

The River

Today you are going to write a story.
The title for your story is "The River."

Your story might be about an adventure, crossing
a river or travelling on a river.

It could be about a place close to a river, where
something important happens.

Your story could be about people who live near a
river. They may be helped by the river, or put in
danger by it.

Think about:

- The characters and where they are.
- The complication or problem to be solved.
- How the story will end.

Remember to:

- Plan your story before you start.
- Write in sentences.
- Pay attention to the words you choose, your
spelling and punctuation.
- Check and edit your story when you have finished.



The River

I love penguins. I know all about them and I can draw them too.

Nanny said, "Alistair, what do you want to do over the holidays?"

"To see the penguins," I said. Nanny said, "I'll think about it."

The next day I asked Nanny if we were going to the ocean to see the penguins.

"No, we're going to the river to see them," she said.

Nanny was silly. Penguins don't swim in rivers. They swim in the ocean. At night they come to their burrows in the sand to look after their eggs or feed their babies.

The ones in the ocean at Phillip Island are called Little Penguins. People call them Fairy Penguins sometimes.

On the train Nanny showed me the river and said that we were near where the penguins were. Then I knew we were going to see a film and I was sad.

The River

But we went to the Aquarium and I saw lots of big penguins. They were the King Penguins from Antarctica. There were Gentoo Penguins, as well. They had different colors on their heads.

It was the first time for me at the Aquarium so I was very, very happy.

The female penguin wasn't happy. She was cross because the male penguins were not looking at her.

I still want to go to Phillip Island one day.

**End of 2009 NAPLAN Trial Examination Sample Response
Writing Year 3**

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The River

Princess Marie-Therese was beautiful and smart. She sang and danced and brushed her long, blonde hair all day. When the time came for her to marry the King said that the prince had to be smart, as well as handsome. His task was to cross the river around the palace without touching the water.

Each day the Princess saw handsome princes trying to cross the river. They started in the winter. One prince looked smart but he got angry and threw big rocks in the water. He came many times in the winter and also in the spring.

The Princess became sad. She stopped dancing so that she could look for her handsome prince. He came a lot but each time was very angry. The Princess stopped singing because the prince could not hear her with the noise of the water.

The Princess became sadder but she kept brushing her long, blonde hair so that she looked beautiful.

The River

At the end of the summer the Princess saw the prince again. She began singing then dancing. She knew that the prince could cross the river on the rocks he threw there in the winter. They were dry because there wasn't so much water.

The King said, " You can marry my daughter because you are smart as well as handsome."

So Princess Marie-Therese and her handsome prince lived happily ever after.

**End of 2009 NAPLAN Trial Examination Sample Response
Writing Year 5**

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The River

The quest for Thomas was to find the sacred pictures in stone. Then he would be Thomas, the Perfect Knight. His lord told him to follow the big river to where the small river entered.

He began his journey in the early spring. When he reached the big river the remaining winter mud made the path hard to walk on. At night he would ask for shelter.

"I am a Wayfarer on a quest to find the sacred pictures." Everyone showed him kindness and respect.

Day after day he followed the big river observing the longer hours of daylight, the brighter sun and the green leaves. He wondered how long his journey would take.

The time of 2 full moons passed. Thomas knew his body was stronger. He felt he could slay dragons and win jousting tournaments but he needed a sign.

The River

It was the day after he saw the half moon. Thomas heard the water before he saw it. The small river flowed noisily over stones and rocks. As he leaned over to drink he nearly fell. There, a handspan below the surface on the dark stone, were the sacred pictures.

On the cloth inside his tunic he copied the pictures to prove that he had succeeded in his quest.

He was now Thomas, the Perfect Knight.

**End of 2009 NAPLAN Trial Examination Sample Response
Writing Year 7**

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The River

It was school camp time again. We were going to set up our tents near the banks of the King River. I didn't think it would be a king river at all. I doubted if Melbourne or Victoria would ever have real rain again. You know, the sort that sends you to sleep at night without your ear-phones. Everyone calls me a greenie but, secretly, I was relieved that the desalination plant was going ahead. Our water certainly wasn't coming down from the skies any more.

At the base we were given our tents, mattresses and other equipment. Strange looking tops and bottoms with long sleeves and legs were handed out.

" Maybe they're for mosquito protection!"

"They look like jail uniforms!"

"They probably help in the brain-washing for a cult."

Our leader, who remembered the olden days, explained that they were waterproofs, in case of rain. Didn't he know we would never need them?

After literally hours of walking our leader called out, "Nearly there. Just the other side of the river."

River? A gutter with puddles! A boat was mockingly tied to a tree a hundred metres away.

The River

The next few days were fine and sunny. What else would they be? We crossed the gutter-with-puddles twice a day for various activities. On the last morning we were told to put on our walking-through-water gear. Did our leader have in-built weather radar? He had found out something we didn't know.

Amazing! The gutter-with-puddles was a raging torrent. "Stop exaggerating, Rosie," contradicted the leader. "It's no more than sixty centimetres deep. They've let water down from the weir. We're going to have to use the boat to ferry the packs and the midgets across."

At least we learned how much fun a real river was and I found out another use for the mosquito repelling cult uniforms. I wore them after being pushed into the water for being chief whinger.

**End of 2009 NAPLAN Trial Examination Sample Response
Writing Year 9**

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