

Varied Fluency

Step 1: Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 4: Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme

English Year 4: Draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme

English Year 4: Draft and write by in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and sub-headings]

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support identifying paragraphs in fiction texts using simple sentences and words mainly taken from the Year 3 spelling list.

Expected Questions to support identifying paragraphs in fiction texts using sentences and words mainly taken from the Year 4 spelling list.

Greater Depth Questions to support identifying paragraphs in fiction texts using extended sentences and words mainly taken from the Year 4 spelling list.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

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One wintry night

It was the middle of a particularly cold night. The fields and trees were covered in a natural white blanket. All around, tall trees hung their heads as the powdery snow continued to fall. It was strangely silent.

The moonlight struck the trees, making dark shadows on the frosty ground. Tiny matchbox houses were grouped together on the hillside. The few remaining lights from their windows twinkled in the night sky. The sky was clear except for one dark cloud that moved noiselessly above.

Without warning, the wind whipped up. The once perfect snow blew up into swirling clouds like icing sugar. Trees began to sway unsteadily and dropped their caps of snow. The dark shadows came to life.

Little Lottie

Lottie was nearly four years old. She had a cheeky smile, bright blue eyes and long, wavy hair. She was the oldest but she was also the smallest. Lottie hated that more than anything. She hated it more than annoying brothers and mashed potatoes. All that Lottie wanted was to be just a little bit taller.

Grandma called Lottie her special little girl. She pinched her cheeks every time she saw her and pressed the end of her nose like a little button. Grandma didn't mean to tease her, but she never did that to her little brother and it made Lottie mad.

Leaving her grandma's house on Wednesday afternoon, Lottie decided that was the last time anyone would call her little. She had a plan...

1a. Identify the paragraphs in the text by writing the first two words of each.



VF

1b. Identify the paragraphs in the text by writing the first two words of each.



VF

2a. What is the subject of the first paragraph?



VF

2b. What is the subject of the second paragraph?



VF

3a. Which paragraph describes the start of some action?

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3



VF

3b. Which paragraph describes a character's appearance?

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3



VF

4a. True or false? The sentence below could be added to the first paragraph.

The sound of wings flapping and an owl hooting echoed through the trees.



VF

4b. True or false? The sentence below could be added to the first paragraph.

She had no idea if it would work.



VF

Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

One wintry night

It was the middle of a particularly cold night in February and a white blanket camouflaged the trees and fields for as far as the eye could see. Tall evergreens hung their heads heavily as they struggled to support the weight of the powdery snow. Not a single sound could be heard.

Moonlight struck the trees casting eerie shadows and creating tall, dark figures on the ground. Houses in the distance looked like tiny matchboxes queued up on the hillside, their few remaining lights twinkling in the night sky. It would have been perfectly clear if it weren't for one dark cloud moving noiselessly overhead.

Without warning, the wind whipped up causing the perfect snow to blow up into circles of icing sugar clouds. The trees began to sway, knocking off their peaks of snow and bringing their dark shadows to life.

5a. Identify the paragraphs in the text by writing the first two words of each.



VF

6a. What is the subject of the first paragraph?



VF

7a. Which paragraph describes the start of some action?

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3



VF

8a. True or false? The sentence below could be added to the first paragraph.

The hoot of an owl and a flap of wings echoed through the trees.



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Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

Little Lottie

Lottie was nearly four years old. She had the cheekiest of smiles, sharp blue eyes and long, wavy hair which hung loose. Although she was the oldest, she was also the smallest, and Lottie hated that more than anything. She hated it even more than annoying brothers and eating mashed potatoes. While the other children dreamed of riding their bicycles and playing on the trampoline, all that Lottie wanted was to be a little bit taller.

Grandma called Lottie her special little girl, pinching her cheeks every time and pressing the end of her nose as though it were a little button. Lottie knew she meant well but she didn't do that to her younger brother, and Lottie was particularly fed up.

Leaving her grandma's house on a rainy Wednesday afternoon, Lottie decided that was the last time anyone would call her little. She had a plan...

