THE ESCAPE

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Level: A2

Focus: Writing - narrative

Theme: Adventure

Activity: Writing a narrative from a picture story

The four parts in this story correspond to the classic narrative structure:
1 = situation, 2= problem, 3 = solution, 4 = conclusion
This is a useful structure to help learner writers shape their narratives.
Useful vocabulary
catch - escape, fall asleep - wake up, lock - unlock, lose - find, put in - take out, tie - untie, sleeping pills, teeth, cupboard, car, key, telephone, idea
Print version: give out the printed picture story worksheet
Projected version: project the images. Parts 1 and 2 are on one slide, Parts 3 and 4 on a second slide.

PROCEDURE

1. Give out the printed picture story or project slide 1. Ask students in pairs to invent the answers to the following questions about "Part 1":
a. What was the boy's name? b. Where was the boy?   c. Where was he going?

2. Write sentences a-g on the board. Ask students to look at the story and say what is wrong in each sentence.

Parts 1 & 2 (slide 1)
   a. He was walking along a city street.
   b. Three men got out of the car.
   c. They put him in the kitchen.
   d. The police were watching TV and having a drink.
Parts 3 & 4 (slide 2)
   e. He untied his hands with his nose.
   f. He found a watch and some sleeping pills.
   g. He put some sleeping pills in their mouths.

