

7th Grade Narrative Anchor

George's Weird Night

George was a middle-aged, hard-working landscaper from California. He was always tired since he worked multiple jobs, but he finally got enough money to get a nice apartment for his daughter. They moved into a spacious, 3-bedroom apartment with his seven-year-old daughter, Caroline, and her overweight calico cat. After three days and nights of rummaging through boxes and suitcases, Caroline finally said, "This place is a mess, I can't wait until we are finished unpacking, daddy." George sighed, "I know how you feel Caroline, but just think about how much more space we have compared to the cramped 1-bedroom we used to live in." He cared so much for his daughter and just wanted the best for her.

One hot summer night after a long day of landscaping, George walked into the cluttered living room. Caroline was already asleep in her bed when George heard an odd noise. He tip-toed into his living room and saw a lump in the rug that hadn't been there before. He was too tired to tell if the lump was moving or not, but when he saw the lamp fall over, he knew the lump was alive!

"Daddy, what was that noise?" Caroline asked walking into the living room rubbing her sleepy eyes. "I don't know," George replied. "Go back to bed. I have this under control." His first thought was to go get a chair and hit it, so he did. At that point, all was silent so he figured that whatever it was, it must be dead. As he started walking back to his room he heard a dull thud. The lump had apparently moved towards the TV stand and bumped into it.

Frustrated, George grabbed the chair again and hit the lump once more. This time he heard his daughter shout, “Daddy, stop being so loud! I can’t sleep!” His neighbor, Mr. Glockenberg, shouted “Stop banging the floor you lunatic!” George froze. In the midst of the yelling, he heard a quiet meow.

“Snowball?” he asked “Is that you?” “Meow,” he heard again. Then George’s cat, Snowball, slithered out from under the rug. George bent down to pet his cat. “Poor kitty,” he said. “I hope I didn’t hurt you.” He was exhausted, so he slowly walked to his bedroom. Ten minutes later, George heard a soft scratching on the floor. Snowball was going back under the rug. George sighed again, “What a night,” he said to himself. He couldn’t wait until life got back to normal after the big move.

Annotations

- **Engagement of the reader:** Writer establishes a context with point of view and introduces a relevant narrator and characters.
 - Narrator has a clear point of view. Characters and context are introduced effectively.
 - “I know how you feel Caroline.”
 - Saw a lump in the rug that hadn’t been there before
 - Frustrated, George grabbed the chair again
- **Plot:** Precise words and relevant details convey events and capture the action.
 - Descriptive dialogue. Precise descriptive words. Details capture action.
 - Days and nights of rummaging
 - He tiptoed into his living room
 - Frustrated, George grabbed the chair again
 - Snowball slithered out from under the rug
- **Conclusion:** Conclusion follows from the narrated events and reflects on narrated experiences.
 - Story is clearly over, and conclusion reflects on narrated experiences.
 - “What a night.”
 - He couldn’t wait until life got back to normal after the big move.