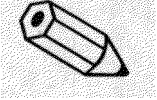


## Observations on Narrative

It should be noticed that modern English Examinations do not always include Narrative/Story as part of their Syllabus, and therefore this Section is in some respects less important than the others. However some English examinations do include Narrative, so we are presenting it here; another reason being that skill in writing a continuous story is not only a pleasure, but it provides additional benefits for your writing and your imagination.

Here are some notes about Rosemary and the Tortoise:

- a) You will see the beginning is in the style of a child's story: "There was once a little girl called Rosemary = "Once upon a time there was..." Writers such as Roald Dahl ("Tales of the Unexpected") and Angela Carter ("Company of Wolves" and 'The Magic Toyshop') cloak in a similar manner what appears to be a child's story with adult undertones. If you like this type of story, these authors are definitely worth pursuing.
- b) The immediate style of Rosemary and the Tortoise is simple and straightforward, the main character a little girl who is fond of animals. It is only as the story progresses that things change, and the reader becomes aware that this seemingly innocent children's tale has something hidden which has yet to spring and astonish, not to say shock...
- c) The effectiveness of the story arises from the clash of styles: the innocent little girl becomes something a little less agreeable at the end. What is also rather ironic is that i) Rosemary has always the best of intentions ii) she herself is in a sense punished as a result of her action: in other words the story has a kind of poetic justice that will hopefully satisfy the reader. Herein lies the black comedy...
- d) There is also the final thrust that Rosemary is doing something (i.e. eating her tortoise) that people generally consider not done or even wrong, for reasons she has sincerely persuaded herself are for the best... A very human dilemma has thus been presented here!

<b>Activity 5</b>	Answer these questions based on the Story:
	<p>a) Rewrite the first three Paragraphs in your own words (approximately 100 words)</p> <p>In the following sentences replace the words in <b>block letter</b> by words with the same meanings:</p> <p>) She had never <b>owned</b> a tortoise</p> <p>) Rosemary became rather <b>disappointed</b> with her tortoise</p> <p>i) It <b>carried on</b> living</p> <p>v) Rosemary <b>grew</b> very old</p> <p>) Rosemary was old and <b>shaky</b></p> <p>i) When she <b>realized</b> this, she had a sudden fear</p> <p>ii) A <b>chill</b> went to her heart</p> <p>iii) Rosemary didn't <b>outlive</b> the tortoise very long</p> <p>. Write fifty words on:</p> <p>Either: a) Where the black humour comes from in this story? Or: b) Why you like/dislike the story.</p>