



# *The Girl who Stole an Elephant by Nizrana Farook*

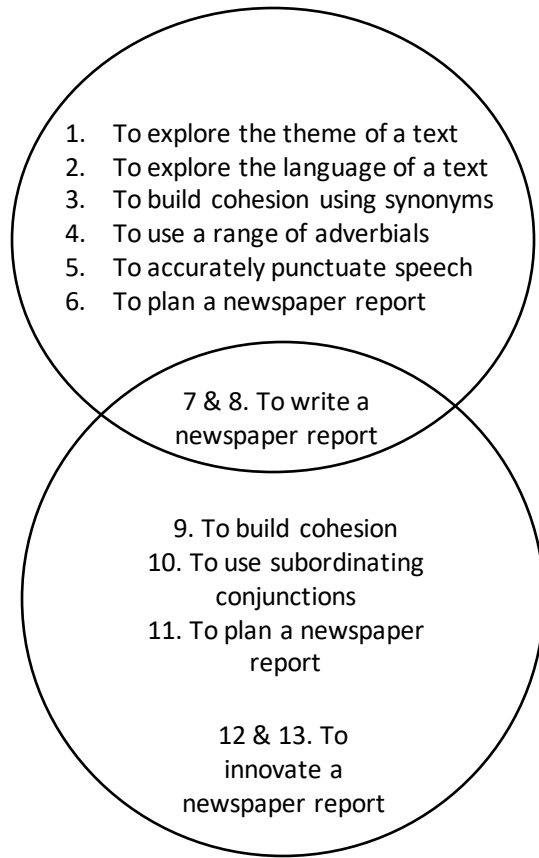
Fiction

Theme: Morality

Tier 2 words: Unidentified, emerge, notified, detect,  
intrude

Key vocabulary: guard, soldier, palace, promenade

## The Girl who stole an Elephant



SC:  
 Use a wide range of adverbials – besides, however, therefore, nevertheless, nonetheless

Accurately Punctuate Speech

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Accurately Punctuate Speech  
 Build cohesion with linked sentences  
 Use subordinating conjunctions

### Read News Reports in Reading Lessons

1. Theme: **TTYP** Just looking at the cover illustration, what do you think this story will be about? Reveal the title and a photograph of the setting. **TTYP** Has your opinion changed? Why? Give extracts from the text to partners to explore together. What clues can we find about the characters, setting, events etc by looking closely at the text? Introduce theme: What evidence is there in the extract to give us a clue about **themes** e.g. I think it might be about **honesty** because it says there has been a robbery at the palace. Introduce theme: Morality. What are morals? How can you decide if something is moral or immoral?
2. Tier 2 vocabulary lesson: Unidentified, emerge, notified, detect, intrude. Also teach key vocabulary to ensure understanding: guard, soldier, palace, promenade
3. Explain this week, we will be writing a newspaper report on the theft of the Queen's jewels (chapter 1). Recap use of a postrophe for possession. Display illustrations depicting the chase between the guards and Chaya (Chap 1) e.g. Shouts heard from balcony near Queen's chambers, King's guards seen running down stone steps chasing a young girl, Through feast, through elephants waiting for parade, along promenade, through dancers, lost at lion arch etc. Explain that we will need synonyms for the different players: guards, the girl, the King, the Queen, the partygoers and make class lists e.g. The girl, the thief, the intruder, the unidentified criminal. Learners orally retell the events using synonyms. Then learners write one sentence per picture using class banks of synonyms.
4. Recap adverbials: however and therefore from Year 3. Model meaning with pairs of sentences. Share examples and non-examples. Introduce: nevertheless. Explain meaning and share pairs of sentences. Learners use adverbials to link sentences. Provide with images or starting sentences. E.g. *There is little chance that the guards will find her now. Nevertheless, the guards will not stop looking.* E.g. *The King's anger was expected. Nevertheless it is concerning given his previous actions.* E.g. *The jewellery was not the Queen's favourite. Nevertheless, she was distraught to see it go.*
5. Recap speech punctuation. Model introducing speaker first then comma to introduce speech. E.g. The police officer stated, "Our investigations have begun."
6. Share example of news report about elephant from the zoo being stolen. Plan a newspaper report on the Queen's jewels being stolen (chapter 1). P1 General summary. P2 Sequence of events. P3 Reaction/quotes. P4 Final summary
7. Model live writing of newspaper report
8. Model change to present tense in final paragraph
9. Model how to build cohesion using linked sentences and turning the object of a sentence into the subject of the next sentence. Present pairs with information. Practise matching linked sentences first. Learners write a linked sentence starting with the object of the given sentence. E.g. The thief stole the painting from the Filton Gallery. This gallery is famous for its wide range of artworks. HAPs extend to use a synonym. The thief stole the painting from the Filton Gallery. This building is famous for its wide range of artworks.
10. Model wide range of subordinating conjunctions including unless, until, although, since. Explain meaning of each. Model examples and non-examples. Recap on use of the comma.
11. Plan newspaper report about some jewels being stolen from a celebrity. Share pictures of jewels and celebrity houses/characters to provide ideas. Learners orally retell boxed up plans.
12. Write newspaper report
13. Continue write. Model shift to present tense in final paragraph.
14. Publish news report and share on Class Dojo.

