

Modelled Example: The Sign



Engaging Orientation

The wind hissed through the broken fence as Sami stared up at the old sign.

NO ENTRY—faded red paint, hanging sideways like it was too tired to stand straight. Behind it stood an empty amusement park, quiet and still, as if it had been holding its breath for years.

Sami's jacket flapped in the breeze. His dark eyes scanned the place like a detective searching for clues. He clutched his sketchbook—it always came with him when he explored. People said the park was haunted. But Sami didn't feel scared. He felt like something was calling him in.

Backstory

Three years ago, Sami's older brother vanished—like a shadow swallowed by the night. It happened during a dare—one foolish step into the amusement park's rusted jaws. The gate had groaned open like an old man waking from a nightmare, and then... silence.

All they ever found was his torch, lying cold on the gravel like a dropped candle at a forgotten vigil. Since then, the park had become a ghost in the town's memory—its rides frozen mid-scream, its colours drained like an old photograph.

People said the wind inside whispered secrets. Sami had been younger then, small and scared, his heart a fluttering bird in a cage. But now, holding his sketchbook like a shield, he had returned—ready to face the place that had stolen his brother and haunted his dreams.

Conflicts and Resolutions

1. Conflict: The Lost Sketchbook

As Sami stepped deeper into the park, the wind grabbed his sketchbook and tossed it like a paper kite. It landed in a puddle, the water smearing his careful drawings. His heart dropped. These pages held the clues to finding his brother. Now they were just soggy messes.

Resolution:

Sami picked up the wet book and sat on a broken bench. He stared at the empty pages, then began to draw again—this time from memory. Each line felt like a step forward. He realised it wasn't the sketches guiding him—it was his courage.

2. Conflict: Footsteps in the Dark

The Ferris wheel creaked like an old door. Then—crunch. Crunch. Footsteps. But no one was there. Sami froze. Goosebumps rose like tiny soldiers across his skin. Was something—or someone—there?

Resolution:

He followed the noise and found a man in a green coat with a torch. The man, once a park guard, had stayed to watch over the place. “You’re Sami, right?” he said. “I knew your brother.” Sami’s fear melted into hope. He was no longer alone in the mystery.

3. Conflict: The Storm

Rain poured like a waterfall. Sami ran, but the path was already flooding. The entrance was blocked. The storm howled around him, and fear gripped him like icy hands. He was stuck inside the park.

Resolution:

He found shelter in the old ticket booth. As lightning flashed, he spotted something scratched into the wood: *A + S*. His brother’s initials. Sami touched the carving. It felt like a sign. He was in the right place—he just had to keep going.

4. Conflict: The Cut

While exploring under the funhouse, Sami slipped and a sharp metal edge sliced his leg. The pain hit fast and hard. Blood trickled down his shin. He sat, dizzy, feeling helpless.

Resolution:

Using a page from his sketchbook, he wrapped his wound tightly. It wasn’t perfect, but it worked. The page held the bleeding, and his fear faded. He stood up, limping but strong. Even hurt, he wouldn’t give up.

5. Conflict: The Locked Door

Behind the roller coaster, Sami found a small metal door covered in strange symbols. It was locked tight. He pulled, pushed, kicked. Nothing worked. Frustration bubbled like steam in his chest. This had to be important—every part of him knew it.

Resolution:

He remembered the wire in his bag and used it to pick the lock. *Click*. The door opened. Inside, it was dark and cold. On the floor sat a torch—scratched and old. It was his brother’s. Sami picked it up and smiled. “I’m getting closer,” he whispered.

Meaningful Conclusion:

Sami stood beneath the roller coaster, the torch warm in his hand despite the cold. The park, once a monster made of rust and shadows, now felt quieter—like it had been holding its breath and had finally exhaled.

He didn't have all the answers yet, but he had something just as important: a path forward. Every sketch, every clue, every moment of fear had led him here—not just to find his brother, but to find himself.

As he stepped into the morning light, the broken sign above the gate creaked softly behind him—not a warning, but a farewell. And for the first time in years, Sami felt the weight of the past begin to lift, like dust shaken from forgotten pages.

 Literal Comprehension (Recall)


1. What does the sign at the entrance of the amusement park say?

2. What object does Sami always carry with him when exploring?

3. How long ago did Sami's brother disappear?

4. What was the only item found after his brother vanished?

5. Where does Sami find shelter during the storm?

 **Inferential Comprehension (Reading Between the Lines)**

6. Why do you think Sami continues to explore the park despite the danger?

7. What clues suggest that Sami's brother might have been in the locked room?

8. How does the man in the green coat help change Sami's journey?

9. What do the initials *A + S* carved into the booth represent for Sami?

10. How does Sami's reaction to losing his sketchbook show his determination?

 **Language and Literary Techniques**

11. Find a simile in the story. What does it compare, and why is it effective?

12. What does the metaphor “the park, once a monster made of rust and shadows” suggest about Sami’s view of the park?

13. Identify one example of personification and explain its effect.

14. What type of imagery is used in the phrase “rides frozen mid-scream”? What feeling does it create?

15. How does the author use weather (wind, rain, storm) to build tension in the story?

 **Personal Connection and Evaluation**

16. What part of the story did you find most suspenseful or emotional? Why?

17. How does Sami change from the beginning to the end of the story?

18. Do you think Sami is brave? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

19. What might the torch symbolise in the final scene?

20. If you were to write a sequel, what do you think Sami would do next?
