

Around the bend

Structure

Title

Orientation

The orientation begins on the second line

Complication

Sequence of events

Resolution

In this narrative the resolution is not a happy one.

Around the bend

"Fares, please!"

I was the porter of the new steam train. It was a busy day. People's voices here and there, rushing in, finding a seat in the carriage.

The train began to steam up. The rewing engine began to roar, the rhythm of the train echoed like the beat of music playing to a song as the restless, puffing passenger train started beating down the track. But what lay around the coming bend in the rusty haze of the early country morning?

1. On the beaten, lonely, stony tracks — what lay ahead around the bend?

2. The coming of the bend was near. I had a feeling of tragedy. But, no. Everything was too normal. The passengers in their usual work suits reading the weekly press, waiting patiently for the stop at their station.

3. The air became stuffy with smoke and dust. In spite of the frosty morning air, I opened a window. The train's beat grew faster and it began to sound like the thud of a heartbeat.

We nearly lifted off the ground going around the bend. I thought that this was it, but no, I could breathe again.

Then a huge derailment made the train jump the line. Screaming filled my ears. Did anyone expect this? Yes, 'someone did. I did!

Luggage pelted everywhere as bodies and seats were shredded by the plummeting train, twisting and sliding down the cliff beside the bend.

Leigh, Year 6
Meeniyam P.S.

Language features

Dialogue

This writer varies his beginning so that the first words are spoken by the main character.

Simile

'like the beat of music'

Descriptive language

Simile

'like the thud of a heartbeat'

Action verbs

Writer's Challenge

1 This narrative is full of action verbs such as 'pelted' and 'plummeting'. List four more in the spaces.

2 Find the adjectives in the text to go with the nouns below:

_____ haze _____ tracks _____ morning

Write a narrative

A story about danger

Shipwreck? Car or plane crash? Workplace accident? Murder? Run over?
Skirmish with crocodile?



A large area of horizontal dashed lines for writing a narrative, enclosed in a dotted border.

More to do

Write a narrative in the form of a diary in the first person. Imagine that you take part in some great event like landing on the moon. Each diary entry records the sequence of events, building towards the resolution. Begin like this:

- Friday 16th May
Lift-off time arrived. It was time to don my space suit.
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