



The Great Central Park Challenge

STORY
STARTERS

Writing Prompt

ONE SENTENCE

Continue the story of "The Great Central Park Challenge," starting from the moment Mia reads the news about the development proposal. Describe her efforts to save the park, the challenges she faces, and how she works with her friends to make a difference. Include at least one major obstacle they must overcome and a moment where Mia must make a difficult decision. Use at least 5 words from the vocabulary list in your writing.



PLOTS- MEMORISE MORE
ADJUST AND APPLY ON THE DAY OF
THE EXAM

INTERVIEW
WEBINAR ABOUT
YOURSELF

Introduction

In the heart of New York City, 13-year-old Mia Rodriguez is determined to save her beloved Central Park from being partially developed into a commercial zone. As the daughter of a park ranger and an environmental lawyer, Mia knows the importance of green spaces in urban areas. With the help of her diverse group of friends, she embarks on a summer-long campaign to raise awareness, gather support, and find innovative solutions to protect the park. Along the way, they encounter various challenges, from bureaucratic red tape to competing interests, all while exploring the hidden gems and famous landmarks of New York City.

JARGON

CHARACTERISATION

Story Starter

ATMOSPHERE
DIFFICULT DECISION
(CONFLICT)

Resolution Mia sneakers pounded the pavement as she raced through the winding paths of Central Park, the early morning mist still clinging to the trees, her mind reeling from the news headline she'd just read on her phone: "City Council Considers Proposal to Develop 10% of Central Park for Commercial Use."



FEELINGS- anger, shock, baffled

ATMOSPHERE (NIGHTMARISH FUTURE)

PLAN TO SAVE CENTRAL PARK (DIALOGUE)

The Shocking Proposal

Setting the Scene:

- Mia learning about the development plan for Central Park
- The initial reaction of park-goers and local residents
- Mia's decision to take action



**BRAINSTORM WORDS, CONCEPTS
AND DESCRIPTORS (ADD ONTO THE
IDEAS HERE)- memorise**

CHARACTERISE- heartless smirks, greedy dispositions, potbellies and twig-like arms, **smoking an obscene amount of cigarettes**

Exemplars:

1. "Mia stood in stunned silence near Bethesda Fountain, watching as a group of suited developers gestured enthusiastically at the green expanse around them.

Their words drifted over: "...prime real estate... boost the economy..."

Yelling violently, Plump thick necks, triple

2. "'But where will the squirrels live?' a young boy asked his mother, overhearing the news. Mia's heart clenched. It wasn't just squirrels at stake - it was the heart of New York itself."

chins obscuring their necks

Bald, sinister, serpent-like beady eyes, yellowed teeth, crusty, flakey skin, hissing out words, poisoning the otherwise untrammelled skies with their evil

3. "As the sun set behind the city skyline, painting the park in golden hues, Mia made a vow. 'This park has been here for over 150 years,' she whispered. 'I won't let it be carved up on my watch.'"

Stout frame held together by

suspenders
Dark circles under their eyes,

Triple A investment, cap rates, auction, interest rates, penthouse with 360 degree views, inflation, return on investment, mortgage, unfathomable capital gains, stunning capital appreciation, unprecedented profits, rents, revenue

Gathering the Team

Green-eyed and frothing with greed

Setting the Scene:

- Mia recruiting friends with different skills and backgrounds
- Planning their campaign strategy at Tom's Restaurant (famous from Seinfeld)
- Dealing with initial setbacks and disagreements

Banker- Tom Ford suit, gleaming tie



Drooling, eyes bulging, slobbering, gaping, salivating rubbing their hands

Exemplars:

Pimples, ruffled hair, frizzled, frazzled, pale skin, AR Rayban glasses, Apple vision pro, AirPods, sweatpants, Apple Watch, flannel shirt

1. "The bell above Tom's Restaurant's door jingled as Mia's friends filed in. 'Okay, team,' she said, sliding into the iconic booth, 'Operation Green Apple is a go.'" Wild, chaotic, untrammelled, cacophony, violent, brainwashed groupthink, cult like, echo chamber- unions, jobs, stimulating Economy, local business, minimum wage, alleviating living costs

'My cousin works at the Guggenheim,' added Leila. 'Maybe we can get some artist support?' Mia grinned. This might just work."

