

Stories Hidden Inside a Title

This is a writing activity for Monday (or Tuesday, Wednesday ...). This is one of my absolute favourites passed on to me from a friend. Everybody loves these – even people who don't generally like writing!

They are so good that I wrote 3 in bed this morning as I couldn't remember where I'd saved my old ones. So I'll show you my stories and I think you will get the idea.

Choose a title about something that you are interested in ... an animal, a planet, football ... absolutely anything. I chose: 'Alien' because I quite like Sci-Fi, 'Ants' because my brother told me a funny story about some ants in his room when he was on holiday in Thailand and 'Cat' because my cat was attacking my feet.

Here we go ...

Alien (5 sentence story)

Although I had known her for quite some time, she was a difficult person to know well. **L**ately, I had been wondering exactly where she came from – I mean had she ever told me? **I**n fact, I realised that I knew very little about her, apart from her name ... and that was a little strange.

Eventually, the day came when I felt that I had to ask questions. **N**othing prepared me for the answers she gave: "I come from the planet Zobra," she explained, as she pushed back her fringe to reveal a third eye.

Ants (4 sentence story)

As I looked up from my bed, I shrieked in shock (mixed with fascination). **N**umerous, large ants streamed across the floor of my hotel room, holding a piece of melon skin above their heads triumphantly. **T**o be honest, I admired their teamwork and determination, although my toes recoiled in horror!

So it served me right for being slovenly and not disposing of my 'left-overs' carefully, I hear you thinking ...

Cat (3 sentence story)

Cautiously, I trailed my toes across the rug, anticipating the moment of action. **A**lmost at once, my feline friend lowered himself into position, eyes flickering, ready. **T**wo small scratches appeared, trails of red, like a line of embroidery.

If you hadn't already worked it out ... each sentence must begin with a letter from the title (in order – no extra sentences allowed).

Top tip – a dash is a very useful piece of punctuation for extending your sentences. You can tag on a few words, or even a whole sentence without cheating!