

Tom Learns a Lesson

Writing a newspaper story isn't easy. In this story, you'll discover why.

¹ As Tom and Betsy walked out of their journalism class, they were deep in conversation. They were sharing their ideas and making plans for covering the Fall Festival together.

² "I don't blame you for wanting to get started right away, Betsy, because I do, too. I don't want to rush this one just because I put it off too long. Sometimes I do."

³ "You allow yourself a little time to rework your writing, too, don't you?" asked Betsy.

⁴ "I like to let it sit for a day. Then I take another look at it. That's my method."

⁵ "I'd do the same thing if I knew Ms. Lopez would be looking at it. I've seen her reject a lot of stories," said Betsy. "Maybe we can work on some of this together, Tom. If we do it right, this story is going to interest a lot of people."

⁶ The day of the Festival finally came. Betsy hurried about taking pictures. In the meantime, Tom talked to a number of the Festival's organizers.

⁷ Tom left the Festival late in the day. Returning home, he began writing his story for the paper, using the notes he'd taken earlier in the day. After many rewrites, he was pleased with his story. On Sunday, Betsy came over. The two of them shared their work.

⁸ The next day, Tom met Betsy at her locker. She said, "I think Ms. Lopez will really like our work."

⁹ "I hope so," answered Tom uncertainly. He felt his confidence slowly sinking like a ship in the water.

¹⁰ "Well, she won't be disappointed today!" Betsy exclaimed. "Come on," said Betsy as they walked bravely into journalism class.

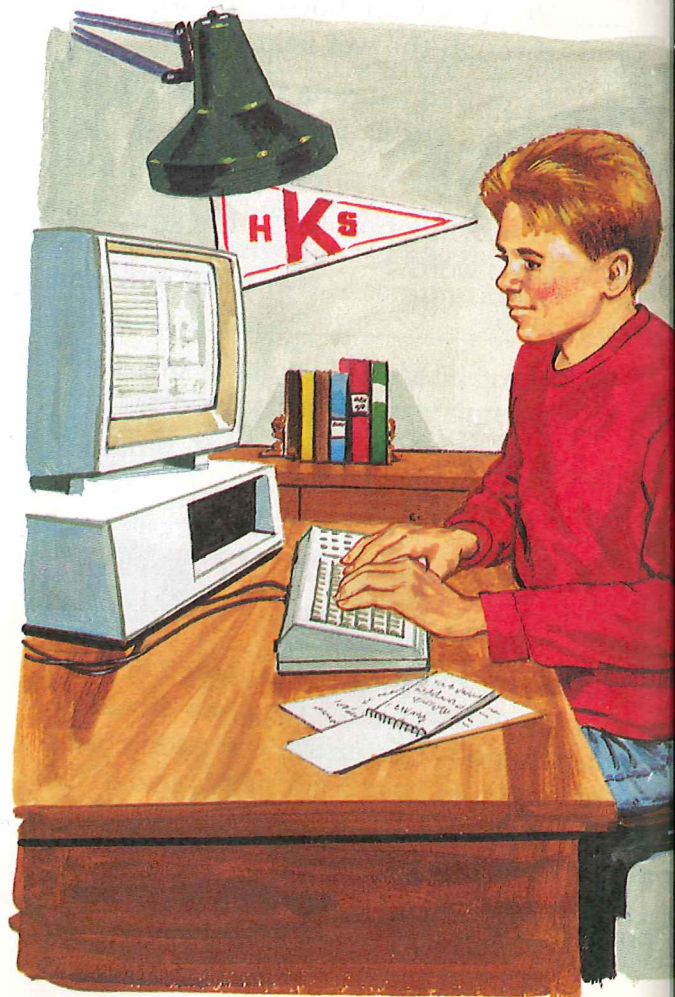
¹¹ Ms. Lopez reviewed the material they had handed to her. Then she said, "The photos

are good, Betsy. Now we need to decide which ones we want to print." Then turning to Tom, Ms. Lopez continued, "However, Tom, I believe something is missing from your article. The piece is flat. You've told me that the people are grateful, but from an outsider's point of view."

¹² "Hmm . . . I didn't think of that. I guess I wrote it as someone who has everything he needs. Maybe my story could have more feeling for the people who benefit from the Festival."

¹³ "I'm glad you see my point, Tom. Write the article again, and we'll talk about it."

¹⁴ "It will be on your desk first thing tomorrow morning," promised Tom, as he turned to leave.



Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. way of doing something

_____ (Par. 4)

2. turn down

_____ (Par. 5)

3. receive help

_____ (Par. 12)

4. What is the simile in paragraph 9?

5. Circle the three words that belong together.

festival parade
cocoon games

6. A **synonym** is a word with the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. Check the sets of words that are synonyms.

___ ideas—thoughts
___ now—immediately
___ day—night
___ like—enjoy

Working with Words

Rewrite each group of words below. Use possessive forms.

1. the story belonging to Tom

2. the cameras belonging to the men

Reading and Thinking

1. Number the events to show the order in which they happened,

___ Ms. Lopez praises Betsy's photos.

___ Tom writes his story about the Festival.

___ Tom and Betsy attend the Festival.

___ Betsy goes to Tom's home.

___ Tom and Betsy discuss their assignment.

2. Check each word or phrase that describes Ms. Lopez.

___ careless

___ helpful

___ expects the best from her students

3. Check two headlines that might have appeared in *The Knightly News* during the Fall Festival.

___ Flood Destroys Kendall

___ Festival Parade Watched by 2,000

___ Students Cover Fall Festival

4. Tom was very nervous when it was time to turn in his story. Find one sentence the author wrote to show how Tom felt.

Learning to Study

The signs below were used to help Kendall's visitors locate helpful services. Match the signs in the left column with the services they stand for in the right column.

1. ___ 

a. Information

2. ___ 

b. Telephone

3. ___ 

c. Baggage Check-In

4. ___ 

d. First Aid

5. ___ 

e. Restaurant