

*What It Looks Like –
Documentary Script (cont'd)*

Year 5 Writing Sample

Topic: Fur seals

Before

As the fur seal pups feed on their mother's milk, a cunning leopard seal waits until the mother departs to run other errands and then she strikes. The fur seals' impeccable hearing allows them to get a head start, but fur seal pups can swim at 24km per hour while a fully grown leopard seal can do it at 37km per hour. The terrified pups swim for their life. The leopard seal closes the gap. Luckily the mother comes to save them with the entire bob of fur seals! The leopard seal becomes frightened, and quickly dashed away.

After

As the fur seal pups feed on their mother's milk, they are unaware of the danger behind them. A leopard seal, lurking in the midst of the ocean. He stays there, the cunning seal waiting until the mother departs to run other errands.

Then, the perfect moment comes. He strikes, but the fur seals' impeccable hearing allows them to get a head start. Hunter vs. prey, fur seal pups can swim at 24km per hour, but a fully grown leopard seal can do it at 37km per hour. In the end, the Hunter was more agile. The fur seal pups try to lose him by going behind an iceberg. The leopard seal gets confused and the pups quickly dash away. Then, the leopard seal realises its mistake. Terrified, the pups swim for their life, flippers exhausted. The leopard seal closes the gap, until the gap is only a few inches big.

Suddenly, a whoosh comes between the crack. The mother had come to save them. Not just the mother, the entire bob of fur seals! They chase down the antagonist. The leopard seal becomes frightened, and quickly dashed away, shocked by the random attack.

(Jedd, Year 5, Torrens Valley Christian School)

Use comparisons and contrasts – The text starts with a quieter moment and then contrasts that with the action of the chase to build suspense.

Paint a word picture – This description of the chase paints a vivid word picture using all of the senses.

Use short, sharp sentences – These choppy sentences with lots of pauses give a sense of urgency as the scene reaches a climax.

For more writing samples and exemplars to model the techniques, go to *Teacher Hub*.