2. "Their planning session was interrupted by a commotion outside. A group of pro-development protesters marched by, chanting about jobs and progress. Angry mob, unemployed Freckles, jeans, Irish-Boston accent, scarf, belt of small paint tubes

3. "Mia's smile faltered. They had their work cut out for them."

Bohemian dress, paint stains, colourful patchwork, Parisian beret, auburn hair, tied into a bun, splattered in paint, simple white shirt?

The City-Wide Awareness Campaign

Setting the Scene:

- Organising flash mobs in Times Square
- Creating a viral social media challenge at the Top of the Rock
- Facing opposition and criticism from development supporters



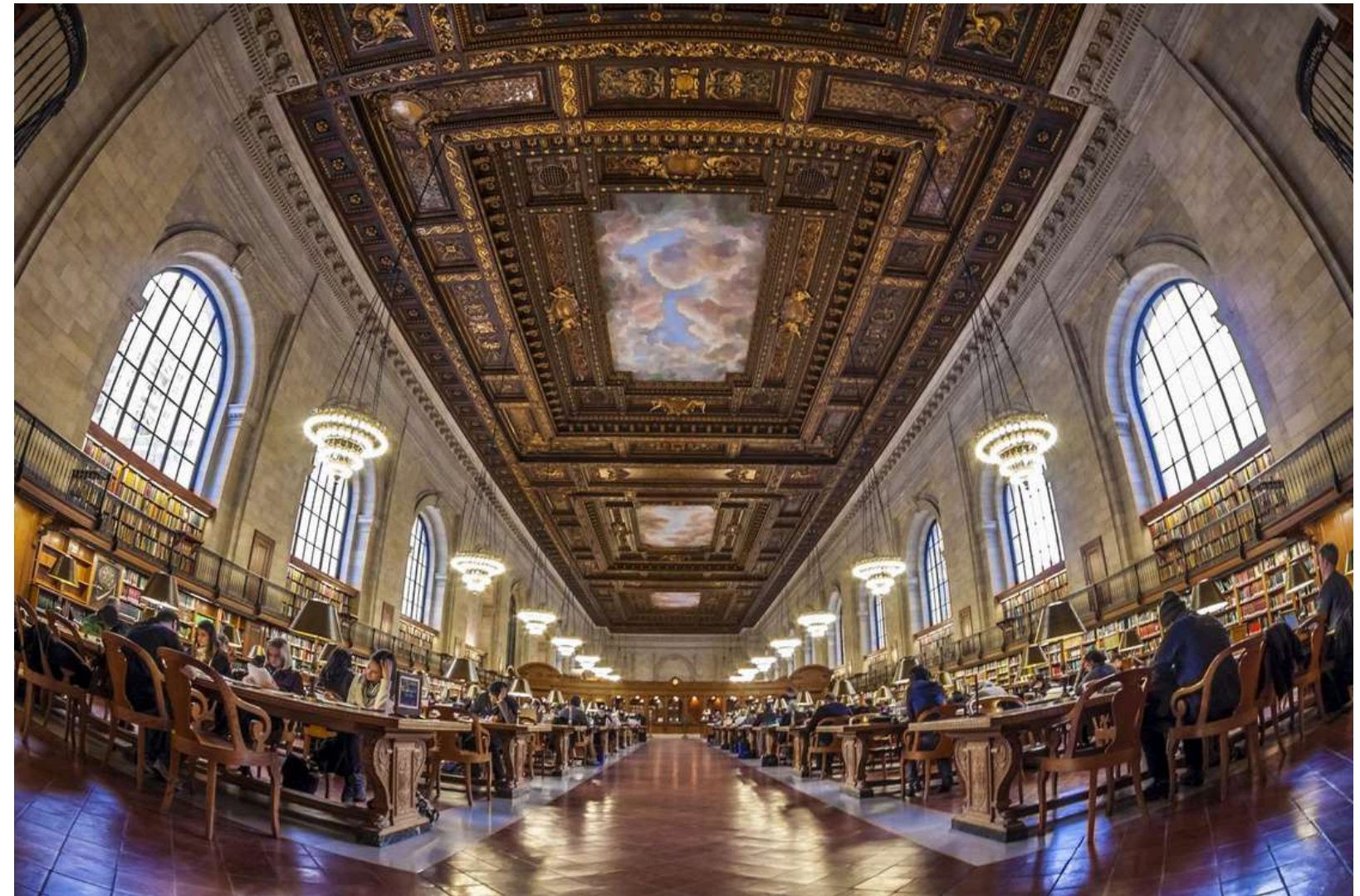
Exemplars:

