

The Discovery of the Lascaux Cave Paintings

On September 8, 1940, Marcel went on a treasure hunt. For years, people had talked about a secret underground passage in the countryside around their French village. They said that the passage led to hidden treasure. The French teenager thought he had found the passage when he discovered the opening to a long vertical shaft. Four days later, on September 12, Marcel and three of his friends returned to explore it.

This time, Marcel brought an oil lamp to light the way. One after another, the boys wriggled down the long passageway. Finally, they tumbled into a huge cavern, and Marcel held up the lamp. By its flickering light, they noticed a high passage. The friends entered the passage, and Marcel shone the light on its walls. What the French teenagers saw amazed them.

Herds of horses, oxen, and deer stampeded across the curving cave wall. The colorful animals seemed to leap off the walls. Excitedly, the teenagers ran through the cave and found room after room of paintings. They had found the real treasure of Lascaux.

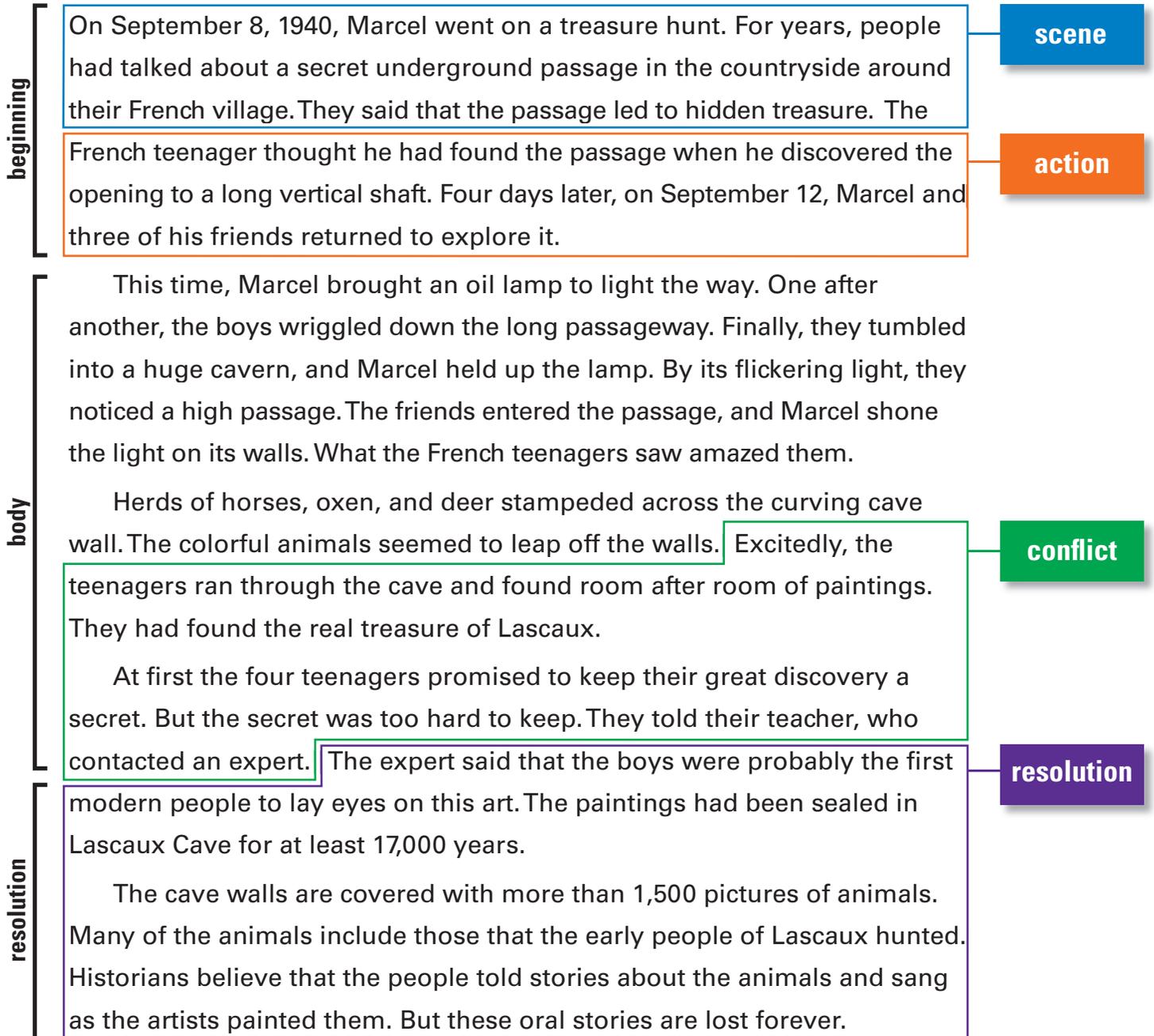
At first the four teenagers promised to keep their great discovery a secret. But the secret was too hard to keep. They told their teacher, who contacted an expert. The expert said that the boys were probably the first modern people to lay eyes on this art. The paintings had been sealed in Lascaux Cave for at least 17,000 years.

