

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

FROM LITTLE THINGS, A BIG COMMUNITY GROWS

How many green thumbs does it take to create a thriving community rooftop garden? For the residents of Balmain, the best approach was to follow the old saying, “many hands make light work”.

After presenting the local council with a petition of over a thousand signatures, the Sky High Garden group was given a grant of \$15,000 to build a garden on the derelict rooftop of their apartment building.

At the garden's public opening, team leader Alejandra Vasquez said the money provided an opportunity to showcase what motivated community members could achieve. “But there were a lot of headaches to begin with,” she said, driving a nail into one of their homemade vegetable troughs.

“Builders had to clear all the mess, then surveyors made sure it was safe up here, and finally a landscaper designed the layout. All this before we'd even bought a single seed.”

Around twenty people were hard at work when I arrived, hammering, sawing, planting, trimming and erecting nets. The area already had the look of a small urban

By Steven Walker, Environmental reporter

jungle, with a huge variety of trees, fruits and blooming flowers.

Before I left, I stood at the edge of the roof. Twenty storeys high and the views were stunning. I could see clear to the Opera House. The smells behind me were rich and perfume-like. There was constant chatter and laughter, a real sense of spirit.

As I turned to go, I had a sudden urge to get my hands dirty. I noticed a load of fresh soil heaped into a nearby wheelbarrow. I bent my knees, lifted the handles and immediately lost control of it.

“Looks like you need a bit of help,” an older man said, quickly balancing the wheelbarrow with a strong grip.

Luckily for me, and the people of Balmain, everyone seems willing to lend a hand to make this garden an iconic part of the local landscape.

*Sky High Garden group team leader
Alejandra Vasquez.*



Tasks

Complete an extended piece of writing that is in the style and format of a Recount text.

A Recount retells a series of events in chronological order.

You are going to write a newspaper article that retells the events involved in building a new playground in a local park. You will set out the events in order. Your article should appeal to people who live close to the park. Work through the steps and then write your own Recount.

Glossary

action verb: A verb that indicates an observable action or happening. For example: The animals **are fed** every day.; The birds **fought** over the last crumbs.

adjectival phrase: A phrase that gives more information about a noun. For example: That story was **more interesting**.; The girl **with the cast on her leg** sat near the back.

adverbial phrase: A phrase that adds extra detail about what is going on in a clause or sentence. For example: They came **too late** to do any good.; She sang **at the concert**.

by-line: A line under the heading of a newspaper or magazine article giving the writer's name.

chronological order: Arranged in the order of time.

headline: A display line over an article in a newspaper or magazine.

noun: A word used to refer to a person, place, thing or idea. For example: man, city, lake, freedom.

pronoun: A word used in place of a noun or noun group. For example: I, we, you, this, that, myself, anybody, each, one another, who, which, both.

Step 1: Your headline and by-line

For this Recount, you are a journalist writing an article for the local newspaper on a new playground that has been built in a park. Write the headline and by-line of your article. The headline should give readers a brief idea of what the article is about.

Step 2: Background information

Add information a reader might like or need to know about how the playground was built.

- 1 Describe the park where the playground has been built
- 2 Invent a name for the team leader who was in charge of building the playground.
- 3 Explain where the funding for the playground came from.
- 4 List five steps involved in building the playground.
- 5 List the play equipment. For example: swings, slides, climbing walls and see-saws.

Step 3: Language features of Recounts

Find examples of each language feature used in *From little things, a big community grows*.

- 1 two nouns:
- 2 two pronouns:
- 3 two action verbs:

Step 3: Language features of Recounts continued

4 one adverbial phrase:

5 one adjectival phrase:

Step 4: Language features for your Recount

Write one example for each language feature, using the background information in **Step 2**.

1 noun:

2 pronoun:

3 action verb:

4 adverbial phrase:

5 adjectival phrase:

Step 5: Structure

Recounts have two stages: Orientation and Series of Events. Recounts often end with a Personal Comment or an opinion of the events from the writer. Describe what happens in each stage in *From little things, a big community grows*. Write one or two sentences for each stage.

- 1 Orientation – the writer introduces the readers to the topic
- 2 Series of Events – the writer describes the events in chronological order
- 3 Personal Comment – the writer concludes with a personal comment or opinion on the events

Step 6: Create your own text

Now it is time to write your Recount. You are a journalist who is writing an article for a newspaper. Add the headline and by-line. Use the background information mentioned in **Step 2** and follow the structure in **Step 5**. Include the language features in **Step 3**.

If you are unsure about where to start, take another look at *From little things, a big community grows*. Remember to use full sentences, and correct punctuation and spelling!

Teacher comments