



Purpose: To entertain the reader with a story that has flashbacks to provide background

Key features



Structural:

- Character alone in a place that is sinking
- Flashback 1: life before the flood
- Character escapes place and goes somewhere new
- Flashback 2: when they got split from their parents
- Makes it to new place

Language:

- Use different techniques to convey character: their word choice and accent; their actions and body language; the way other characters react to them
- Use language to convey a sense of purpose, a sense of hope

Extract from Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick

She was rowing away from all that she had ever known. It was a strange thing. Before the previous night, she had only ever pretended to row. Her dad had taught her, in the same methodical way he did everything.

"You'll need to know how to do this one day," he told her.

He'd taught her how to use the compass, as well as a lot of stuff about survival. Just in case the time came when she was on her own.

And so every now and then, when they weren't busy just trying to get by, they'd sit in an old bathtub and pretend to row.

Even though it had seemed like a game to Zoe at the time, he'd made sure she was doing it right anyway. And she knew just how to do it, the only thing that surprised her was how hard it was to pull the oars through the water.

"Why don't you look where you're going?" she'd asked her dad.

"When you're rowing, you mean?" he said.

"Yes. Why do you sit looking backwards?"

"It's just the way it's done," he said. "You couldn't row half as well facing forwards."

It had always seemed strange to her, but now it was even worse. There before her was Norwich getting smaller and smaller with each stroke. She was heading into the unknown without even looking where she was going.



Writer's toolbox

Using emotions:

Use emotions to help the reader feel:

She looked back towards the shore and saw people staring longingly after her boat. They had tears streaming down their faces and Holly felt their sense of betrayal and hopelessness tug at her heart.

Alan Peat:

Tell: show 3; examples sentence
He was feeling relaxed: shoes off; shirt undone; lying on the sofa.

Punctuation:

- Remember to use speech punctuation
- Remember to use apostrophes for contractions and commas to mark clauses

Vocabulary:

- Previous Methodical
- Survival Stroke
- Heading into the unknown

Recommended reads

