

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

**Text Structure - Narrative (factual)**

**Background Information**

**Orientation -includes setting and introduces main participants**

**Complication**

**Further complication**

**Resolution**

**Coda**

**GUY FAWKES AND THE GUNPOWDER PLOT.**

In New Zealand, people are only allowed to buy fireworks to use at home for one week in November up to November 5th. Most people let off their fireworks on November 5th, but not many know what this date helps us to remember. It is actually commemorating something that only nearly happened a long time ago, in England!

Four hundred years ago, England was being ruled by King James 1 of Scotland, a king who followed the Protestant Christian religion. King James did not mind that some people in England were Catholic, and he wanted to allow them to worship in whatever way they wanted.

However, some Catholics were angry that theirs was not the only religion allowed in England, and they decided to try and kill the King. Robert Catesby was the leader of a group of conspirators who were plotting to blow up the House of Parliament when the King was inside. In April 1604, Guy Fawkes joined the group. One person, Thomas Percy, rented a house next to the Parliament building, while the others planned what to do when they had killed the King and other members of the government.

On December 11 they began digging a tunnel under the rented house to a vault, a large room right under the main hall of Parliament. They worked very slowly and by March 1605 they were only half way there. They needn't have worked so hard. In March, Thomas Percy found that he could rent the vault for storage. They didn't need the tunnel.

The conspirators took many kilograms of gunpowder into the vault in barrels. They planned to light the gunpowder and blow up the Parliament. Next they put iron bars on top of the barrels so the explosion would cause as much damage as possible and kill lots of people. Then they hid the gunpowder barrels by putting firewood and coal on top of them. They set the date for carrying out their plot for November 5th 1605.

The only problem for some of the conspirators was that some of the people in the Parliament were Catholics, who were related to their own families. They didn't want to kill them at the same time. One person wrote a warning letter about "something that was going to happen in Parliament" to his brother-in-law, Lord Monteagle. The letter said to stay away from the opening of Parliament to avoid a "terrible blow". Monteagle immediately told a number of people, but they waited. The conspirators thought that nobody had discovered their plot, so they prepared for the explosion.

On November 4th, Guy Fawkes went to hide in the vault, taking a fuse and matches which he would use to light the gunpowder and blow up the building on the next day. On November 4th, King James read the warning letter. He sent an officer to search the building. The door burst open, and Guy Fawkes was discovered beside the huge piles of firewood and coal. "Who owns this fuel?" demanded the officer. "Thomas Percy," answered Guy Fawkes quickly. The officer didn't look under the piles, so he did not see the gunpowder barrels. He left and told the King, but when James heard the name of Thomas Percy, he was very suspicious and sent the officer back to search again. This time, they discovered the gunpowder and Guy Fawkes was arrested. He told them that their plan was "to blow the Scots back into Scotland".

Although he was tortured, he would not reveal the names of the other conspirators, but by November 9th they had all been caught and killed. The Gunpowder Plot of November 5th had failed, and the King was safe.

Since then, English people, have remembered this event by making a "Guy", a bundle of old clothes in the shape of a man, and lighting a bonfire, or large fire, to burn it. They light fireworks, which contain gunpowder, and the explosions are a reminder of the failed plot. In New Zealand, the descendants of the British settlers still keep up this tradition.

**Language Features**

Use of various tenses including past, present, future, e.g. thought, was approaching, had gathered, are, have, will give

Use of word chains to build topic information, e.g. plot, gunpowder, explosion, killed, planned, Catholic

Use of action verbs, e.g. began digging, let off, hid

Use of saying and thinking verbs, e.g. planned, decided, demanded

Use of complex verbal groups, e.g. were plotting to blow up

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. King James 1 of Scotland, a king who followed the Protestant Christian religion

Use of conjunctions, e.g. However, Although, then

Use of pronouns to track the subject i.e. referencing, e.g. It (is actually commemorating) he wanted to allow them

Use of adjectives, e.g. a warning letter, huge

Use of adverbs and adverbial phrases, e.g. slowly, under the piles

Use of direct speech, e.g. "Who owns this fuel?" demanded the officer.

Use of quotes from historical sources e.g. "a terrible blow"

Use of complex sentences, e.g. The officer didn't look under the piles, so he did not see the gunpowder barrels.