

Identifying Paragraphs

1. Underline the first word or phrase in each of the paragraphs below.

Gifre's hand crept ever-so-slowly towards the knife. He could see its precious antler handle reflecting the moonlight that snuck through the window of the hut. He could feel his heart pounding in his chest. Every breath he took sounded so loud. He was sure Edric or his family would hear him, but no one stirred. They had slept as the door creaked open, slept as Gifre slipped past the table to where Edric lay on the floor, and now they slept on as the thief closed his fingers around his rival's knife. He'd got it! He could not wait to hear the whiney oaf moping and whinging about losing it!

As quietly as he could, Gifre stood up. He stepped backwards... and knocked the table! He froze, wincing as cups and pots rattled and wobbled. His eyes darted around the room, but still no one woke! Relieved, he slipped out of the house, carefully hid the knife in the thatched roof of his own family's home, and fell asleep.

Extract taken from 'Year 4 Reading Skills – A Thief and an Oath-breaker' by Classroom Secrets

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2. What does the first paragraph introduce?

Loki could hear the banging and clanking from outside the cave, but he needed a closer look. Using sly magic he changed himself into a fly and slipped under the door. What he saw in the dwarves' workshop was astonishing. Sindri was putting the finishing touches to a beautiful golden boar! Loki was worried. What if these brothers really did make better things than the sons of Ivaldi? He wanted them to make him things that were good, but not so good that he lost his head!

He had to do something. Zipping forward, he stung Sindri on the hand. The dwarf grunted in pain but still finished his creation without a slip. Even worse for Loki, the golden boar came to life when it was pulled from the flames. It gave off light in the darkness and could run on land, water or air!

Extract taken from 'Year 3 Reading Skills – A Hammer for Thor' by Classroom Secrets

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3. What is the theme of each of the paragraphs below?

Before long, the passengers and their luggage were safely stowed and the ship began its twilight journey to Queenstown. This signalled the end of the musicians' long day and they all trudged back to their cramped cabin, carrying their instruments with them.

After what felt like only minutes, Frederick was awoken to attend the next day's rehearsal. The quintet made their way along E deck to the instrument storage room and were met by the trio of musicians forming the ship's second musical group. Together, they rehearsed songs, ready for the day's important performances. For today was the day the ship would begin her journey across the Atlantic.

The theme of paragraph 1 is _____

The theme of paragraph 2 is _____

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4. Use the words below to write the next paragraph to introduce a character.

clown

unhappy

elephant

tired

In the village of Lockwood, the circus had just arrived. Every year, the large red and white tent was set up in the field opposite the church. It always arrived in the summer holidays and stayed for a few weeks. People would come from miles around to see the famous circus acts. Everyone loved it except Charlie.

5. Michael has written the paragraph below.

Onoku had always lived amongst the tribal people. As a child, he had been found in a reed basket next to the river and brought to the village. This was the life he had always known. They would spend days harvesting crops from the land and use materials such as mud and clay to build their village. He knew he wouldn't be there forever. Onoku wanted to go and explore other lands and he knew that day would soon be upon him.

He starts the next paragraph with 'He woke early one morning to see the sun rising slowly over the horizon. Today was the day.'

Why does he do this?
Explain how you know.

6. Hamza has written the text below.

Some coffee sellers are ethical. This means that they decide prices and how much they pay farmers based on fairness and care for the world. One of the best ways to know if coffee is ethical is to look for the Fairtrade logo. About 25% of all the coffee bought in the UK is Fairtrade approved. Other coffee sellers are unethical. This means that they make sure they get as much money as possible, whether that harms farmers or not.

He says,



I need to start a new paragraph with the sentence starting, 'About 25% of all coffee' because this is where the topic changes.

Do you agree with Hamza? Explain your answer.

Identifying Paragraphs

1. Girfe's hand; as quietly as he could
2. The paragraph introduces a setting.
3. The theme of paragraph 1 is action.
The theme of paragraph 2 is introducing characters.

4. Various answers, for example:

Growing up, Charlie had always wanted to be a clown. His parents had both been clowns and he'd seen how happy it made them. When he was old enough, he too had joined the circus. Every evening he would perform with Eloise, his favourite elephant of them all. They were the best of friends but he knew it wouldn't be forever. Charlie was tired and unhappy and had a feeling that something wasn't right.

5. Michael has started the new paragraph to explain a change in time. We know this because it says 'Early one morning'.
6. Hamza is incorrect. The sentence starting 'Other coffee sellers' is where the new paragraph needs to start because this is where the topic changes from ethical coffee sellers to unethical sellers.