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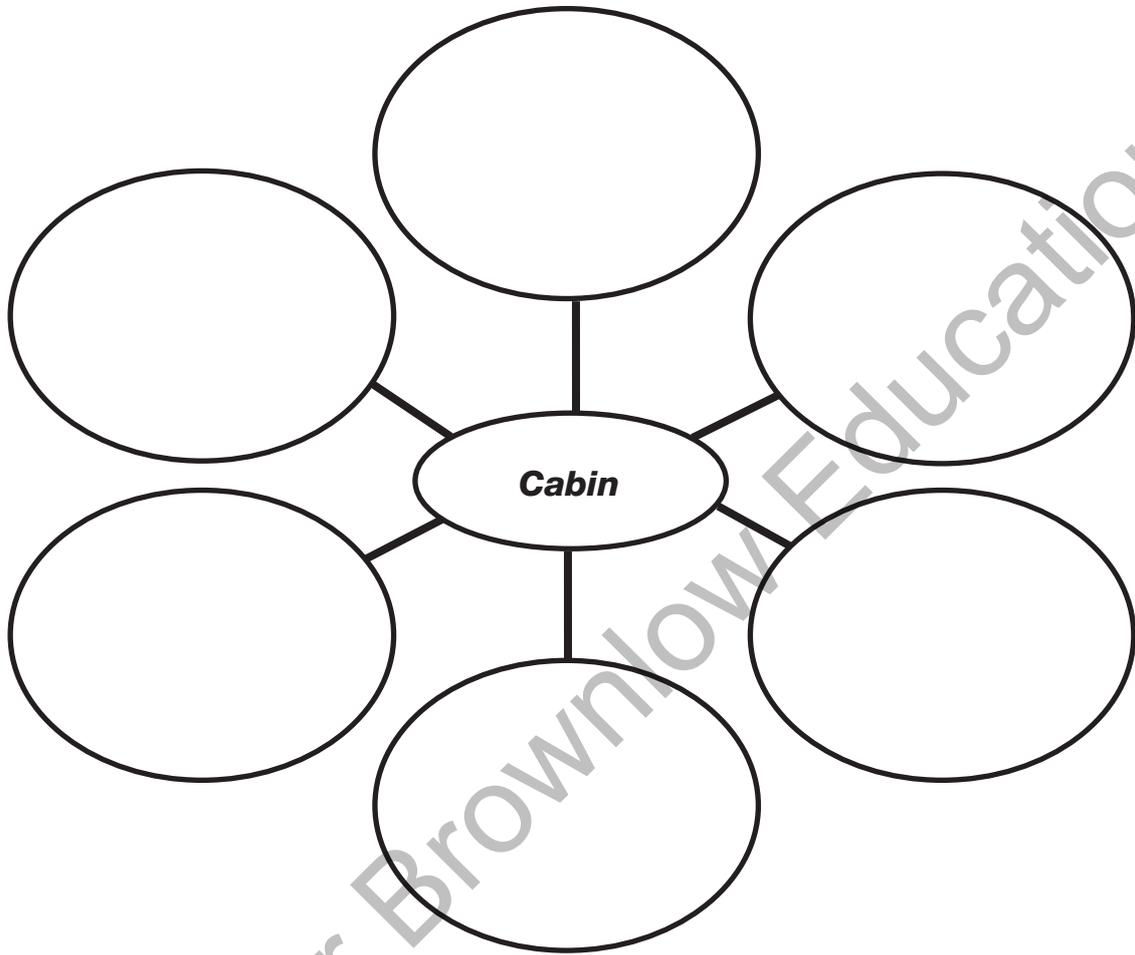
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Using Graphic Organisers (page 77)



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Taking a Look at Descriptive Essays (pages 78–81)



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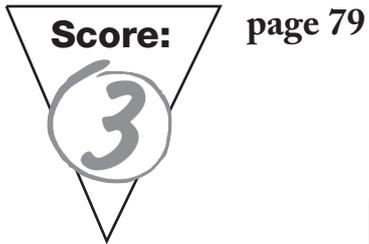
Aqua Maureen

My name is Maureen, and my favourite sport is snorkelling. I'm lucky because every summer I get to snorkel above a tropical reef. I love the way it makes me feel. When I wade into the lapping surf, it is as warm as a blanket. I adjust my mask and snorkel. Then I bend at the knees and go under until my ears are submerged. Under the water, all I can hear is my breath, drawing in and blowing out.

I start to relax, face down in the shallow water, letting myself float. My hands touch the coarse sand and reach for coral outcroppings to pull me along. The rubber fins on my feet paddle so easily that I hardly have to try. I drift along, as weightless as a sea creature, following the current and my curiosity.

The mask feels tight, but it keeps the water out so I can see the fish, which are everywhere. They hover and then flash away. My favourite fish are bright yellow with a black spot under each eye. The anemones are interesting, too, with tiny pink tentacles that wiggle like fingers. Once I saw a spotted eel which looked like a snake with teeth. It darted its head out from a little cave, but I kept my distance!

Marine time passes so gradually that you hardly notice. When its time to come in, I always feel ridiculously heavy, tall and clumsy as I first stand up. Because the fins make it hard to wade in any direction but backwards, I stagger and splash. In the cool air, my skin develops goose bumps. The call of seagulls sounds too loud. Unfortunately, I'm back on land again.



Above the Reef

Snorkelling is my favourite thing to do. The water over the reef is always real warm. I go in, and most of the sounds around me disappear. When I put my ears underwater, I only hear my breath.

I float in the shallow water, and my hands grab things to pull me along. My feet wear fins like a duck. I paddle along with the current, but I will be swimming in other directions when I see something interesting.

My mask feels funny but it helps me see the fish and the fish are everywhere, and I never really know how they will move. They never seem stationery. I might see anemones waving like tiny fingers. I might see an eel, but it could be dangerous. If I see an eel peeking from a hole, I get out of the way fast!

When it's time to go in, somehow I always know. When I stand up out of the water, I feel kind of funny. The fins, my heaviest piece of equipment make me stumble. I'm cold. I'm back on land again.

Score:

2

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I can only hear my breath under the water. Most sounds disappears. I float in the water. I grab things to move along. I wear fins. And a mask.

I feel great snorkelling. There are many fish and anemones and an eel and eels can be dangerous, so you should get out of there way fast. The Reef invite you to come on in. When it's time to go out, you'll no. I try standing up, but it isnt easy. I way too much. Then I fall down. It is the fins. I hear the seagulls's sounds. Im in the air again. Because it is very cold. I want to be in the water again.



My sister always talks about the beach. She go there. With her friend Liz. I dont know why. I like the shopping. My sister and me disagrees sometimes she says she likes the beach, but I think she just like lying around in the sun she never swims or snorkels. I would like to snorkel. At a reef. One time my sister and myself went to Waldon beach. That was the most hottest day of the year. She got in the water then. I was really like totally surprised. Thats all I can tell you.

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