



Purpose: To make the reader feel scared

Staying Out by Pie Corbett

Kev's mum eyed us both. "Ok, but no fooling around," she muttered, as she turned up the TV. It was Neighbours and for the next half hour total silence would be demanded. Lugging my dad's tent between us, Kev and I sneaked out of the back door. At long last, we had permission to spend the night camping out, even if it was only at the bottom of Kev's garden.

Four hours later, we were snuggled into our sleeping bags. Already the sun had dipped over the horizon and the shadows were growing longer. Kev turned on his torch and we stared out across the garden at the house. Each room was lit up with the lights glowing like yellow pumpkins. However, down at the end of the garden where we were, it was getting darker and darker as if we were sinking into a deep pit. Stars came out like tiny silver studs. The moon cast an eerie, silver light over the garden and it grew colder.

Kev zipped up the tent flap and we chatted for a while. I could just see my digital watch giving off a strange, green glow. It had luminous numbers which meant that you could sometimes see them in the dark. Kev had just told me a joke about a man with a dog that wore brown shoes when we first heard it. A strange scratching noise coming from just outside the tent. We froze. What on earth could it be?

Then it came again. Something or somebody was moving along the side of the tent towards the entrance. It was making a scraping noise like somebody's last rasping breath! There was no escape. All we could do was lie there waiting. Terrified, both of us ducked down deep into our sleeping bags and waited. My heart thumped.

Then Kev really surprised me. Cautiously, he reached out and pulled the flap down. There was a sudden rush of cold air and we stared out. His torch flickered on. Its beam stabbed the darkness, picking out the intruder like a spotlight. It was... a hedgehog! Taking one look at us with its tiny, black, button eyes, it sniffed and trundled off up the garden, snorting like a fat, waddling hairbrush!

The next morning, Kev's mum treated us to bacon and eggs. "Alright were you, Kevin?" she asked as she spread some butter onto our toast. "No probs," replied Kev as if it had been plain sailing. His mum took another look at her son and raised an eyebrow. I could see that she wasn't fooled!



Key features



Structural:

Paragraph 1: The two characters go off somewhere
Paragraph 2: The characters are in the place and it is described
Paragraph 3: The characters are doing something when they hear an ominous noise
Paragraph 4: The sound gets closer, the characters are frightened
Paragraph 5: The characters discover what is really making the noise and it isn't scary
Paragraph 6: The characters pretend they were never scared

Language:

-Devices to build suspense: empty words, spooky noises, short sentences, feelings, pauses
-Direct speech: "Alright were you, Kev-in?"
-Possessive apostrophes: Kev's mum
-Subordinate clauses: Although he knew it was a bad idea, he crept slowly towards the spooky forest



Writer's toolbox

Direct speech:

To show what the character said
Example: "Ok, but no fooling around," mum muttered, as she turned up the TV.

Subordinate clauses:

Although he was scared, he went outside.
While they weren't looking, he snuck out.
As the noise got closer, his heart started to thump.

Punctuation:

Remember to use commas to mark subordinate clauses
Remember to use speech punctuation

Vocabulary:

Muttered Shadows
Ominous Eerie, silver light
Luminous Rasping
Thumped Cautiously

Recommended reads