## Unusual theft

SC:

Use a wide range of  
adverbials – however,  
therefore, nevertheless,  
Accurately Punctuate  
Speech

Late last night, an unidentified thief stole an elephant from Wild and Wonderful in Clifton, whilst keepers were sleeping.

In the early hours of this morning, Mark Smart reported the theft to the authorities. He first noticed the theft at feeding time. Mr Smart explained that the elderly elephant named Dolly did not emerge with the rest of the herd when keepers were handing out food. As Mr Smart reported the theft to the police, concerned staff searched the entire enclosure for the magnificent beast. However, unfortunately, the elephant could not be found, leaving staff (and the herd) in great distress. After reporting the robbery, staff began to fix the damage caused. Because of the size of this amazing creature, the elephant appeared to have destroyed a large amount of fencing during the robbery. Nevertheless, the thieves were successful in stealing Dolly and no one heard them or detected an intrusion.

Don't make it passive –  
not till Y6

Mr Smart reported that, "Dolly is usually first in the queue for breakfast, so I immediately knew something was wrong." Another source at the zoo told us that the criminals also left some other clues behind. One worker stated, "When I searched the grounds, I found a trail of peanuts leading out the front gate!" Therefore, investigators believe they may have left in this direction.

Plan:

P1 General summary  
P2 Sequence of events.  
P3 Reaction/quotes  
P4 Final summary/ What  
will happen next

This theft is extremely alarming. Staff at the sanctuary are keen for this mystery to be solved as the herd are missing their friend. All the staff agreed that the animals are desperate for Dolly to return. One young volunteer said, "The whole herd are just standing around as if they are waiting for her to come home." There is a £1,000 reward for any information that leads to the thieves. However, so far no one has come forward.

## Robbery at the palace

SC:

Use a wide range of  
adverbials – besides,  
however, therefore,  
nevertheless, nonetheless

Accurately Punctuate  
Speech

Yesterday afternoon, an unidentified thief stole the Queen's jewels, whilst celebrations were taking place. This shocking robbery occurred at approximately 3.40pm.

At around 3.45pm, the crowds who were gathered to watch the elephant parade heard a shout from the Queen's room. Soon after, guards started to chase a girl through the area prepared for the King's feast. It looked like the guards were close to catching her at this point. However, the intruder, then managed to dodge between the herd of elephants, upsetting the mahouts who were trying to control them. She emerged close to the West gate and escaped in this direction.

The leader of the royal guards said, "We almost caught the girl, but at the last second, she managed to wriggle free." A guest, who did not wish to be identified, reported, "I was enjoying the celebrations with my friends until suddenly a girl jumped on top of our table and ran across it." The King, was furious about this theft and declared, "We have not found the thief yet. Nevertheless, rest assured we will. When we do, we will severely punish the thief and their family."

Plan:

P1 General summary  
P2 Sequence of events.  
P3 Reaction/quotes  
P4 Final summary/ What  
will happen next

The King's guards and soldiers are now searching entire villages for the thief and the jewels. The King and Queen have offered a 15,000 rupees reward if the jewels are recovered. Nevertheless, so far no one has reported any sightings of the jewels. Their Royal Highnesses have not yet confirmed the punishment for the thief. However, people are expecting that the thief may be executed as the King does not normally show mercy.

SC:

Use a wide range of  
adverbials - however,  
therefore, nevertheless,  
Accurately Punctuate  
Speech

Use subordinating  
conjunctions: although,  
unless, until, since

### Model live writing – Don't share as one piece or before extended write

**This morning**, an unidentified thief stole one of the world's most famous jewels, the Champagne Diamond. The criminal took the gem from the London home of American film stars, Jasper Stone and Serena Slade.

Serena was planning to wear the diamond at tomorrow's Film Awards ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel. Here, she is expected to win this year's Best Actress award. The precious rock, which is set in a spectacular golden necklace, got its name because of its pale champagne colour. The rich and famous have admired it **since** it was discovered in South Africa in 1906. Jasper Stone bought it for his wife **when** they got married five years ago. **Although** some staff were in the house at the time of the theft, the couple were not at home as they were being interviewed by the BBC. Despite great security, thieves managed to get inside the home and steal the diamond necklace at around 10am. **However**, the staff did not notice it was missing **until** 11.30am when a housekeeper saw some footprints in the bedroom.

Mr Stone has described the theft. He said, "This is nothing more than daylight robbery." A member of his staff added, "I couldn't believe it when we found out the diamond had been stolen. I don't know how thieves could possibly have got through our tight security **unless** they had an insider's help." Andy Campbell, who is leading the investigation, explained, "The diamond was under strict security in a hidden safe. Only a few of the staff knew about its existence." **Therefore**, police are now investigating whether the thieves had links to Stone's staff.

Police will be doing everything they can to try to recover the diamond. Luckily, its size and rare colour mean that it will be almost impossible for the thieves to sell it on.