

Year 4 - English

Activity 1

Exploring our example
text

Today we are going to look at an example
of a wishing tale.

We are going to think about what makes our
example text an interesting story.

The whole story is available on Activity 1
Task 1.

My story opening

Far away in an icy country, where the forests are dense and dark, there once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the violent wind sneaked in through the cracks in the door and the snow slipped through the wide holes in the roof. Sadly, he was so poor that his little, old mother sat in her bed with a pointy icicle suspended from her cold nose!



How have I used description to make my opening more interesting?

Let's look at one feature together on the next page.

My story opening

Far away in *an icy country*, where the forests are dense and dark, there once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that *the violent wind* sneaked in through the cracks in the door and the snow slipped through *the wide holes* in the roof. Sadly, he was so poor that *his little, old mother* sat in her bed with *a pointy icicle* suspended from *her cold nose!*



I have used some expanded noun phrases with modifying adjectives. I have highlighted some examples.

(This means that I have used *adjectives*, a describing word, to add more information about the *noun*, the person, place or thing)

My story opening

Far away in an icy country, where the forests are dense and dark, there once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the violent wind sneaked in through the cracks in the door and the snow slipped through the wide holes in the roof. Sadly, he was so poor that his little, old mother sat in her bed with a pointy icicle suspended from her cold nose!



In the opening of a wishing tale the main character of the story wants something badly.

What could Alek want?

My story opening

Far away in an icy country, where the forests are dense and dark, there once lived a farmer called Alek. He was so poor that the violent wind sneaked in through the cracks in the door and the snow slipped through the wide holes in the roof. Sadly, he was so poor that his little, old mother sat in her bed with a pointy icicle suspended from her cold nose!

Alek wants a better life for his family.



My story build up

Early one frosty morning, Alek went out to feed his cattle at the barn. The snow lay in a thick crust on the fields, ice glittered on the path and the water trough was frozen like a mirror. At that moment, Alek heard an abnormal noise in the distance. Something was caught in the brambles beside the barn. It was a beautiful, white horse. Calming the horse down, Alek pulled the brambles to one side and set the horse free. To his amazement, the horse turned and spoke to him. "Alek, I am King of the wild horses. For setting me free, I can grant you one wish. Come back at midnight, when the moon is high, and tell me your heart's desire." Then the horse shook its mane, turned and galloped away.

Think about your learning from the story opening. Can you spot any effective expanded noun phrases in the build up?

My story build up

Early one frosty morning, Alek went out to feed his cattle at the barn. The snow lay in a thick crust on the fields, ice glittered on the path and the water trough was frozen like a mirror. At that moment, Alek heard **an abnormal noise** in the distance. Something was caught in the brambles beside the barn. It was **a beautiful, white horse**. Calming the horse down, Alek pulled the brambles to one side and set the horse free. To his amazement, the horse turned and spoke to him. "Alek, I am King of the wild horses. For setting me free, I can grant you one wish. Come back at midnight, when the moon is high, and tell me your heart's desire." Then the horse shook its mane, turned and galloped away.

I have highlighted a few. Well done if you spotted these or any others 😊

My story build up

Early one frosty morning, Alek went out to feed his cattle at the barn. The snow lay in a thick crust on the fields, ice glittered on the path and the water trough was frozen like a mirror. At that moment, Alek heard an abnormal noise in the distance. Something was caught in the brambles beside the barn. It was a beautiful, white horse. Calming the horse down, Alek pulled the brambles to one side and set the horse free. To his amazement, the horse turned and spoke to him. "Alek, I am King of the wild horses. For setting me free, I can grant you one wish. Come back at midnight, when the moon is high, and tell me your heart's desire." Then the horse shook its mane, turned and galloped away.

I have also used some fronted adverbials in my build up. I have highlighted some examples.

(Fronted adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence, used to describe the action that follows)

My story build up

Early one frosty morning, Alek went out to feed his cattle at the barn. The snow lay in a thick crust on the fields, ice glittered on the path and the water trough was frozen like a mirror. At that moment, Alek heard an abnormal noise in the distance. Something was caught in the brambles beside the barn. It was a beautiful, white horse. Calming the horse down, Alek pulled the brambles to one side and set the horse free. To his amazement, the horse turned and spoke to him. "Alek, I am King of the wild horses. For setting me free, I can grant you one wish. Come back at midnight, when the moon is high, and tell me your heart's desire." Then the horse shook its mane, turned and galloped away.

In a wishing tale, the character tries to get their wish in the build up. How could Alek get his wish?

My story build up

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The King of wild horses offered him one wish!

My story problem

Use your learning from the build up. Can you spot any *fronted adverbials*?

All afternoon, Alek paced up and down, speculating what he should wish for. In the end, his ancient father came in, almost bent double with the weight of his years. "Father, father. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for my eyesight for I have been blind these past ten years." Of course, his father was right! If he could see, his father might help with sowing the seeds and reaping the harvest.

But then, Alek's mother came in. "Mother, mother. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for gold." Why, we are so poor that we will either starve or freeze to death! Of course, his mother was right too! There was never enough to eat and the pinch of winter was dreadful!

Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.

My story problem

I have highlighted a few. Well done if you spotted these or any others 😊

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My story problem

What punctuation do you notice a lot more of in this part of the story?

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"I'd wish for my eyesight for I have been blind these past ten years." Of course, his father was right! If he could see, his father might help with sowing the seeds and reaping the harvest.

