

Tuesday 6th January, 2016

Truro, Cornwall

Today has been a day that I will remember for the rest of my life. I still can't actually believe what has happened to me today (even though nobody considers I am telling the truth)! Today, I saw.... a spaceship. Right there, up in the sky. Mum thinks I've had too much sugar (which is probably true) BUT I did indeed spot a UFO. Mum has been saying to get outside more instead of playing on the Xbox, so over the last few weeks I thought I best at least try to get some fresh air because I don't want to be grounded. That's when I saw it! I was walking over to Ben's house around about 4pm after school and to be honest it was starting to get dark. The street lights came on all of a sudden which made me jump out of my skin. Ben only lives around the corner and Mum only lets me go by myself because I take my mobile with me in case I get into trouble.

Anyway, just before I got to Church Street, I heard a weird buzzing sound. I stopped and checked my phone because it's been playing up lately, making strange sounds, but it wasn't my phone. And besides the buzzing got louder and louder. That's when I looked up. There above number 53, was an oval shaped, disc-type thing, actually **hovering** above the house. I know the girl in number 53 from school, and yes she's a bit strange, but not on this sort of level! Out of the dark came a ray of blue light. It shone down on the house in a triangular shape, lighting up everything in its path. In fact, it **illuminated** the house like a Christmas tree!

At that moment, I legged it! I was closer to Ben's than mine so I ran like a **galloping** horse. I didn't even look back until I got to his front door. I dragged him outside in order to see the UFO but when I pointed up to the sky, nothing was there. It was gone. Not only that but Ben just laughed. He thought it was a prank of some sort. Ben's mum, Mrs Mitchell, came out into the front garden to see what all the fuss was about but she didn't believe me either. I even drew them both a picture of what I had just seen too but that didn't help.

Wednesday 7th January, 2016

Truro, Cornwall

I thought yesterday was an exciting day but today was even better! When I got to school there was a **commotion** at the gates. There were lots of vans with big **aerials** on the top of them. **Surrounding** the gates were lots of people, all looking in the same direction. In the middle of the group, facing the people, was the girl from number 53. I think her name is Ellen. I've seen her on the playground at lunchtime before. She was stood there with someone who looked like her mum and people were holding up microphones towards her. She looked nervous but her mum was holding her hand. When we listened in to what they were saying, I realised that Ellen was talking about a UFO. She also said that she saw an alien! An Alien! I must have had a lucky escape. Ellen explained how she was **panic-stricken**, face-to-face with a sea-green alien in her backyard.

The TV crews stayed around the school gates for the rest of the morning while we carried on with our day. Maths and English as usual. At playtime everyone wanted to hear what Ellen had to say. Crowds of peers surrounded her, trying to gain any morsel of information. She must have described the alien hundreds of times to different people. I wonder if people will believe me now? I did go and tell my part of the story but people just thought I was making it up because of Ellen's story.

Thursday 8th January, 2016

Truro, Cornwall

Today was a normal day at school. There were no TV cameras, no people at the gates and lessons went ahead as normal. We had science this morning and we were learning about the cycle of the moon. We ended up talking about aliens and if they exist. Lots of people had different ideas on this.

I walked home with Ben from school at around 3:30pm. It's only a short walk but always seems to take ages. I think that's because there is such a big hill to climb along Magden Road. We walked up the road towards Ben's house and along the street. There were houses on each side of the road with small front gardens. Many of the houses have hedges or low fences that line the street.

Suddenly, a figure appeared in front of us shaped like a pear. It had three legs underneath it and was a green-blue colour. It stared right at us, unmoving. Ben and I froze, not knowing what to do next. There it remained, with piercing eyes, for what felt like ten minutes. It was almost like a staring competition with us and the alien. Ben took a step forward with his hand out to wave. In response to this the alien copied him, also reaching forward with two of its many hands. Ben even said hello to it but in reply the alien made a grunting sound like a chinchilla. I only know that because my cousin Amy has two chinchillas as pets and sometimes when we go around to her house we play with them. So anyway, while we were communicating with the alien there was a noise from behind us. It sounded like a crowd of girls walking home too. They were talking loudly about Justin Bieber and his new album. When the alien heard the noise, his whole body flickered, just like on a hologram. After flickering for several seconds he vanished into thin air, leaving Ben and I startled and to be honest quite annoyed with the girls who were walking towards us from behind.

We talked about it the rest of the way home and agreed that we would keep it a secret between ourselves. We didn't want everyone to know what we had experienced today. It was definitely the best day of my life though! And I wonder what tomorrow will bring?

Where does the text take place?

What happened in the diary entries?

Why do you think the author chose the title ‘The UFO’?

What was the most interesting part of the diary entries? Explain why.

What does ‘Ben and I froze’ tell you about how the characters are feeling?

Is the text written in a formal or informal style? Give an example.

Give three ways this text has been written in the style of a diary entry.

What feature is used in the text below?

