

# 'Stories of Life at Sydney Cove' by Susan E Boyer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Worksheet # 2

## Text Structure

In written texts, sentences are grouped together into paragraphs. The sentences in a paragraph share a common subject. A paragraph generally begins with a topic sentence and other sentences in the paragraph give more information about it.

For example, read the first paragraph of Chapter 1 in 'Stories of Life at Sydney Cove'.

Thirteen-year-old John Hudson could not believe his luck. Life had taken a turn for the better. For several days he hadn't been woken before daylight to angry voices bellowing orders. Nor had he been rowed from the prison ship *Dunkirk* to work on the waterfront till his fingers turned blue and his lips cracked and bled from the bitter cold.

1. What or who is the subject of this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many sentences does the paragraph have? \_\_\_\_\_

3. From the paragraph above, find the following information:

a) How old is John Hudson? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Where did he usually work? \_\_\_\_\_

c) When did he usually get up? \_\_\_\_\_

d) What was the weather like? \_\_\_\_\_

e) How is he feeling now? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Why do you think the author, Susan Boyer, provides this information about John Hudson?


5. From the information in the first paragraph, what can you predict about John Hudson's story?


6. After reading the first paragraph, what questions do you have about John Hudson?


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After reading Chapter 1 in 'Stories of Life at Sydney Cove' return to page 4 which describes John Hudson's court case. The dialogue, or conversation, is between John Hudson and the court judge. Each speaker's words are shown between quotation marks.

For example:      'How old are you?'

Dialogue makes a story interesting and helps readers to imagine the scene. The courtroom dialogue has two speakers. One person asks questions and the other person answers them. Who is saying what?

7. Write *John* or *judge* after each line to show who said the words:

Who said this?

'How old are you?'

\_\_\_\_\_

'Goin' on nine.' John kept his head down and his answers short.

\_\_\_\_\_

'What business were you bred up in?'

\_\_\_\_\_

'None, sometimes a chimney sweeper.'

\_\_\_\_\_

'Have you any father or mother?'

\_\_\_\_\_

'Dead,' John replied simply.

\_\_\_\_\_

'How long ago?'

\_\_\_\_\_

'I dunno.'

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What information do you learn about John Hudson from the dialogue above?


In *Stories of Life at Sydney Cove*, some words in dialogues are written to show a speaker's way of talking. Sometimes, parts of words are missing and an apostrophe shows the missing letter, or letters.

For example: 'Give 'im somethin!' written in correct English, would be: 'Give him something!'

9. Rewrite John Hudson's words using correct English:

'I 'ad nuthin to do with it.' \_\_\_\_\_

'I dunno.' \_\_\_\_\_

10. When the judge addresses other people in the courtroom, he uses different language (page 5). How are his words and sentences different to those he used when speaking to John Hudson?
