

# Visualizing and Verbalizing<sup>®</sup> Stories

Nanci Bell

Celebrating

## WOMEN IN HISTORY



To all  
the imagery  
waiting  
to be  
awakened

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Avila Beach, CA 93424  
805-541-5523 • 800-554-1819

VISUALIZING AND VERBALIZING AND V/V ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF NANCI BELL.

## Level Six

seven sentences

1.

In an age when most women stayed at home, Amelia Earhart was flying airplanes. Six months after her first flying lesson, Amelia bought a plane and began to set records. At the age 34, she became the first woman to cross the Atlantic alone, and then flew all over the United States. But she still was not happy. Finally, in 1937 she tried to fly around the world. With less than 7,000 miles left in her trip, Amelia's plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. Neither she nor her navigator Fred Noonan was ever heard from again.

1. How long after her first lesson, did Amelia buy a plane?
2. Why might it have been difficult for Amelia to become a pilot?
3. Why do you think she wanted to fly around the world?
4. What do you think might have happened to Amelia?
5. What is the main idea?

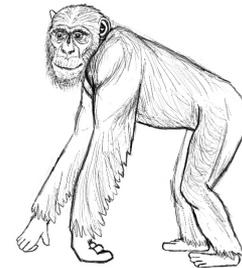
## Level Seven

five sentences

2.

Sitting at the edge of a clearing in the African jungle, Jane Goodall watched a mother chimpanzee and her baby. With a notebook and pencil in her hand, Jane looked on silently as the baby grabbed fistfuls of his mother's fur. The mother never complained, and continued to cradle and sometimes tickle her infant. Jane smiled as she wrote down every action the family made, and then paused before adding one more line. "So like us," she wrote.

1. Where did you visualize Jane Goodall as she watched the chimpanzees?
2. Why do you think Jane Goodall was watching the chimpanzees?
3. Why do you think Jane Goodall had a notebook and pencil?
4. What do you think Jane Goodall meant by the words "so like us"?
5. What is the main idea of this story?



## Level Seven

3.

two paragraphs

Babe Didrikson sat alone on the grass as she began to stretch and prepare for the day's track and field events. All around her were large teams of women athletes competing at the National AAU track and field championships. But Babe was the only person on her team and she was about to compete in eight different events in one afternoon.

Babe ran from event to event, stopping only to get her equipment or wait for her next turn. As the afternoon raced by, Babe collected medal after medal. By the end of the day, Babe had won six events. She had also won the team championship single-handed, beating the other team, which had twenty members, by eight points. Soon her name would be known worldwide.

1. How many members were on Babe's team?
2. Why do you think Babe was going to compete in eight different events?
3. What might be a reason that Babe didn't win all eight of her events?
4. Do you think Babe needed more people on her team? Explain.
5. Why do you think Babe would become famous worldwide?

## Level Eight

4.

two paragraphs

The crowd was silent as the young woman walked into the arena. Barely five feet tall and wearing her black hair in braids, Annie Oakley hardly looked old enough to be in the shooting contest. Frank Butler, a professional marksman, looked at the young woman and laughed. He was certain sure that his shooting title was not in jeopardy and that he would remain undefeated.

Frank picked up his rifle and quickly shot twenty-four of the twenty-five targets that were lined up. Annie congratulated Frank warmly. Then she lifted the rifle to her shoulder and rapidly fired at one target after another, hitting all twenty-five. Just fifteen years old, Annie would soon be on her way to international fame traveling the world as "Little Sure Shot" and Mrs. Frank Butler.

1. How old was Annie Oakley when she won the shooting contest?
2. Why might the crowd have been silent when Annie walked into the arena?
3. Why do you think Frank Butler laughed when he saw her?
4. Why do you think she became known as "Little Sure Shot"?
5. What do you think it meant that she was known as Mrs. Frank Butler?

## Level Eight

three paragraphs

5.

Rosa Parks, a black woman, stepped on the bus and walked past the first five rows labeled “whites only.” Although those seats were empty, Mrs. Parks moved to the middle section before she sat down exhausted from a long day at work. There she sat quietly watching the scenery of Montgomery, Alabama pass by as the driver made stop after stop.

Soon a white gentleman entered the bus and had no place to sit, so the driver turned and instructed all of the black people to move to the back of the bus. As instructed, each got up and stood in the back, except for Mrs. Parks. She was tired of being treated badly because of her skin color and refused to move. Realizing that she was not going to get up, the driver parked the bus and brought back a police officer who arrested Mrs. Parks. She did not struggle or argue as the officer calmly escorted her to jail.

Mrs. Parks was found guilty of disobeying the city’s segregation laws and ordered to pay a fine, but again she refused. The black people of Montgomery supported Mrs. Parks and refused to ride the buses until the laws were changed. Almost one year later, after the Supreme Court ruled segregation to be illegal, Mrs. Parks rode the bus again. However, this time she rode in the front seat.

1. Where did Rosa Parks sit on the bus?
2. Why did the bus driver tell Mrs. Parks and the other black passengers to move to the back of the bus?
3. Why do you think Mrs. Parks did not struggle or argue when she was taken to jail?
4. Why do you think Mrs. Parks sat in the front seat the next time she got on a bus?
5. Explain why Rosa Parks is considered a heroine by many people?

## Level Eight

6.

seven sentences

Molly Pitcher was the nickname given to Mary Hays McCauly, one of the many brave women who fought in the Revolutionary War. When her husband joined the army, Mary followed him to war and earned money by cooking and washing for the army. One very hot day, during the Battle of Monmouth, Mary began carrying water to the men firing the cannons. It was here she gained her nickname as the men called out for her to bring them pitchers of water. During the battle, her husband collapsed from heat stroke. Mary picked up the rammer for the cannon and took over her husband's position for the rest of the battle. For her heroism, she was awarded special recognition and given a military pension.

1. What war was Molly Pitcher's husband in?
2. What might be a reason Mary decided to follow her husband into war?
3. Why do you think the soldiers called her "Molly Pitcher"?
4. Why do you think bringing water was important but dangerous?
5. What is the main idea of all this imagery?

7.

seven sentences

Wilma Rudolph was the 20th child born to a poor family in Tennessee. She was a tiny baby and was often sick. When she was six, she came down with polio and her left leg became very weak. The doctor told her mother that little Wilma would never walk again, but Wilma's mother would not believe him. She took her daughter twice a week to another hospital 50 miles from home and, with the help of the other children, gave Wilma the physical therapy she needed. Finally, when she was twelve years old, Wilma could walk normally, but she was not satisfied with just walking. She began to run and eventually became the fastest woman on Earth, winning three Olympic gold medals.

1. What disease made Wilma's left leg very weak?
2. Why was her mother an important factor in Wilma winning three Olympic medals?
3. Why do you think Wilma's mother gave her daughter physical therapy rather than the doctor?
4. What might have happened to Wilma if she hadn't had physical therapy?
5. Why do you think Wilma never gave up?



Hark to the whimper of the sea-gull;

He weeps because he's not an ea-gull.

Suppose you were, you silly sea-gull.

Could you explain it to your she-gull?

-Ogden Nash