

Features of a Narrative

Title

The Big Race

Jamie's mother woke him early. The sun was shining and there was just a light breeze. What a beautiful morning it was for the race. After a quick breakfast, Jamie headed to the garage and checked over his go kart. He had spent the past few weeks building his go kart from bits and pieces he had found around the house. The name *Golden Thunder* came from the **bright yellow** paint Jamie had found in the garage.

Orientation

The beginning sets the scene for the reader.
Who are the characters?
What is the setting?

Adjectives

Add detail to the story

Around lunch time, Jamie and the other competitors assembled at the top of Green Street. Green Street was the longest and steepest street in the town. Jamie pushed his go kart up to the start line and climbed into his kart.

Adverbs

Add detail to the story

The race began! Jamie got off to a good start. The second corner was one of the more difficult parts of the track. As they approached, he noticed the driver ahead of him slowed down to go over the speed bump. Jamie had another idea. He held his breath and **carefully** steered his kart through the narrow gap, avoiding the speed bump altogether.

Complication

Something goes wrong for our main character!

That was close! Jamie thought to himself. There was now only one kart in front of him. It was *Purple Flash*. For the next four corners, Jamie avoided obstacles, ducked under low tree branches and weaved around corners at break-neck speeds. He was now neck and neck with *Purple Flash*, their wheels almost touching. The two karts hurtled towards the last corner of the track, which wound around a lake.

Rising Tension

Events that put the reader on the edge of their seat and keep them there!

Suddenly, just as the lake came into view, the steering wheel dislodged from *Golden Thunder*! He felt his heart stop. He watched, mouth open, as the lake ahead of him got bigger and bigger.

Dialogue

Characters talking helps readers learn about their personality and emotions

"Help! I need hel..." he started to shout. But who could help him?

His kart sped down the steep hill, out of control. He reached down to his feet, his **fingers desperately searching** for the steering wheel. He found it! But the lake was now **getting closer and closer!** Jamie tried to place the steering wheel back in its spot. If he didn't, his race was over, and his kart would be lost forever at the bottom of the lake. But the steering wheel refused to fit. "What's wrong with this thing!" Jamie yelled in frustration. He held his breath, watched the lake, and braced for the crash.

Resolution

The main problem of the story is solved

All of a sudden, he heard a *click*. The steering wheel was back in place! At the last possible second, he pulled the wheel to the left as quickly as he could. Was it too late? Jamie closed his eyes, expecting his kart to slide down the steep bank and into the lake. After what felt like an eternity, Jamie opened his eyes. The lake and *Purple Flash* were behind him. He had crossed the line! He had done it!

Time

Connectives

Tell the reader *when* events occur. They allow the writer to make time pass

After the last racer had crossed the finish line, Jamie stood on the podium, his legs still shaking. Jamie lifted the golden trophy high above his head.