But then, Alek's mother came in. "Mother, mother. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for gold. Why, we are so poor that we will either starve or freeze to death!" Of course, his mother was right too! There was never enough to eat and the pinch of winter was dreadful!

Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.

My story problem

The character is speaking to his family so there are lots of *inverted commas* (speech marks)

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But then, Alek's mother came in. "Mother, mother. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for gold. Why, we are so poor that we will either starve or freeze to death!" Of course, his mother was right too! There was never enough to eat and the pinch of winter was dreadful!

Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.

What is the main characters problem?

My story problem

All afternoon, Alek paced up and down, speculating what he should wish for. In the end, his ancient father came in, almost bent double with the weight of his years. "Father, father. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for my eyesight for I have been blind these past ten years." Of course, his father was right! If he could see, his father might help with sowing the seeds and reaping the harvest.

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Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.

My story problem

His family want different wishes!

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"I'd wish for my eyesight for I have been blind these past ten years." Of course, his father was right! If he could see, his father might help with sowing the seeds and reaping the harvest.

But then, Alek's mother came in. "Mother, mother. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for gold. Why, we are so poor that we will either starve or freeze to death!" Of course, his mother was right too! There was never enough to eat and the pinch of winter was dreadful!

Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.

My story resolution

At midnight, Alek trudged down to the old, dilapidated barn. The moon was like a white coin in the night and the bright stars freckled the darkness. It was icy cold. Thundering across the fields came the white horse. "What is your wish?" it called to Alek. At that moment, Alek had an idea. At first it was just a seed of an idea but soon the seed took root. Standing still, beneath the grinning moon and the speckled stars, he called out.

"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

I have still used **expanded noun phrases** and **fronted adverbials**. Can you see any?

My story resolution

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"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

I have still used expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials.

I have highlighted some, well done if you found any others too!

My story resolution

At midnight, Alek trudged down to the old, dilapidated barn. The moon was like a white coin in the night and the bright stars freckled the darkness. It was icy cold. Thundering across the fields came the white horse. "What is your wish?" it called to Alek. At that moment, Alek had an idea. At first it was just a seed of an idea but soon the seed took root. Standing still, beneath the grinning moon and the speckled stars, he called out.

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"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

I tried to make sure I used some adventurous vocabulary through the story. What adventurous vocabulary can you identify in the resolution? I will explain a few. If there have been any words you don't understand in the story try find out the meaning of them.

My story resolution

At midnight, Alek trudged down to the old, **dilapidated** barn. The moon was like a white coin in the night and the bright stars freckled the darkness. It was icy cold. Thundering across the fields came the white horse. "What is your wish?" it called to Alek. At that moment, Alek had an idea. At first it was just a seed of an idea but soon the seed took root. Standing still, beneath the grinning moon and the speckled stars, he called out.

"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

Dilapidated - (of a building or object) in a state of disrepair or ruin as a result of age or neglect.

My story resolution

At midnight, Alek trudged down to the old, **dilapidated** barn. The moon was like a white coin in the night and the bright stars freckled the darkness. It was icy cold. **Thundering** across the fields came the white horse. "What is your wish?" it called to Alek. At that moment, Alek had an idea. At first it was just a seed of an idea but soon the seed took root. Standing still, beneath the grinning moon and the speckled stars, he called out.

"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

thundering - making a resounding, loud, deep noise.

My story resolution

At midnight, Alek trudged down to the old, **dilapidated** barn. The moon was like a white coin in the night and the bright stars freckled the darkness. It was icy cold. **Thundering** across the fields came the white horse. "What is your wish?" it called to Alek. At that moment, Alek had an idea. At first it was just a seed of an idea but soon the seed took root. Standing still, beneath the grinning moon and the speckled stars, he called out.

"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," **whinnied** the horse, galloping away.

whinnied - like neigh - the noise a horse makes

My story resolution

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"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

In the resolution, the main character solves his problem.

How does Alek solve his problem?

My story resolution

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"I wish for my father to see our baby in a cradle made of gold!"

"Good wish," whinnied the horse, galloping away.

He combines the three wishes!

My story ending

Alek made his way back to the old cottage and, as he came up the path, he heard a sound that he had not heard before coming from the bedroom. It was the sound of a baby crying! A grin stretched across his face as he pushed open the creaky cottage door.

In the ending, the wish comes true and we find out if the character is pleased or not.

How do we know Alek's wish came true and how he felt?

My story ending

Alek made his way back to the old cottage and, as he came up the path, he heard a sound that he had not heard before coming from the bedroom. It was the sound of a baby crying! A grin stretched across his face as he pushed open the creaky cottage door.

We know there is a baby in the cottage.

We know Alek is happy because of the phrase 'grin stretched across his face'

I could have just said His wish came true and he was happy. When writing your story, think about how you can avoid a simple ending.

Well done, you have looked in some detail at a wishing tale.

Recap - what are the 5 parts of the story?

<p>Opening Main character wants something badly</p>	<p>A better life for his family</p>
<p>Build up Main character tries to get it</p>	<p>Meets character who offers wishes</p>
<p>Problem Main character prevented by some sort of difficulty</p>	<p>All family want different wishes</p>
<p>Resolution Main character overcomes the difficulty</p>	<p>Makes the three wishes into one wish</p>
<p>Ending Main character gets what they want (Was it worth it?)</p>	<p>Gets his wish</p>

You could think about these questions.

What was your favourite part? Why?

What was your least favourite part? Why?