The cave walls are covered with more than 1,500 pictures of animals. Many of the animals include those that the early people of Lascaux hunted. Historians believe that the people told stories about the animals and sang as the artists painted them. But these oral stories are lost forever.

Organization

A narrative has three basic parts: the **beginning**, the **body**, and the **resolution**. The beginning sets the **scene** and starts the **action**. The body presents a **conflict**. The **resolution** settles the conflict and ends the story.

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Setting

The setting of a narrative is when and where the story takes place. When and where will your story take place?

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when

where

Characters

A narrative has characters. Characters are the people, or even the animals, in the story. Who will be the characters in your story?

On September 8, 1940, Marcel went on a treasure hunt. For years, people had talked about a secret underground passage in the countryside around their French village. They said that the passage led to hidden treasure. The French teenager thought he had found the passage when he discovered the opening to a long vertical shaft. Four days later, on September 12, Marcel and three of his friends returned to explore it.

characters

This time, Marcel brought an oil lamp to light the way. One after the other, the boys wriggled down the long passageway. Finally, they tumbled into a huge cavern, and Marcel held up the lamp. By its flickering light, they noticed a narrow, high passage. The friends entered the passage, and Marcel shone the light on its walls. What the French teenagers saw amazed them.

Herds of horses, oxen, and deer stampeded across the curving cave wall. The colorful animals seemed to leap off the walls. Excitedly, the teenagers ran through the cave and found room after room of paintings. They had found the real treasure of Lascaux.

At first the four teenagers promised to keep their great discovery a secret. But this secret was too hard to keep. They told their teacher, who contacted an expert. The expert said that the boys were probably the first modern people to lay eyes on this art. The paintings had been sealed in the Lascaux Cave for at least 17,000 years.

Point of View

Narratives are told from a particular point of view. Point of view is the person who is telling the story. If Marcel had been telling the story of the Lascaux Cave paintings, it would have been written, “On September 8, 1940, I went on a treasure hunt.” This is called first-person point of view. Instead, a person outside of the story—a third-person—is telling the story. Will your story be told from a first-person or third-person point of view?

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The French teenager thought he had found the passage when he discovered the opening to a long vertical shaft. Four days later, on September 12, Marcel and three of his friends returned to explore it.

**third person
point-of-view**

Details

A well-written narrative has factual and descriptive details to make the story believable and interesting to read. Details help readers to picture what is happening in a particular time and place and the people involved. What factual and descriptive details can you include in your narrative to help readers visualize the setting, characters, conflict, and resolution?

On September 8, 1940, Marcel went on a treasure hunt.

The paintings had been sealed in Lascaux Cave for at least 17,000 years. The cave walls are covered with more than 1,500 pictures of animals.

This time, Marcel brought an oil lamp to light the way. One after another, the boys wriggled down the long passageway. Finally, they tumbled into a huge cavern, and Marcel held up the lamp. By its flickering light, they noticed a high passage. The friends entered the passage, and Marcel shone the light on its walls. What the French teenagers saw amazed them. Herds of horses, oxen, and deer stampeded across the curving cave wall. The colorful animals seemed to leap off the walls. Excitedly, the teenagers ran through the cave and found room after room of paintings. They had found the real treasure of Lascaux.

Factual details
can be dates.

Factual details
can be time periods and data.

Descriptive details
can describe people, places, things, and actions.

Transitions

A well-written narrative uses transition words and phrases to help tell the order of events. You may want to use transition words such as *later*, *next*, *on*, or *the following day* in your story.

On September 8, 1940, Marcel went on a treasure hunt. . . . **Four days later,**

on September 12, Marcel and three of his friends returned to explore it.

This time, Marcel brought an oil lamp to light the way. One after another, the boys wriggled down the long passageway. **Finally,** they tumbled into a huge cavern, and Marcel held up the lamp.

transitions