

Worksheet 1

Nightmare Island

Action-Packed Adventures

Adventure stories can be exciting, action-packed and suspenseful enabling readers to experience a world they would not normally encounter in real life. Well written adventure stories, such as *Nightmare Island*, share common narrative elements that serve to ensure the reader's attention is captured and maintained as each thrilling event unfolds.

Task 1: Analyse how the author of *Nightmare Island* has effectively used common narrative elements of an adventure story by answering the following questions:

#1: The Setting: Adventure stories are often set in exotic, faraway places that most readers would not have necessarily experienced firsthand.

- Describe the setting of *Nightmare Island*.
- How does the setting add to the excitement and suspense levels of this story?

#2: The Characters: Adventure stories have clear 'heroes' and 'villains'. The heroes embark on a journey of some sort but the villains pose a dangerous threat to the success of this journey by trying to disrupt the heroes' plans or bring them harm.

- Who are the heroes in *Nightmare Island*? What journey are they undertaking?
- Who are the villains in the story? How do they try to disrupt the journey?

#3: The Plot: An adventure story plot involves heroes facing danger and 'unexpected twists' whilst pursuing an ultimate goal. Often there is a point in the story where 'all seems lost' and the villains seem to be victorious. Another popular plot element is the sense of 'time running out'. The resolution almost always rewards the heroes and punishes the villains.

- What kind of danger or 'unexpected twists' did the heroes face?
- At what point in the story did 'all seem lost'?
- Was there a sense of 'time running out'? When did this occur?
- How were the heroes rewarded and the villains punished?

Task 2: Create your own adventure story using the narrative elements outlined above.

- Describe the setting of your adventure story.
- Who will be the hero/es in the story?
- How and why did the hero/es get to the place where the story is set?
- Who will be the villain/s in the story?
- Why are the villains trying to foil the hero's plans?
- What kind of unexpected twists and dangers do the heroes encounter?
- What will the final showdown involve?
- What event will infer that 'all is lost'?
- How will the reader get a sense of 'time running out'?

Extension Activity:

- Study one of your favourite adventure novels or films and record how the main narrative elements have been used to add excitement and suspense to the plot.