

A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove – Writing Paragraphs

1 First, match up the underlined words in the passage with their meanings below.

- (a) _____ – threatening, frightening
- (b) _____ – create a new definition of something
- (c) _____ – significance
- (d) _____ – group of connected people or things
- (e) _____ – flourishes, grows in a healthy way
- (f) _____ – easily, normally, without effort
- (g) _____ – at first, at the beginning
- (h) _____ – broken, disintegrated
- (i) _____ – not operating properly or normally
- (j) _____ – makes up for



A SAMPLE PARAGRAPH

In the course of the novel, Carl discovers that his friends are another, more functional kind of family. Justine helps him to redefine what a family means when she says to him, "You take good care of Harley. That's family." Her words show that a family is based not only on biological relationships but also on shared kindness and trust. The importance of caring for others and being cared for by them becomes clearer as Harley thrives in his new home with the Duncans. By developing friendships with Justine, Joy and Skip, Carl creates a network of friendships that allows him to feel that he is part of a group. Nevertheless, this process is often a difficult and painful one that does not come naturally to him. For instance, he admits to Justine, "I've never felt part of anything before...it was too much." Gradually, however, Carl realises that this new sense of belonging, even if it is initially daunting, provides a lasting happiness and compensates to some extent for his own fragmented, dysfunctional family.

2 In the paragraph above, highlight each of these elements in different colours:

- Topic sentence
- Closing sentence
- Quotations
- Examples
- Connecting words and phrases
- Verbs in the **present tense**

3 Write two paragraphs of your own, choosing any **two** of these topics:

- Carl's character
- the theme of family in the novel
- the theme of hardship in the novel
- the theme of prejudice in the novel

Sample topic sentences (with examples that don't work):

ABOUT CARL:

This is a topic sentence:

- Although Carl is an apprehensive, vulnerable boy at the start of the novel, he gradually develops into a young man who is determined to take charge of his life and care for his younger brother.

These are NOT topic sentences:

- Carl has to leave home.
- Carl misses his mother.

PREJUDICE:

This is a topic sentence:

- Carl and Harley must overcome the prejudice of the other people in Wattle Beach who assume that the boys will behave like other members of the Matt family.

These are NOT topic sentences:

- The other people in the town are mean to Carl and Harley.
- Carl and Harley are neglected.

HARDSHIP:

This is a topic sentence:

- Carl and Harley experience many hardships, including the loss of their mother, the neglect and cruelty of Aunt Beryl and the prejudice of many people in Wattle Beach.

This is NOT a topic sentence:

Carl and Harley are poor.

Task for Carl, Thomas and Michael:

Use MadPad to make 12 short clips about “Bridge to Wiseman’s Cove”, each only 7 seconds long. For each, write a sentence and then record it.

Example:

Show picture of pincushion:

“Carl feels the pain of others like his own.”