

WALT: identify the key features of a story from another culture.

Now you have recapped the key grammatical features, choose a colour for each feature and find examples in the text.

The Boy Who Saved the Netherlands

A large part of the Netherlands used to be under the sea, but now the sea is held back by dikes and a large part of the country lies below sea level.

Here is the story of the boy who saved the Netherlands

A long time ago there lived in Haarlem, an important town in the Netherlands, a blonde haired boy. His father was the lockkeeper and had to make sure that the locks were opened and closed to keep the water in the canals at the right level.

On a beautiful day in autumn, this boy, who was 8 years old, went to visit an old, blind man and bring him some homemade biscuits. After about an hour, he went home, but the weather had changed; it was raining and the water in the canal was rising.

Key feature	Colour
Prologue	
5 parts to the story (opening, build-up, problem, resolution, ending)	
Traditional opening and ending	
Paragraphs organised around a theme	
Range of sentence structure (e.g. simple, compound, complex)	Simple
	Compound
	Complex
Fronted adverbial followed by a comma	
Direct speech punctuated correctly	
Range of conjunctions: co-ordinating conjunctions	Co-ordinating
	Subordinating
Expanded noun phrases for description	
Embedded clause	

All of a sudden, he heard the sound of trickling water and he wondered where it came from. Then he saw a very small hole in the dike! Now every child in Holland knows what that means; with the pressure of the water, the hole won't stay small for long and that means flood! He knew what to do. He climbed onto the dike and put his finger in the hole. Now he hoped for

someone to come past soon because he started to feel quite cold. But no one came.

He called out, "Mother, Mother, Father! Can you hear me?" But his mother thought that he, without asking for permission, had decided to stay overnight with the old blind man. The boy knew that he had to stay and keep his finger in the hole, the water in the canal was rising and if he would pull his finger out the water would make the hole bigger and bigger and the town would flood. When dawn broke, the priest, who had been spending the night at the bedside of a very sick parishioner, was walking home and saw the boy.

"What are you doing there?" he asked when he saw the boy lying on his tummy, halfway up the dike. "I am holding the water back," was the simple answer. "Please get help!" Of course, help came soon after that. Everyone in Holland was very proud of the boy.