



Peaceful Creeks

by James

I grew up in the Pilbara. More specifically, I spent about 18 years in the town of Port Hedland. I believe it was a good place to live. I am 29 years old and I still have friends who I keep in touch with, and see on a regular basis. When I think of the years I spent there, the creeks and the fishing come to mind. I had a 12 foot dinghy with a 25 horse power motor on it, old but good. Towed behind the four wheel drive, you could go anywhere. There are hundreds of creeks; the water is murky from the mud that gets stirred up by the huge tides. The banks are lined with mangroves, strange plants. They have their roots popping straight out of the mud. The fishing is fantastic. The fish get into such a feeding frenzy, my bait comes off the hook. As the bare hook hits the water you have a fish on your line. Now that's fishing, but it's rare. In the dinghy, you anchor near a fallen branch and cast just near it. Most of the time you will get some mangrove jacks, a top table fish, very aggressive and lots of fun. Not a bad life, fishing and camping, and no one around for miles.

James was diagnosed with dyslexia in primary school. He spent only 2 terms in a Chidlow Special School before his family moved to Port Hedland. James was 29 years old when he contacted Read Write Now to gain confidence with his spelling and writing. In only four months, he has progressed considerably.

Discussion

What is this story about?

Write down just a few key words which are important subjects of the text:

.....
.....
.....
.....



mangroves are shrubs or small trees which grow in coastal salty water. Australia has the 3rd largest area of mangroves in the world (after Indonesia and Brazil)! 75% of these are in the humid tropics, to the north of the country.



mangrove jacks are a type of fish, also called Red Bream or Dog Bream. Mangrove Jacks are very good for eating, so James calls them a "top table fish". They are found in the Northwest of Western Australia, in Queensland and in "the top end". They are said to provide sport fishermen with the ultimate fishing challenge.

A **feeding frenzy** is a state of wild activity when a lot of fish all compete to get as much food as possible. They get so excited that they even attack each other. The media use this term to describe crowds of people behaving competitively at a big sale, for example.

This is an interesting text, especially if you like fishing. But it is a bit difficult to read, for a couple of reasons.

One reason is that James writes the whole thing as one **paragraph**. This adds excitement, because one thought (one sentence) quickly follows another. This isn't wrong! It's effective at creating interest. But it does make it harder to read.

On page 5 is another copy of the text. Look at the topics which the sentences cover, on that page, and **decide where you could break the text into shorter paragraphs**, if you wanted to make it easier to read.

The first 2 breaks are shown for you, by a line space.

Remember that the guide for making paragraphs is that **each paragraph usually introduces a new topic**.

There is more than one way to do this. Your purpose in dividing the text into paragraphs, is to **make the text easier to understand** (and **easier to read**). *So whatever works for you, is OK.*

In deciding where to put the first 2 breaks, I have decided that the first 4 sentences are general ones about Port Hedland.

So after that, I put a break.

Then, the next 3 sentences introduce the topics of the creeks, the fishing and the dinghy.

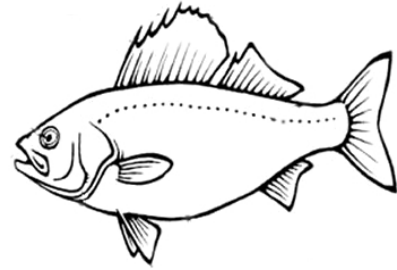
After that, I put another break - although this one was hard to decide on!

I think the next few sentences talk about the water and the mangroves. Use a slash (/) to put in a break, after those sentences.

After that, he talks a bit more about the fishing. It's difficult to decide where to break this part. *That's up to you!*

More Activities

Find these words from the story
in this **Word Search**.



aggressive	rare	Pilbara	mangrove	regular
	power	frenzy	towed	popping
anchor	murky		straight	tides

r	f	r	e	n	z	y	p	p	r
a	g	g	r	e	s	s	i	v	e
r	s	e	t	f	m	t	l	p	g
e	t	d	i	b	u	o	b	o	u
d	r	g	d	a	r	w	a	w	l
i	a	i	e	i	k	e	r	e	a
n	i	k	s	t	y	d	a	r	r
g	g	m	a	n	g	r	o	v	e
h	h	b	a	n	c	h	o	r	t
y	t	p	o	p	p	i	n	g	x

Find these sentences in the text and fill in the blanks.

- More, I spent about 18 years in the town of Port Hedland.
- I still have who I keep in touch with
- behind the four wheel drive, you could go
- They have their roots popping out of the mud.
- As the hook hits the water you have a fish on your line.
- Not a bad life, fishing and camping, and no one around for

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*This copy is to divide
into paragraphs.*



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Here are some questions to check what you got from the text.



- What 2 things come to James' mind when he thinks of Port Hedland?.....
- Where are the mangrove roots, according to James:
They are
- Where does James suggest that you anchor the dinghy?
.....
- Is his dinghy a new boat? YES NO
- The text says he tows his boat with a ute. True or False?
- How long was James with RWN when he wrote this text?
Hint: Read the text in italics.

If James is 29 years old now, and he lived in Port Hedland for "about 18 years", about how old was he, when he arrived in Port Hedland?

A "12 foot dinghy" is about 4 metres long. Can you show your tutor how long that is (on the floor)?

Discuss with your tutor:

What do you like (or not like!) about this text?

Do you get the impression that James had a good time when he was in Port Hedland? *Why or why not?*

Is there anything in this text that surprises you?