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Story Writing
An example story
Study its components

Read Aloud With Me

The Tortoise on the Fence Post

'Bye maa!! ', Shouted out Sumit , I'm going to the Lake Park with Anant, Arif and Jose , I'm taking my cycle and will be back before dark. Bye!"
"Okay bye! But don't be late, I'm making chole' bature' for dinner."
As Sumit peddled his bike on towards the Lake Park, Sumit was already noticing what an unusually warm day it was, especially for early March.
Arriving at the Lake Park, Sumit could see Anant, Arif and Jose on their racing bicycles, waiting impatiently.

"About time you got here! We were ready to leave you behind!", said

Anant. "We're heading down to the lake . Let's go, guys!"

Sumit had to struggle to keep up with them as they all rode on towards

the lake. It was difficult for him to do so, as he was still trying to regain

his strength and stamina after breaking his ankle late last winter. And

he already knew they wouldn't wait up for him …. especially not Anant.

Shortly after they arrived at the lake and parked their bikes near the stand, Anant noticed a small tortoise grazing near the lakeshore. Taking his empty plastic water bottle and casually throwing it into a nearby bush, he called out, "Hey guys, watch this!" as he picked up the tortoise and carried him over to a nearby fence post. 'Here's your new home!" Anant laughed as he placed the animal on top of the post.

"Anant, what are you doing?" Sumit asked. "What does it look like, smart guy?" Anant replied. "I'm leaving him here!"

"You can't leave him stranded like that! He'll starve!" replied Sumit.

"So? So what? It's just a dumb animal! C'mon guys!" called out Anant as he walked towards the stand. Sumit hesitated, then walked to catch up with the rest of them, pausing to look back at the tortoise.

"Hey, are you coming along, or not?" Jose yelled back at Sumit . "Uh…yeah! Sure!" answered Sumit.

Sumit pulled Arif aside and quietly said, "I can't believe Anant would do something like that… leaving that tortoise stranded!"

After a couple of hours at the lake, Sumit could clearly see that Anant was getting bored and restless. And by now, he wasn't the least bit surprised to see him throw his empty soft drink bottle into the nearby bushes. Arif and Jose soon did the same.

"Well, guys … I should be going on my way," said Sumit, glancing at his wristwatch. "I… uh… have things I need to get done at home."
Mounting his bike, Sumit looked back and said, "I'll see you guys later, OK?"
A short while later, Sumit returned home, still thinking about the tortoise. "You're home earlier than I thought you would be," his mother said as he entered the kitchen. "How was your day?""Uh… it was OK," replied Sumit.
"It doesn't sound OK to me," said his mother. "Something wrong?"
"Nothing… not really," he answered, as he headed quietly towards his room, inwardly shaming himself for not doing anything to help the tortoise earlier in the afternoon.
The three of them proceeded to eat their dinner in near-total silence. Sumit barely touched his meal, surprising both his parents.

They were even more surprised when Sumit, not even halfway through dinner, suddenly got up from the table and bolted towards the door. "Sumit , where are you going now?" asked his father. "It's going to rain soon! And there might be a storm tonight!"

"It's something I have to do!" replied Sumit , as he ran out the door. "Trust me, I'll explain it later! I'll be back soon! I promise! I promise!"

Sumit quickly hopped on his bike and peddled vigorously on towards the lake. Getting closer, he noticed that the sky was becoming cloudier. The wind was picking up, forcing him to peddle harder and faster. When he finally arrived at the lake, he found the tortoise, still stranded helplessly on the fence post. He breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that Anant and the others were no longer at the lake.

He also shook his head in disgust at all the empty soft drink bottles that littered the grass around the fence post.

"I can't leave you here like this! I can't do it! What Anant did was just wrong … and stupid, too!" Sumit said as he carefully picked up the tortoise and carried it to a nearby bush. "You should be OK now," he said as he gently laid the animal on the ground near the bush.

. "Just stay away from fence posts!" he added, chuckling. Turning towards his bike, he hesitated, and then quickly ran back to pick up the litter and place it into a nearby trash can.

He hopped on his bike and began peddling towards home. He was perhaps a hundred yards from his home when the rain shower suddenly turned into a downpour.

By the time he pulled into his house ,he was drenched and exhausted and yet heartened to see both his mother and father anxiously waiting for him on the back porch.

"Where have you been?" cried his mother as Sumit staggered onto the porch, with the help of his father. "Look at you! You're soaked to the skin!"

Slowly catching his breath, Sumit explained to his parents what had happened earlier at the lake and what he had done to help the stranded tortoise.

"It's something I had to do. Something I HAD to do!"

Let's list out the components :

-title-   : The Tortoise on the Fence Post

characters : Sumit, Sumit's parents, Anant, Jose , Arif and the tortoise

setting   : Sumit's house and the Lake Park

plot   : a boy saves a hapless animal from abuse

a) beginning : Sumit the main character is introduced

b) middle   : Sumit interacts with his unruly friends, is shocked by

                his friends' insensitive behaviour towards the tortoise

c)conclusion : Sumit decides to return to the lake and recue the tortoise

-If you observe there is a mixture of present tense, past tense and the use of many dialogues.

- The twist in the story is the cruel act of Anant- placing the tortoise on the fence pole and Sumit's sense of shock when he discovers that his friends are heartless boys.

-An element of uncertainty is added when Sumit h *as to peddle back* in the stormy weather.

Thank you