Mum thinks I've had too much sugar (which is probably true).

What does the author of the diary want you to believe?

Who would you like to meet from the text? Explain your answer.

Does the author have a viewpoint on what happened?

Write the meaning of each of the words.

hovering _____

illuminated _____

galloping _____

commotion _____

aerials _____

surrounding _____

panic-stricken _____

morsel _____

exist _____

figure _____

remained _____

piercing _____

unmoving _____

response _____

communicating _____

hologram _____

experienced _____

Match the highlighted word to its antonym.

illuminated	not alive
exist	went
remained	dark
morsel	large piece

Match the highlighted words below with its synonym.

illuminated	share information
commotion	lit up
surrounding	all around
communicating	uproar

Select the correct word from the box below to complete the sentences.

surrounding	exist	commotion	morsel	communicating
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There was such a _____ at the school gates.

The alien was _____ with Ben.

TV reporters were _____ Ellen and her mother.

No-one really thinks aliens _____.

Crowds of peers surrounded her trying to gain any _____ of information.

Using the word bank below, add a conjunction to each of the sentences so that it makes sense.

and	because	but	whilst
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Ellen was interviewed by reporters _____ she saw an alien.

The boy saw the UFO _____ nobody would believe him.

The boy and Ben saw an alien _____ on the way home from school.

The alien was pear shaped _____ had three legs.

Underline the adverbial phrases in the sentences below. Some of them may be fronted adverbial phrases.

- Before they got home, Ben and the boy came across an alien in the street.
- The UFO surprised me, over the neighbour's house, and so I ran to Ben's house.
- The people surrounded Ellen, in order to hear her story.
- Yesterday at the school, TV vans arrived with large aerials on them.

Rewrite the sentences using a contraction for the underlined words.

My mum should have believed me when I told her about the UFO.

There is a TV van with an aerial waiting at the school gates.

Ben did not believe I had seen a blue light shining from the sky.

The UFO – Oral Teacher Questions

Where does the text take place? **Truro in Cornwall. We know this because each entry is dated and shows the location.**

What happened in the diary entries? **There was an event where an alien spaceship lit up a house, a girl encountered an alien, the local news team wanted to report it and the main character sees the alien on the way home from school.**

Why do you think the author chose the title 'The UFO'? **The diary entries are about the appearance of a UFO.**

What was the most interesting part of the diary entries? Explain why. **Personal response.**

What does 'Ben and I froze' tell you about how the characters are feeling? **It shows that the characters are shocked and surprised and maybe even frightened.**

Is the text written in a formal or informal style? Give an example. **Informal style. Examples include: anyway, legged it. It is written as if the author is talking to the reader as a friend.**

Give three ways this text has been written in the style of a diary entry. **Date and place, informal style, mostly past tense, short sentences, first person, rhetorical question, self-reflection.**

What feature is used in the text below?

Mum thinks I've had too much sugar (which is probably true). **Parenthesis, it gives more information.**

What does the author of the diary want you to believe? **That aliens exist and that the author encountered an experience with an alien.**

Who would you like to meet from the text? Explain your answer. **Personal response. Children must use the text to explain why they would like to meet them and what they would talk about.**

Does the author have a viewpoint on what happened? **Yes. The author experienced the event first hand.**

Write the meaning of each of the words.

hovering – remain in one place in the air

illuminated – lit up

galloping – to go at the pace of a gallop or a run

commotion – a noisy and confused disturbance

aerials – an antenna used to transmit radio or TV broadcasts

surrounding – all around one particular thing

panic-stricken – affected by panic, frightened

morsel – a small amount or piece

exist – to be alive or living

figure – the shape or frame of a person or thing

remained – stayed

piercing – appearing to see straight through someone, a stern look

unmoving – not moving or couldn't move

response – an answer

communicating – share or exchange information

hologram – a 3D image that is made from beams of light

experienced – to have knowledge of something or a first-hand encounter/event

Match the highlighted word to its antonym.

illuminated	not alive
exist	went
remained	dark
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Match the highlighted words below with its synonym.

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There was such a **commotion** at the school gates.

The alien was **communicating** with Ben.

TV reporters were **surrounding** Ellen and her mother.

No-one really thinks aliens **exist**.

Crowds of peers surrounded her trying to gain any **morsel** of information.

Using the word bank below, add a conjunction to each of the sentences so that it makes sense.

and	because	but	whilst
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Ellen was interviewed by reporters **because** she saw an alien.

The boy saw the UFO **but** nobody would believe him.

The boy and Ben saw an alien **whilst** on the way home from school.

The alien was pear shaped **and** had three legs.

Underline the adverbial phrases in the sentences below. Some of them may be frontal adverbial phrases.

- **Before they got home**, Ben and the boy came across an alien in the street.
- The UFO surprised me, **over the neighbour's house**, and so I ran to Ben's house.
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My mum **should've** believed me when I told her about the UFO.

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Ben **didn't** believe I had seen a blue light shining from the sky.