

Reading and writing skills book review example

[Health & Medicine](#), [Hospital](#)



Aaron Ralston's Story

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Aaron Ralston, a 27-year-old mountain sports fanatic from Colorado in the United States, found himself in dire straits* alone in a canyon* in the desert when a 500kg rock came crashing down the canyon to smash his right hand and trap it against the canyon wall. A terrible accident, but the situation was made all the more serious because on this occasion Aaron had failed to tell anyone where he was going. At the last minute the plans for a trip with his climbing partners had fallen through, and on the spur of the moment he decided to head out on his own to cycle up a long mountain trail, leave his bike and then walk down the Blue John canyon. No one had the slightest idea where he was.

After three days of not seeing or hearing any sign of life Aaron realised he would die there if he didn't do something drastic. The course of action was horrific, but there was no other way. He would have to amputate his right hand. Fortunately he had a small multitool knife with him and he had some straps that he could use to make a tourniquet to stop himself bleeding to death when he cut the arteries. The knife had two blades. When he tried with the larger blade he found that it was too blunt to cut the skin.

The following day he found the courage to try the shorter blade, and with that he managed to cut through the skin. Only when he had made a large hole in his arm did he realise that it was going to be impossible to use any of the little tools on his knife to cut through the bones. After another 24 hours of pain and despair the idea and the strength came to him in a flash on the sixth day. With a final burst of energy he broke both bones in his arm and

freed himself.

The ordeal was not over, though. He was still a long way from help. He had to carefully strap up his right arm and then find a way of lowering himself down a 20m drop in the canyon with a rope and only his left arm, and then walk the 10 km back to his car. Despite his ingenuity* and all his efforts he would have bled to death if it hadn't been for a very happy coincidence: the moment he got out of the canyon into the open desert the rescue helicopter just happened to be flying overhead.

One of the doctors at the hospital recalls being impressed to see Ralston walk into the hospital on his own, in spite of his injuries and the gruelling experience of being in the desert for six days with almost nothing to eat and only a couple of litres of water. He describes the amputation as remarkable. " It's a perfect example of someone improvising in a dire situation*," he said. " He took a small knife and was able to amputate his arm in such a way that he did not bleed to death."

Slim and pale with short reddish-brown hair, Ralston believes that his story was not simply about an isolated individual who rose to a formidable challenge. For him there was a spiritual* dimension to the experience. In his news conference he said, " I may never fully understand the spiritual aspects of what I experienced, but I will try. The source of the power I felt was the thoughts and prayers of many people, most of whom I will never know."

READING COMPREHENSION

1) PRE-READING ACTIVITY

- Are you familiar with the place in the picture?
- Have you ever been on an environmental trip?

- How do you feel about exploring the canyons?

2) VOCABULARY

MEANING

Choose the word that has the closest meaning with the underlined word.

- A 500kg rock came crashing down the canyon to smash his right hand and trap it against the canyon wall.

- hit

- demolish

- bankrupt

- knock down

- He would have to amputate his right hand.

- bruise

- twist

- cut off

- break

- Despite his ingenuity and all his efforts he would have bled to death if it hadn't been for a very happy coincidence.

- honesty

- falsity

- actions

- cleverness

- The ordeal was not over, though.

- above

- in excess

- finished

- accomplished
- One of the doctors at the hospital recalls being impressed to see Ralston walk into the hospital on his own
- asks
- remembers
- memorizes
- recognizes

WORD BUILDING

Fill the table with the appropriate words as described (example in italics):

Supply the right words from the table above to complete the sentences below:

- The equipment must be handled with care.
- They have strengthened the foundation of the building to prevent against earthquakes.
- The child longed the return of his parents for many years.
- Our organization thoughtfully gives homeless people available rooms during rainy days.
- The decision is made final when it was signed by the legislators.

3) COMPREHENSION

MAIN IDEA

Answer the ff. questions given:

- What was in Aaron's thoughts as described in paragraph 2?
- Aaron was choosing to cut his hand because it was the easiest thing to do.
- Aaron was choosing to cut his hand because all he had available were

knives.

- Aaron needed to cut through his right hand because it was the only way.
- Aaron missed his family so much he wanted to go home.
- What is the main idea of paragraph 4?
- If it were not for the rescue helicopter, Aaron would not be saved.
- The combination of Aaron's hard work and great luck saved him.
- Aaron was never saved from the canyon.
- It was all because of Aaron's great efforts that he was saved.
- What best summarizes the doctor's account in paragraph 5?
- The doctor thought the whole situation was a bizarre story.
- The doctor congratulated Aaron for walking into the hospital with his feet.
- The doctor feels that Aaron deserves recognition for being a boy scout in such a situation.
- The doctor was amazed and in awe over how Aaron survived and get out of his struggle.

SCANNING DETAILS

Answer the ff. clearly and concisely:

- Where did Aaron Ralston go for a trip?

Blue John Canyon

- What did he do with this trip of his?

He cycled down a long mountain trail and walked to the canyon

- How did he manage to be stuck in the canyon?

A rock fell down on his arm.

- How was he rescued from the desert?

There was a rescue helicopter flying overhead when he reached the desert.

- Who did Ralston rely to for courage during his experience?

“ The thoughts and prayers of many people, whom I will never know”**MAKING INFERENCES**

Write True if the statement is true based from the story above and False if otherwise.

- Only his cousin knew about the mountain trip but he changed location at the last minute.(False)
- The weight of the rock which fell down on Ralston’s arm is 500kg.(True)
- He was able to cut through his arm with the longer knife the first time he tried it. (False)
- Ralston was carried into the hospital in a stretcher. (False)
- He was stuck in the canyon for a total of six days. (True)

REFERENCE

Fullspate. net (n. d.) Aaron Ralston’s story. Retrieved from <http://www.fullspate.net/english-articles-advanced/20.html>