

Write 250 words for each story starter using the plots framework outlined in the slides:

1. She felt the ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms below still whispered secrets to those who dared listen.

She traced her fingers along the sharp and jagged ridges of the map she was carving and wondered if the storms deep beneath her small, petite boat still whispered furtive secrets to those daring enough to listen. Elise felt the water hurl her boat up and down like a never-ending roller coaster. Nervousness punched her stomach as monstrous waves loomed, threatening to engulf her.

Shivering from the iciness of the wind and water, Elise frantically traced the ragged map repeatedly with her calloused fingers, navigating her way through the relentless waves as her heart beat as loud as the thunder roaring above her. Her grip on the smooth and brisk leather steering wheel tightened, as her fingers turned blue, pouring all her strength and mind on turning it.

Elise looked forward and gasped. A demonic wave, of the deepest ocean blue towering kilometers over her, and still, building up in size, then crashing down, towards her and her small little boat, like shattering jewels in the night sky. She couldn't escape. Elise ran indoors, under the shelter of her cabin, as she watched in horror as the waves plummeted down, and the boat plunged beneath the surface.

Sinking, sinking.

Into the abyss, Cerulean, aegean, and cobalt blue warped her sight, objects crashing into each other as the boat continued to swim downwards.

Elise braced herself, 'I'm gonna die' she thought, squeezing her eyelids shut. Then she felt a tug. Elise was no longer going down, but up, towards the surface

again! She was confused but celebrative at the same time. The storm still raged but she was saved! A speedboat had just saved her!

2. In the soft glow of the alien sunset, the crowd gasped at the intricate sculpture, unaware it was created by the one thing they feared most.

In the soft glow of the alien sunset that painted the city in hues of hot pink, purple, and dark blue, casting an ethereal glow on the crowd that gathered around a statue that stood in the middle of the city. Loud gasps from the crowd erupted. The statue was carved with astonishing precision, the stone figure, with its meticulously sculpted nose, eyes, and mouth, held the crowd in awe. Little did they know, this masterpiece was the creation of their greatest fear.

Chatter arose throughout the crowd, mingling confusion and curiosity. However, a little girl, calm and silent amidst the commotion, standing mesmerized by the stony build of the statue. The crowd gasped once again as she slowly stepped forward towards the statue. As she approached, she gently placed her hand on the chest of a stone lion, feeling the cool, rough surface against her palm. The crowd held its breath.

Slowly, The girl looked up at the striking features on the face of the figure, and lifted her hand. Suddenly, the girl's eyes widened with fear, tears welling up. A wail erupted, breaking the silence that had gripped the city. She fled, disappearing into the throng. Panic erupted as the crowd surged forward, desperate to see what had frightened the child.

Where the girl had touched the statue, a tiny symbol, a circle adorned with intricate, snake-like curves, and an 'S' coiled grotesquely in its center. It was the mark of a creature that had once brought chaos to the city, and now, it seemed, it was back.

Interview Questions (100 words each)

1. How has your family shaped the way you approach challenges in life? Can you give a specific example?

My parents Have shaped the way I approach many challenges in life. They have always told me that if I want something, I have to work for it and deserve it. Nothing is completely free. This has been proven before, like once, I really wanted to buy something, however, I did not have a lot of pocket money. After obtaining a lot of money from winning various guitar competitions by working hard, I was able to buy the thing I wanted! This made me happier than If I had asked my parents to buy it for me in the first place because it really made me feel like I deserved it!

2. What is one tradition or habit in your family that you cherish the most, and why?

One tradition or habit I enjoy in my family that I cherish is that when it is someone's birthday or other significant event, our whole family eats noodles. This is because noodles can be considered good luck on a special event in China, so we do this to wish a family member or the family good luck for the year! I like this because apart from getting to eat my favourite food, It also means that we are caring for each other and upholding our cultural traditions too!

3. Who in your family inspires you the most, and what lessons have you learned from them?

The person that inspires me the most in my family is my grandfather. Even though I don't see him very often in person since he lived in China, he always teaches me valuable life lessons whenever I see him. One of the lessons he has taught me is to never waste food. His quote is 'Each grain of rice on your plate is a farmer's gruelling hours of work'. From then on, I have tried my best not to

waste a farmer's hard work. He has also taught me to study hard and focus on what I enjoy and not waste my time. He always encourages me, saying that he hopes that I will be a richer person than him when I grow up. I hope that I will teach others valuable lessons in the future just like how he has taught me!