

Introductory Phrases- Lesson Opener

What do you notice about the phrases in the text below?

Now King was investigating the leaping tracks in the direction the animal had come from. The husky seemed so intent, Jason followed. Within twenty yards, the leaping tracks led back to an overturned spruce. When the big spruce had toppled over, it had raised a mound with its roots.

With the snow cleared away, he put his packsack on the bare ground and laid the ax, the rifle, and the ammunition on the pack, where it would be close at hand if need be. With the sharp back end of a snowshoe, he began to enlarge the tiny opening in the snow.

Barely able to breathe, Jason leaped back for the rifle and stood ready, but there was no sound from within, at least none that he could hear. King began to whine once more and Jason whispered, "It's okay, boy. If there is a bear in there, it's what we came for. He'll be so sleepy; we don't have anything to worry about."

Cautiously, he crept back to the entrance, knelt, and peered inside with the rifle ready. An arm's length away, the tunnel was plugged with vegetation-chunks of moss and grass and twigs from blueberry bushes.

With a sudden, powerful jolt, the rifle was knocked from his freezing hands, and it fell inside then den. In the next moment the bear erupted, head and shoulders, through the roof of the den, growling and snarling and clawing at his leg with an outstretched paw.

In a blur, as Jason lunged for the ax, the bear roared and pulled itself up and free onto the snow. Jason raised the ax, the bear roared and pulled itself up and free onto the snow. Jason raised the ax, held tight, and dealt the big bear a slicing, punishing blow to the head. The husky was barking wildly. With a glance sideways, Jason saw a second black bear, not full grown like the first but nearly, come charging out of the tunnel, directly at King. The bear went up on its hind legs, claws high, as the husky darted toward it, then away.