1. "The sea of tourists in Times Square parted as hundreds of green-clad dancers erupted into a choreographed routine. Mia watched from the sidelines, heart pounding, as confused faces turned to smiles of understanding."
2. "At the Top of the Rock, Mia and her friends lined up for the CentralParkChallenge. 'Show us your favourite park memory!' Zack called out, his drone camera hovering to capture the Manhattan skyline - and the green oasis at its centre."
3. "'These kids don't understand economics,' a stern voice boomed from a nearby radio. Mia clenched her fists, fighting back tears. She understood plenty - including the value of things money couldn't buy."

Navigating the Concrete Jungle

Setting the Scene:

- Meeting with local business owners along Fifth Avenue
- A setback at the New York Public Library
- Finding unexpected allies at Yankee Stadium



Exemplars:

1. "Mia straightened her back as she pushed open the door to another Fifth Avenue boutique. 'Hello,' she said, summoning her courage. 'I'm here to talk about why Central Park is good for your business.'"
2. "The New York Public Library's majestic halls echoed with whispers as Mia and her team pored over urban planning documents. Suddenly, Leila gasped. 'Guys, look at this fine print. The developers have more support than we thought.'"
3. "The roar of the crowd at Yankee Stadium was deafening, but Mia could hardly believe her ears. 'And now,' the announcer boomed, 'let's hear it for the Central Park Challenge team! These young New Yorkers are fighting to keep our city green!'"

The Final Stand at City Hall

Setting the Scene:

- Presenting their case at a City Council meeting
- A surprise turn of events during the final vote
- The aftermath and lessons learned



Exemplars:

1. "Mia's voice shook as she addressed the City Council. 'Central Park isn't just trees and grass,' she said. 'It's the lungs of our city, the place where memories are made, where nature and urban life coexist.'"
2. "A hush fell over the chamber as the votes were tallied. Mia held her breath, feeling the weight of millions of New Yorkers - past, present, and future - on her shoulders."
3. "Months later, Mia stood on Gapstow Bridge, watching children play on the newly refurbished playground - funded by a compromise that had saved the park and satisfied the need for development. She smiled. Sometimes, change could be good."

Vocabulary List

1. Urban: Relating to a city or town
2. Development: The process of developing or being developed
3. Innovative: Featuring new methods; advanced and original
4. Bureaucratic: Relating to a system of government in which most important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives
5. Commercial: Concerned with or engaged in commerce
6. Iconic: Very famous or popular, especially being considered to represent particular opinions or a particular time
7. Flash mob: A large public gathering at which people perform an unusual or seemingly random act and then disperse
8. Viral: (of an image, video, piece of information, etc.) Circulated rapidly and widely from one Internet user to another
9. Choreographed: Compose the sequence of steps and moves for (a performance of dance or ice skating)
10. Economics: The branch of knowledge concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth
11. Boutique: A small store selling fashionable clothes or accessories
12. Majestic: Having or showing impressive beauty or dignity
13. Coexist: Exist at the same time or in the same place
14. Refurbished: Renovate and redecorate (something, especially a building)
15. Compromise: An agreement or settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions

Exemplar Response

Mia's heart raced as she re-read the headline. Develop Central Park? It seemed unthinkable. She pocketed her phone and sprinted towards Bethesda Fountain, her favourite spot to think.

As she ran, memories flashed through her mind: picnics with her parents, school field trips, winter ice skating. Central Park wasn't just a green space; it was the heart of New York City.

At the fountain, Mia overheard two suits discussing "prime real estate" and "economic benefits." Her disbelief turned to determination. She wouldn't let this happen without a fight.

That evening, Mia gathered her friends at Tom's Restaurant. "We need a plan," she declared, sliding into the iconic booth.

Over the next weeks, their campaign took shape. They organised flash mobs in Times Square, started a viral challenge at Top of the Rock, and even gained support from local Fifth Avenue boutiques.

But it wasn't all smooth sailing. At the New York Public Library, they discovered the developers had more backing than expected. Mia felt overwhelmed, questioning if they could really make a difference.

The turning point came at Yankee Stadium, where they unexpectedly received a shout-out during a game. The roar of support from thousands of New Yorkers reinvigorated their efforts.