5b. Identify the paragraphs in the text by writing the first two words of each.



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6b. What is the subject of the second paragraph?



VF

7b. Which paragraph describes a character's appearance?

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3



VF

8b. True or false? The sentence below could be added to the first paragraph.

She would have to wait and see if it worked, but Lottie felt confident.



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Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

One wintry night

On a peculiarly cold February night, a white blanket camouflaged the trees and fields as she looked out into the night. Weighed down by their oversized snow caps, tall evergreens hung their heads heavily, struggling under the pressure. Not a single sound could be heard. Moonlight caught the trees eerily, casting lengthy shadows which danced like dark figures on the ground. Distant houses, like tiny matchboxes positioned haphazardly on the hillside, possessed a few twinkly lights which shone upward. The sky was clear but for one dark, wispy cloud. All at once, the wind whipped up abruptly causing the perfect snow to blow up into swirling circles of clouds like icing sugar. She noticed the trees swaying unsteadily as their powdery covering fell to the ground and all around, dark shadows began to spring to life. She could hear her breath begin to quicken.

9a. Underline the first two words of the sentences where a new paragraph should start.



VF

10a. What is the subject of the first paragraph?



VF

11a. Which sentence describes the start of some action?

All at once...

Distant houses...

Moonlight caught...



VF

12a. True or false? The sentence below could be added to the first paragraph.

The distinct hoot of an owl and the flap of wings were the only perceptible sounds.



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Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

Little Lottie

At nearly four years old, Lottie had the kind of smile that could get her anything. Her eyes were a piercing shade of blue and her hair hung in loose waves. What she hated more than anything, more than irritating brothers and mashed potatoes, was being the smallest in her family. While the other children dreamed of riding their bicycles and playing on the trampoline, all that Lottie longed for was to be a little bit taller. Pinching her cheeks and pressing the end of her nose as though it were a little button, grandma would insist on calling Lottie her special little girl. Lottie knew her intentions were good, but she didn't do that to her younger brother and it infuriated Lottie. Leaving her grandma's house on a particularly rainy Wednesday evening, Lottie had an ingenious plan. If it worked, she thought, that was probably the last time anyone would call her little.

9b. Underline the first two words of the sentences where a new paragraph should start.



VF

10b. What is the subject of the second paragraph?



VF

11b. Which sentences describes a character's appearance?

Leaving her grandma's...

Lottie knew her...

At nearly four...



VF

12b. True or false? The sentence below could be added to the first paragraph.

Whether it worked or not, she was yet to find out.



VF

Varied Fluency Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

Developing

- 1a. It was; The moonlight; Without warning
- 2a. A setting description.
- 3a. Paragraph 3
- 4a. False, the end of the first paragraph describes how silent it is so this would not make sense.

Expected

- 5a. It was; Moonlight struck; Without warning
- 6a. A setting description.
- 7a. Paragraph 3
- 8a. False, the end of the first paragraph describes the absence of sound so this would not make sense.

Greater Depth

- 9a. On a; Moonlight caught; All at once
- 10a. A setting description.
- 11a. All at once...
- 12a. False, the first paragraph would finish with the sentence 'Not a single sound could be heard' so this would not make sense.

Varied Fluency Identifying Paragraphs - Fiction

Developing

- 1b. Lottie was; Grandma called; Leaving her
- 2b. It describes Grandma's actions towards Lottie.
- 3b. Paragraph 1
- 4b. False, this sentence would fit at the end of the final paragraph.

Expected

- 5b. Lottie was; Grandma called; Leaving her
- 6b. It describes Grandma's actions towards Lottie.
- 7b. Paragraph 1
- 8b. False, this sentence would fit best as the final sentence of the whole text.

Greater Depth

- 9b. At nearly; Pinching her; Leaving her
- 10b. It describes Grandma's actions towards Lottie.
- 11b. At nearly four...
- 12b. False, this sentence would fit best as the final sentence of the whole text.