



Write to entertain: Portal story



Purpose: To take the reader on an adventure through time

The Time-slip Scarab by Pie Corbett

Every year class 5 went to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum and this year was no exception. The guide stopped at each display to tell the children about the different artefacts. It was only when they reached the Egyptian display that Emily became interested. A scarab beetle caught her attention: glittering wings flickered in the light; greens and blues shimmered like an iridescent gemstone and elongated feelers stretched towards her.

As class 5 meandered into the Viking section, Emily waited. As soon as they had gone, she reached out and touched the beetle. She felt a hot, stabbing pain and withdrew her hand as if she had been stung. A moment later and ... she was standing at the edge of a desert. Huge, sand-coloured pyramids jutted upwards; white birds circled above, calling; a vast river oozed by and tall palm trees lined its edge. Emily gasped for she knew exactly where she was.

A procession wound its way from the river towards Emily. At the front, a tall man dressed as Anubis (god of the afterlife), wearing a jackal's mask, strode towards her. Drums beat, rattles shivered and the procession sung a low chant. Six men carried a huge, golden stand on which there was a throne. A beautiful woman surveyed the procession from on high. She was the only person without a mask and she was staring right at Emily, pointing!

Without thinking, Emily dashed towards a door set into the closest pyramid. Inside, it was cool and as she ran down a passageway. Torches burned to light the way ahead. On the walls, she saw carved images -an owl, fish, warriors and hieroglyphs that were hard to comprehend. She could hear voices shouting and the sound of running feet behind her but the way ahead was blocked! Spinning round, she found the jackal standing in her path. The mask seemed to grin.

Something itched against her leg; a shiny beetle glittered. Emily recognised the greens and reds glimmering in the torchlight. She reached down, touched the beetle and once again felt a hot, sharp stabbing pain and... there she was, back in the museum with Mrs Jones striding towards her. "The museum has been closed for half an hour. We're all in the coach. Where have you been, young lady?" "In Egypt," Emily stammered, but Mrs Jones did not look at all pleased with her answer!



Key features

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Structural:

- -Paragraph 1: MC (main character) sees a historical artefact
- -Paragraph 2: MC touches artefact and is transported back in time
- -Paragraph 3: MC is threatened
- -Paragraph 4: MC flees but is chased
- -Paragraph 5: MC touches artefact
- again and is taken back to the present

Language:

- -Descriptive language: glittering wings flickered in the light
- -Threatening language: strode towards her; voices shouting; the way ahead was blocked



Writer's toolbox

Adjectives:

Adjectives used to describe nouns:

Vast river; iridescent gemstone; huge, golden stand

Verbs:

Interesting verbs to describe action:

River oozed by; dashed towards a door; glimmering in the torchlight

Punctuation:

Remember to use punctuation to mark direct speech:

"Where have you been young lady?" asked Mrs Jones.

Vocabulary:

Artefacts Iridescent

Procession Carved images

Comprehend Striding

Stammered Jutted

Recommended reads





