Today was my first day at camp, and I've already made some friends. We've been out on the lake all day, so I'm pretty tired. Once I pass the swimming test, I'll get to learn how to water-ski.

Love,  
Stanley

Author's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2 - Types of Paragraphs

There are four main types of paragraphs: descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive.

descriptive (vivid imagery) used to <b>entertain</b>	tells what the subject looks, sounds, feels, tastes, and/or smells like
narrative used to <b>entertain</b>	tells about something that happened - tells a story
expository used to <b>inform</b>	provides information or explains a subject, or gives steps and shows how to do something
persuasive used to <b>persuade</b>	proves your belief or feeling about something

In this unit you will learn how to write an **expository** paragraph (**to inform**).

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Paragraphs:

- consist of one or more sentences about a **single** thought.
- usually have more than one sentence.
- **never** have more than one idea. (Sentences must be related to the main idea.)



## Example Paragraph

Yellow-spotted lizards are a deadly threat to all humans at Camp Green Lake. They invaded the area after the life-giving lake dried up. Their bite is always fatal. It was a yellow-spotted lizard that killed Kate Barlow. The yellow-spotted lizards threatened Stanley and Zero while they were digging for Stanley's great-grandfather's suitcase. The reason Stanley and Zero survived is because they had eaten so many onions that the lizards, who do not like onion blood, did not wish to bite them. With this one exception, meeting a yellow-spotted lizard at Camp Green Lake meant certain death.

## Structure of a Paragraph

| Part of a Paragraph                 | Reason                                                                                | Example                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topic Sentence                      | To generate interest<br>States the main idea                                          | Yellow-spotted lizards are a deadly threat to all humans at Camp Green Lake.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Details<br>First Point and Support  | Introduces Main Point #1 and gives information or examples                            | They invaded the area after the life-giving lake dried up. Their bite is always fatal.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Details<br>Second Point and Support | Introduces Main Point #2 and gives information or examples                            | It was a yellow-spotted lizard that killed Kate Barlow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Details<br>Third Point and Support  | Introduces Main Point #3 and gives information or examples                            | The yellow-spotted lizards threatened Stanley and Zero while they were digging for Stanley's great-grandfather's suitcase. The reason Stanley and Zero survived is because they had eaten so many onions that the lizards, who do not like onion blood, did not wish to bite them. |
| Conclusion                          | Restates the topic sentence<br>Often leaves the reader with something to think about. | With this one exception, meeting a yellow-spotted lizard at Camp Green Lake meant certain death.                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Questions

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?
2. What is the concluding sentence?
3. What do you notice about the first line of the paragraph?
4. Do all the sentences in the paragraph support the main idea?
5. What is the first main point? second main point? third main point?

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## Activity

Decide which group of sentences would make good paragraphs. Write yes or no before each paragraph to show your answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley Yelnats and his family have a history of bad luck. The first Stanley's great grandfather made a fortune in the stock market. The family's bad luck struck him when he moved from New York to California and was robbed by Kissin' Kate Barlow. Stanley's father is an inventor. He works very hard and is smart, however, none of his inventions ever work. Stanley is accused of a crime he didn't commit and is sent to Camp Green Lake as punishment. It seems none of the Yelnats can escape the family curse.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Camp Green Lake dried up and the people who lived near it moved away over a hundred years ago. Now the lake is desert-like with temperatures around ninety-five degrees. Deserts cover one-fifth of the Earth's surface. The only place to find shade is between two trees in the Warden's yard. Rattlesnakes and scorpions hide under rocks and in the holes the campers dig. Deserts do not have many large animals because there is not enough water for them to survive.
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley's father was an inventor. He was trying to discover a way to recycle old sneakers. Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus invented an apparatus for applying dyes to the sides of the soles and heels of shoes. George de Mestral invented Velcro. While hiking, he had noticed that burrs stuck to his clothing. He used this idea to develop one strip of nylon with loops, and another with hooks.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Louis Sachar gave many of the characters in *Holes* nicknames to represent one side of their personality, while their given name represents someone entirely different. Kissin' Kate Barlow is the tough outlaw, while Miss Katherine is the mild schoolteacher. Stanley is the easy going boy who is picked on, while Caveman suggests a strong boy who is not easily frightened. Zero suggests a character who is worthless, while Hector refers to someone who is smart and has a sense of standing up for himself. Can you analyze these characters: X-Ray - Rex, Squid - Alan, Magnet - José, Armpit - Theodore, and Zigzag - Rick?

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### Sources of Information:

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Desert Biome <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/deserts.html>

Inventors and Inventions <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/>

The Holes Resource Guide contains vocabulary practice, comprehension quizzes, reading skill practice, paragraph writing unit, and a figurative language unit based on the book Holes by Louis Sachar. You may purchase the complete unit at

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/A-Resource-Guide-to-use-with-Holes-275180>

++ Included with this book unit is the username and password to all the interactive quizzes for this book online.

This resource contains the following:

- Vocabulary

- o Vocabulary including pronunciation, definitions, and sample sentences from the text
- o Two Practice Pages Vocabulary Words
- o Vocabulary Test

- Comprehension – Ten comprehension quizzes are included which includes:

- o multiple choice questions which require students to recall details from the chapters
- o multiple choice higher level thinking questions such as sequencing, main idea, plot development, summary, drawing conclusions, inference, predicting, theme, understanding vocabulary, interpreting literary devices, etc.
- o Now with the Common Core Standards, I have also added constructive response questions. Most of these questions have graphic organizers to help students plan a response. These questions also require students to verify answers with the text.

- Skill Practice

- o Sequencing
- o Character Maps
- o Flashbacks and Foreshadowing
- o Venn Diagrams

- Paragraph Unit

- o Lesson 1 – Paragraph Structure
- o Lesson 2 - Making an Outline
- o Lesson 3 - Thesis Statements
- o Lesson 4 - Topic Sentences
- o Lesson 5 - Detail Sentences
- o Lesson 6 - Sentence Order
- o Lesson 7 - Staying on Topic
- o Lesson 8 - Concluding Sentences

- English Lessons

- o Rhyming Words
- o Simile & Metaphors
- o Alliteration & Personification
- o Onomatopoeia, Hyperbole & Repetition

- Activities

- o Nicknames

- o The Dig
- o Fossils
- o Palindromes
- o Food Activities (Spiced Peaches and Onion Dip)

Answer keys for each practice page is included.

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