

“The Ransom of Red Chief” Paragraph Format

- Sentence 1: *(Topic Sentence)* This sentence tells what the entire paragraph is about. For a short story or novel you will include the author’s name, the title of the work, a short description of the work or the elements you will discuss (such as irony, figurative language, exaggeration etc.)
- Sentence 2: *(Example #1)* This sentence must start with “For instance,” and is an example that supports your topic.
- Sentences 3 & 4: Explain and discuss Example # 1 for 2 sentences.
- Sentence 5: *(Example # 2)* You need another example to support your topic. It must start with a conjunction (see the list below).
- Sentences 6 & 7: Explain and talk about example # 2 for 2 sentences.
- Sentence 8: *(Example #3)* This is the last example to back up your topic. It must start with a preposition.
- Sentences 9 & 10: For two sentences, discuss example #3.
- Sentence 11: *(Concluding sentence)* this sentence is totally opinion related to the topic sentence and must be an original thought.

conjunctions

after, as, as soon as
although, if, even ,
until, when, though,
once, every time,
because, though
unless now that,
if, in case, in the
event that, just in
case, whenever
before, only, while,
even if, since,
by the time,
whether or not

Prepositions

about, above, after,
against, along,
among, around, at,
before, behind,
below, beneath, down
beside, except, in,
between, by, for,
from, in front of,
through, to, towards,
under, underneath,
until, up, upon, with,
within, past, since, to
during, without, instead
of, into, like, near, of,
off, on, on top of, onto,
out of, outside, over

~~Topic Sentence:~~ *In O'Henry's classic short story, "The Ransom of Red Chief", the author uses irony, a contrast between what is expected and what actually happens to entertain the reader..*

I. ***For instance**, the reader expects Red Chief, the kidnapped boy, to react to the kidnapping by being scared or ready to go home.*

a. _____

b. _____

II. ***While** readers would expect kidnappers of any situation to behave in a way that is mean or tough, that is not the case in this story.*

a. _____

b. _____

III. ***Outside of that**, the reader expects Red Chief's father to react to the kidnapping in a certain way.*

a. _____

b. _____

~~Closing Sentence:~~

~~Topic Sentence:~~ *The author also effectively uses figurative language such as metaphors and similes to make humorous comparisons throughout the short story.*

↳ *For instance, the author uses many similes, or comparisons that use “like” or “as” to show similarities between two things.*

Discuss three (3) similes that the author uses. Explain how, when and where they are used in the story and what effect they have on the reader.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

↳ *As you read on, you also encounter the author’s use of vivid metaphors to make comical comparisons.*

Discuss three (3) similes that the author uses. Explain how, when and where they are used in the story and what effect they have on the reader.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

~~Closing Sentence:~~

~~Topic Sentence:~~ *O'Henry skillfully employs a number of exaggerations that allow the reader to visualize the kidnappers' side-splitting experience.*

I. *For instance,* _____.

Tell about one exaggeration

a. _____

b. _____

II. *While* _____.

Tell about another exaggeration

a. _____

b. _____

III. *On top of that,* _____

Tell about a third exaggeration

a. _____

b. _____

~~Closing Sentence:~~
