

EXAMPLE SHORT FICTION STORY

Prompt: Use your imagination to write a story that involves characters who are facing a life-threatening situation. Show how the characters resolve the situation. Make sure that the story contains at least five paragraphs, all the elements of a story and at least three pieces of dialogue. Use the MLA style.

TITLE OF THE STORY: Breaking the Rules!

Jean Schumaker

Ms. Ellard

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Breaking the Rules!

“This is a perfect day to take my friends sailing!” thought Sasha. Indeed, the sun was warm, the lake was the same bright blue as the sky, and the wind was brisk. Small white caps were dancing on the peaks of the waves. Last week, Sasha had promised to take Bonita and Sheri for a sailing lesson, and they had been waiting for a windy day. Bonita and Sheri had never been sailing, and Sasha wanted to show them the wonders of the sport. “Come on,” she joyfully called to them, skipping out of the YMCA camp dining hall. “Today is a great windy day!”

Within a few minutes, Sasha showed her friends how to raise the sails, cast off from the dock, and steer the boat. Sasha was feeling pleased; her friends were learning quickly and enjoying the experience. Then the wind picked up, and the sun was covered with clouds. Sasha took the helm, and waves started splashing over the bow of the boat. Fortunately, the girls liked the excitement; they were squealing happily. “This is fun!” they exclaimed together. Suddenly, a big gust of wind came along, the boat rolled onto its side, and the girls were in the water. Their faces looked surprised and then worried. “Don’t worry,” said Sasha. “The other sailing counselors will see us and come get us.” “Let’s swim for shore,” suggested Bonita, with blue lips and chattering teeth. “No,” reminded Sasha. “Althea has told us many times: Rule Number One of boating is ‘Never ever EVER leave the boat!’ ”

Unfortunately, no one noticed them out in the middle of the lake, and the boat started to sink. "This boat is supposed to be sink proof!" lamented Sasha. To make matters worse, the storm was intensifying. Pretty soon, the boat was under water. The girls could no longer hold onto it with their hands. "Let's stand on it!" suggested Bonita. The girls stood on the boat for a few minutes, but, soon, it was more than four feet under the lake surface. Only their heads were bobbing above the water. Within another few minutes, their feet were no longer touching the boat. Finally, Sasha said, "There's no point in staying with the boat now! We've got to start swimming for shore."

Reluctantly, the girls started to swim for the nearest beach. They were strong swimmers, but they did not rush. While swimming, they watched other sailors go to shore. They could hear the dinner bell ringing and see the campers going into the dining hall. "No one knows we're out here!" exclaimed Bonita. "Nevertheless, we're going to be in a lot of trouble with Althea for leaving the boat!" moaned Sasha. Although worried, the girls kept swimming with strong strokes and determined expressions on their faces. Every now and then, they rested by floating on their backs.

At the end of their ordeal, the girls exhaustedly crawled onto the beach. After lying on the sand for a few minutes to catch their breath, they yelled, "We made it!" and slapped hands. Thinking ahead, Sasha warned, "We still have to face Althea. Let's change out of our wet clothes and look good for her." "We have to eat, too!" reminded Bonita. "I'm starving!" After running along the shore for a mile, they reached their cabin. They quickly changed their clothes. Next, they meekly entered the dining room. They were told to go immediately to Althea's office. Right from the start, Althea had a stern look on her face and asked why they were late for dinner. The girls explained about the capsized boat and swimming to

shore. Althea angrily said, "Our rule is to stay with the boat! I specially bought unsinkable boats for this camp, and I've repeated this rule many times." Then the girls explained further. The boat had sunk, and no one had noticed them missing or had come to find them. "Well," concluded Althea after considering their story, "I guess sometimes a rule just has to be broken, especially when your lives are at stake!"