   Key: a. it's a country road, b. <u>two</u> men, c. in the <u>bathroom</u>,
   d. the <u>men/criminals</u>, e. with his <u>teeth</u>, f. he found a <u>key</u>,
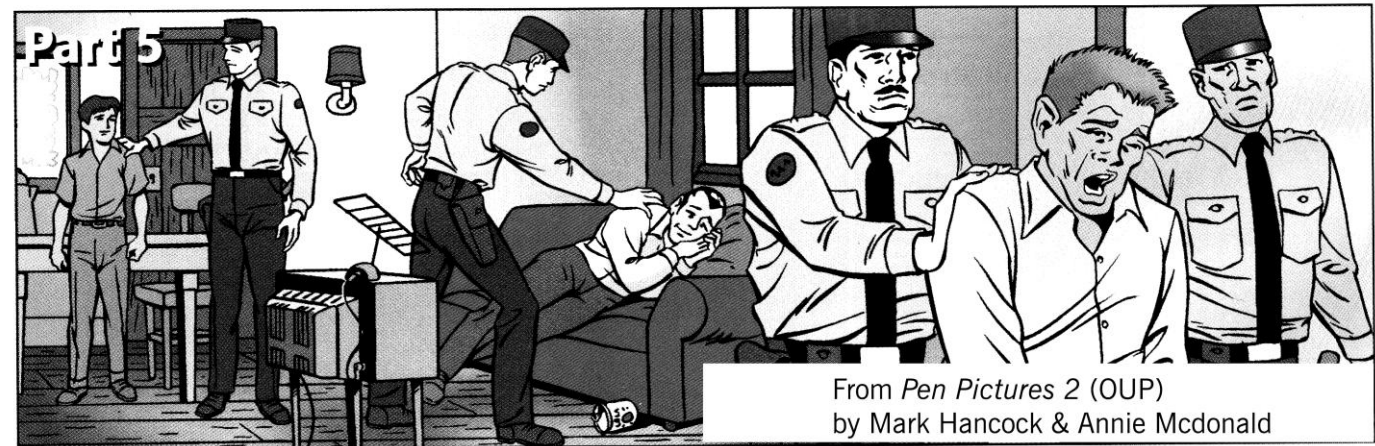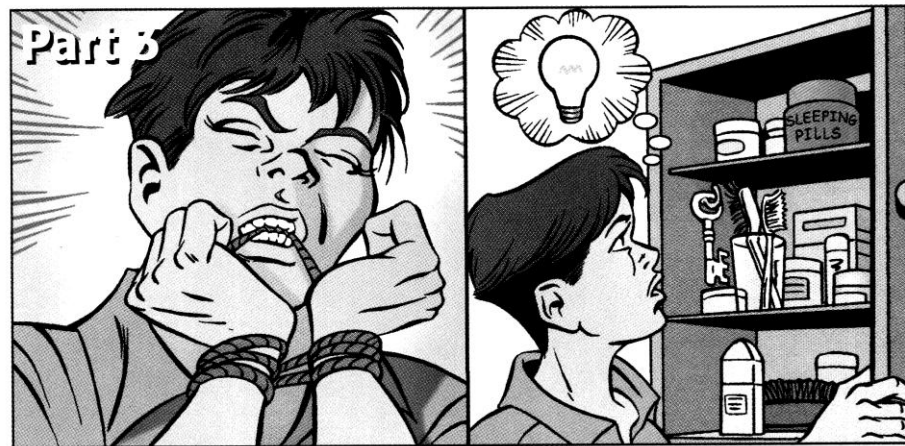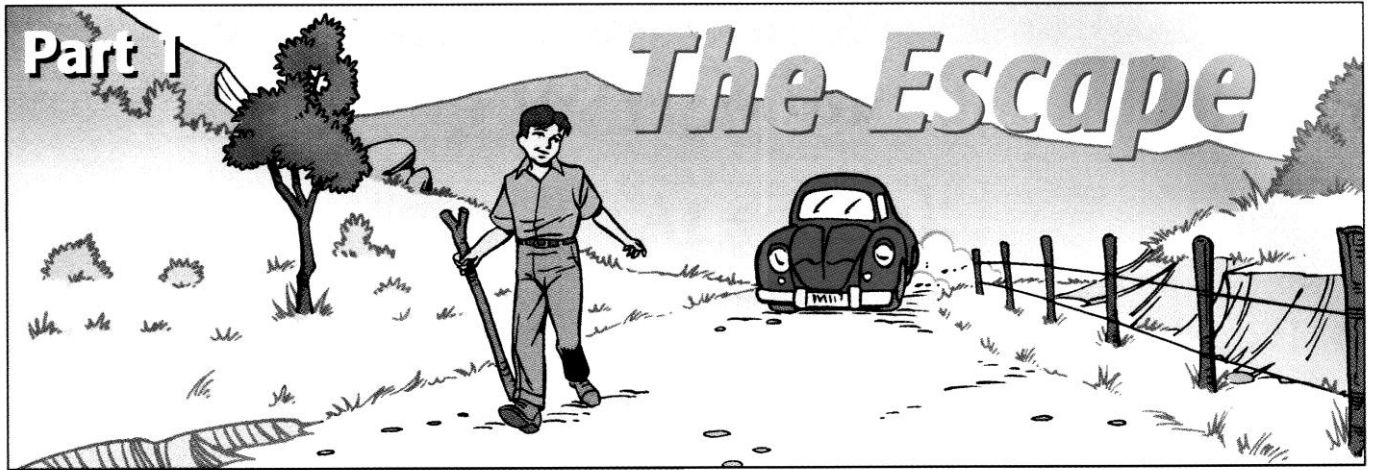   g. in their drinks.

3. Tell students in pairs to write notes for each of the parts. They should be notes, not sentences, for example:
Part 3:
untie hands with teeth - look in cupboard - find key, sleeping pills - have idea

4. Ask students to work alone now and write the story. Tell them to start a new paragraph for each part. Encourage them to check their writing carefully before handing it in.

5. When marking their work, perhaps restrict yourself to specific criteria such as those in the 'Marking Menu'.

Marking Menu

ACCURACY

- grammar: articles, pronouns
- grammar: past simple/continuous

CONTENT

- believable (enough detail to be realistic?)
- interest (does it make you want to read?)
- paragraphing (are the different parts clearly visible?)

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by Mark Hancock & Annie Mcdonald