

Week 4 – The Midnight Fox

This work follows on from last week's work on 'The Midnight Fox'.

Task 1

In Chapter 5 Tom receives a letter from his friend Petie:

Dear Tom,

There is nothing much happening here. I went to the playground Saturday after you left, and you know that steep bank by the swings? Well, I fell all the way down that. Here's the story:

BOY FALLS DOWN BANK WHILE GIRL ONLOOKERS CHEER

Today Petie Burkis fell down the bank at Harley Playground. It is reported that some ill-mannered girls at the park for a picnic cheered and laughed at the sight of the young, demolished boy. The brave youngster left the park unaided.

Not much else happened. Do you get Chiller Theatre? There was a real good movie on Saturday night about mushroom men.

*Write me a letter,
Petie Burkis*

Write an informal letter back to Petie pretending you are Tom - you've spent a week at the farm, you've met Aunt Millie and explored Bubba's bedroom. Think about the detail that he might write back - would he ask Petie any questions? Notice the informal style of the letter, this is because they are good friends.

Task 2:

In Chapter 5 of the book Tom spots a black fox in the field. These are very rare and it would be an exciting experience for anyone who might see one. Here is some information on black foxes:

The Rare Black Fox

The fox is a beautiful and sleek creature. There was a time not so long ago when the black fox, as the red fox, was a common sight to be found wandering about the British Isles.

But over the years the dwindling numbers of the black fox are mainly due to the capturing and skinning of the creature to create glossy fur coats from their pelts; with fox hunting being another major factor; this means that this beautiful animal is very much in danger of becoming extinct.

They are carnivores, but they do also eat berries and grains. They have an extended slim body with long legs, a long snout and a thick and long, fluffy, brush tail. The fox is a swift and agile runner and can reach a speed of 30 mph. Their eyes are small and bright and their ears are alert and triangular. The animal appears inquisitive and is stealthy and agile.



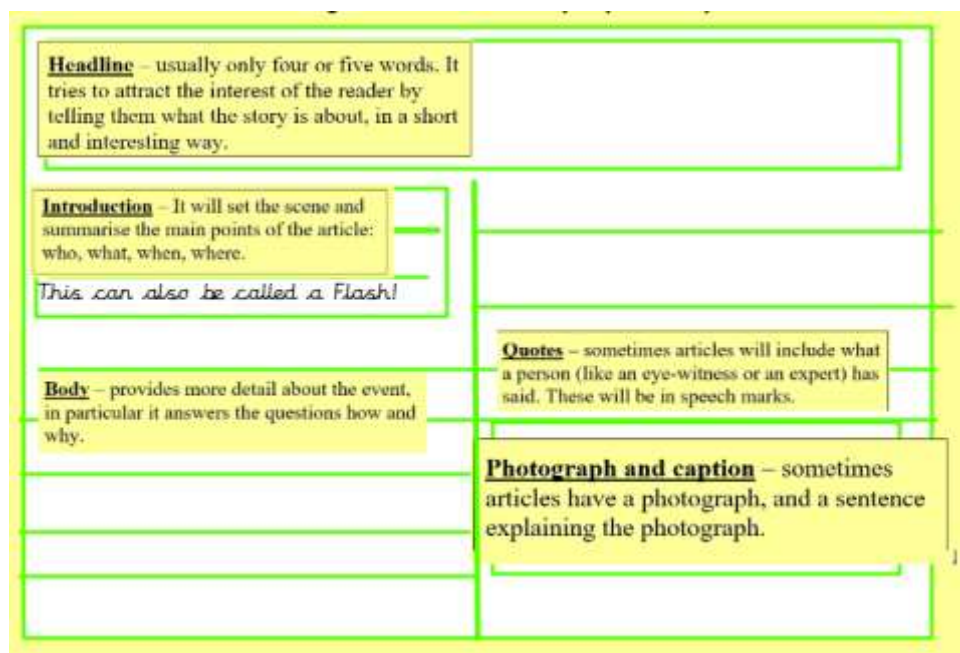
We would like you to pretend you are a reporter and you have just interviewed someone who has just seen a rare black fox. Make some notes of what their experience was like.

Think about:

- Where did they see the fox?
- When did they see it?
- What exactly happened?
- How did they feel when they saw the fox?
- What did it look like?

Features we need when writing a newspaper article:

Headline
Flash (mini headline)
Third person
Past tense
Who
What
Where
When
Why
Photo
Caption
Quote



Task 3:

Have a go at planning a newspaper article using the attached plan. Use the notes you made earlier to do this.

Catching Headline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alliteration - Short and snappy - Rhyme 	
Flash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Couple of sentences to describe main points. - What happened? - Who – brief description, young boy? - When did it happen? - Where? 	
MAIN BODY: 1 or 2 paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More detail about the event. - You might repeat some of the other 4w's using more detail for them. <p>E.g. Who – more information about the boy: Tom, where is he from, why is he staying at the farm?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More detail about the where – the farm. Whose is it? 	
1 paragraph is enough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include direct quote from an eye witness or expert. - These could be reported speech – no speech marks. - Include – what was said, who said it and how they are related to the event. 	
1 paragraph is enough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More details – some facts - A picture with a caption. 	

Task 4

Once you think you have completed your plan, think about anything you may have missed. Have you included a quote? Remember. Your quote does not need speech marks/inverted commas if you are using reported speech.

E.g. The observer claimed it was one of the most spectacular sights he had ever seen!

Write your news report from your plan. Remember you are reporting on an event, it should not sound like a story! Have a read of some news reports to get an idea of the style.

You could use the attached writing frame for your final newspaper article.

Task 5

E4E: To add in higher-level conjunctions as paragraph starters and within paragraphs. Can use contrasting conjunctions such as: *despite*.
Can you add in powerful vocabulary choices. E.g. *instead of he ran, he darted. put in exciting verbs, adjectives.*

Read your article to a family member once you have finished- can you improve it in any way?

Check it against the success criteria:

I can include	I think
Headline	
Flash (mini headline)	
Third person	
Past tense	
The 5W's	
Embedded clause	
Photo	
Caption	
Great fronted adverbials	
Quote	
Quote correctly punctuated with speech marks.	