

ENGLISH · Y5

Newspaper Report — Year 5

WAGOLL: What A Good One Looks Like

The Headline and Opening

MYSTERY DOG SAVES SCHOOLBOY FROM RIVER A seven-year-old boy is recovering at home today after being rescued from the River Thames by an unidentified dog. The dramatic incident happened yesterday afternoon near Richmond Bridge, when Lucas Walker, a Year 3 pupil at Richmond Primary School, fell into the fast-flowing water while feeding ducks with his mother.

The Main Body

Witnesses described the dog, a large brown Labrador, as appearing 'from nowhere' before leaping into the river and pulling Lucas back to the bank by his coat. The animal then disappeared into the crowd before its owner could be identified. Lucas's mother, Mrs Sarah Walker, told reporters: 'I turned my back for ten seconds. When I looked round, Lucas was in the water and there was this incredible dog already swimming towards him. I will never be able to thank that dog or its owner enough.' A passer-by, Mr Tom Holden, captured the rescue on his mobile phone. 'It was the bravest thing I've ever seen,' he said. 'The dog didn't hesitate for a moment.' Despite a thorough search of the area by emergency services, the dog and its owner have not yet been found. Police have asked anyone who recognises the animal to come forward. Lucas, who was treated for shock and mild hypothermia, was released from hospital later that evening. His family have appealed for the dog's owner to contact them so they can express their gratitude.

The Closing

Mrs Walker added: 'Whoever you are, your dog is a hero. We owe you everything.' The River Thames, while a popular tourist destination, can be dangerous, with strong currents particularly during winter months. The Royal Life Saving Society has reminded the public to take care near rivers and to keep a close watch on young children. — Reported by Sophie Marsden



Notated features

What makes this a strong Y5 news

- HEADLINE: short, dramatic, present tense, captures the story in under 8 words
- OPENING (lead): answers WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE in the first sentence
- INVERTED PYRAMID: most important info first, supporting detail later
- DIRECT QUOTES: 'I turned my back for ten seconds...' — bring the story to life
- REPORTED SPEECH: 'Witnesses described the dog as appearing from nowhere' — efficient summary
- PAST TENSE throughout (newspapers report on events that have happened)
- FORMAL THIRD PERSON: no 'I' or 'we' — the reporter is invisible
- ATTRIBUTED SOURCES: 'Mrs Walker', 'Mr Holden', 'Police' — gives credibility
- BYLINE at the end: 'Reported by Sophie Marsden'
- FORMAL VOCABULARY: 'incident,' 'witnesses,' 'authorities,' 'released'

Writing prompt

Now write your own newspaper report. Choose one of these events: a daring rescue at the seaside, a mysterious treasure found in your local park, an unusual animal spotted in your town, or invent your own. Include: a strong headline, a lead paragraph answering who/what/when/where, two direct quotes from witnesses, one piece of reported speech, and a formal closing paragraph. Use past tense throughout and write in the third person.

