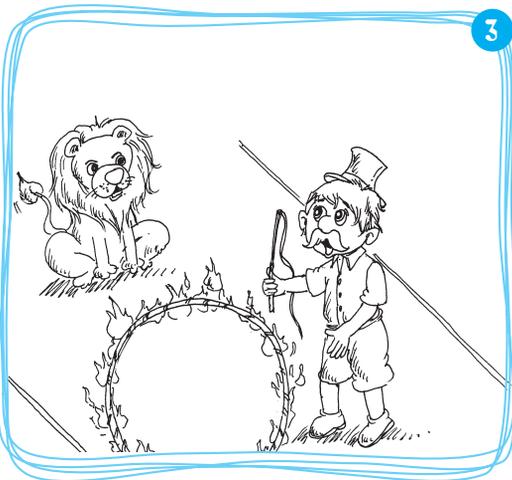
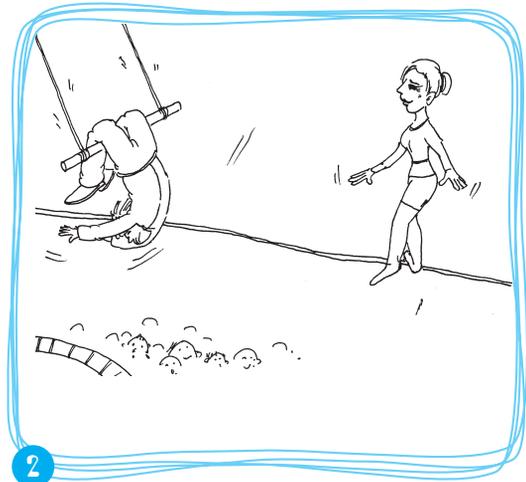
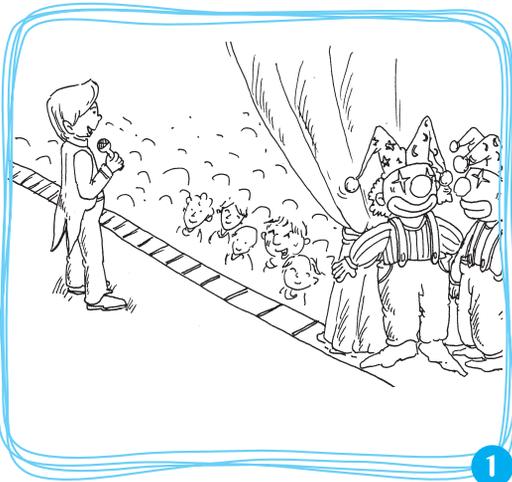


Theme: Holidays and Family Outings

A Visit to the Circus

Write a story based on the pictures below. Your story should be at least 120 words long. Give your own ending to the story.



Before You Write



Basic Story Premise

The main character in the story went to watch a circus performance.



At the start of the circus, the ringmaster came on stage to address the audience. There were clowns doing funny antics on the stage as well.



A trapeze artiste was swinging above the audience on a trapeze, followed by a lady walking a tightrope.



A lion tamer encouraged the lion to jump through a burning hoop.



???

Useful Words and Phrases

- Great Moscow Circus
- The circus was held in a specially constructed big top pitched on the open field.
- pomp and fanfare
- ringmaster
- two colourfully dressed clowns performed hilarious antics
- the audience burst out in spontaneous laughter
- trapeze artistes swinging precariously from a trapeze
- displayed great skill and dexterity
- lion tamer
- at the crack of his whip
- jumped through a fiery hoop
- Every performance was a crowd pleaser.
- By the time the curtains came down, a resounding round of applause echoed throughout the tent.
- The show had been worth every cent of the ticket price.

Adapted:

Write Your Way To An A* (Intermediate)

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Theme: Holidays and Family Outings

A Visit to the Circus

The Great Moscow Circus was in town again. The last time they had been here for a series of performances, I was unable to go and watch them because the show season coincided with my year-end examinations. However, I was determined not to miss the circus this time round. Furthermore, I had earned my privilege to watch the circus by attaining four Band Ones — the results my parents had demanded. True to his word, my father booked three tickets for us to watch the circus as a family on the opening night.

The day of the long-awaited performance finally dawned. The circus was held in a specially constructed big top pitched on the open field adjacent to Bugis Village. When we arrived at the circus venue, we presented our tickets to the guard at the entrance and were ushered to our seats.

The circus performance commenced at six o'clock sharp. Accompanied by much pomp and fanfare, the ringmaster came up on stage and introduced the opening act. Two colourfully dressed clowns performed hilarious antics behind the ringmaster, causing the audience to burst out in spontaneous laughter.

The lights then dimmed and the spotlight was turned to a pair of trapeze artistes swinging precariously from a trapeze. The accomplished acrobats swung gracefully across the stage. They then upped their performance a notch by somersaulting through the air and into the arms of their fellow performer who was swinging from another trapeze. Next, a nubile female acrobat displayed great skill and dexterity by walking along a tightrope.

After the amazing acrobatic stunts, the stage was cleared for the appearance of the king of the jungle. A lion was wheeled on stage in an extra large metal cage. A lion tamer then entered the cage and ordered the ferocious creature to do some tricks. At the crack of his whip, the lion stood up on its hind legs, circumnavigated the cage and rolled over on its side like a puppy. However, the stunt that drew the loudest applause from the audience was when the lion jumped through a fiery hoop.

In the line-up of performances that followed, there was something to please everyone. The audience held their breath when the master juggler juggled six flaming torches while he was blindfolded. Everyone roared with laughter when a trio of ballerina bears performed their rendition of Swan Lake. The crowd gasped in amazement as the flexible contortionist squeezed herself into a small suitcase. Every performance was a crowd pleaser and by the time the curtains came down, a resounding round of applause echoed throughout the tent. My parents and I had a great time at the circus. The show had been worth every cent of the ticket price. As we made our way back home that night, my parents promised to take me to the circus again the next time it came to Singapore.