

Practise with 50 word stories

- How much can you say in 50 words including the title? 50 word stories help you think quickly and be aware of structure
- Read some 50 word stories to get you ready:

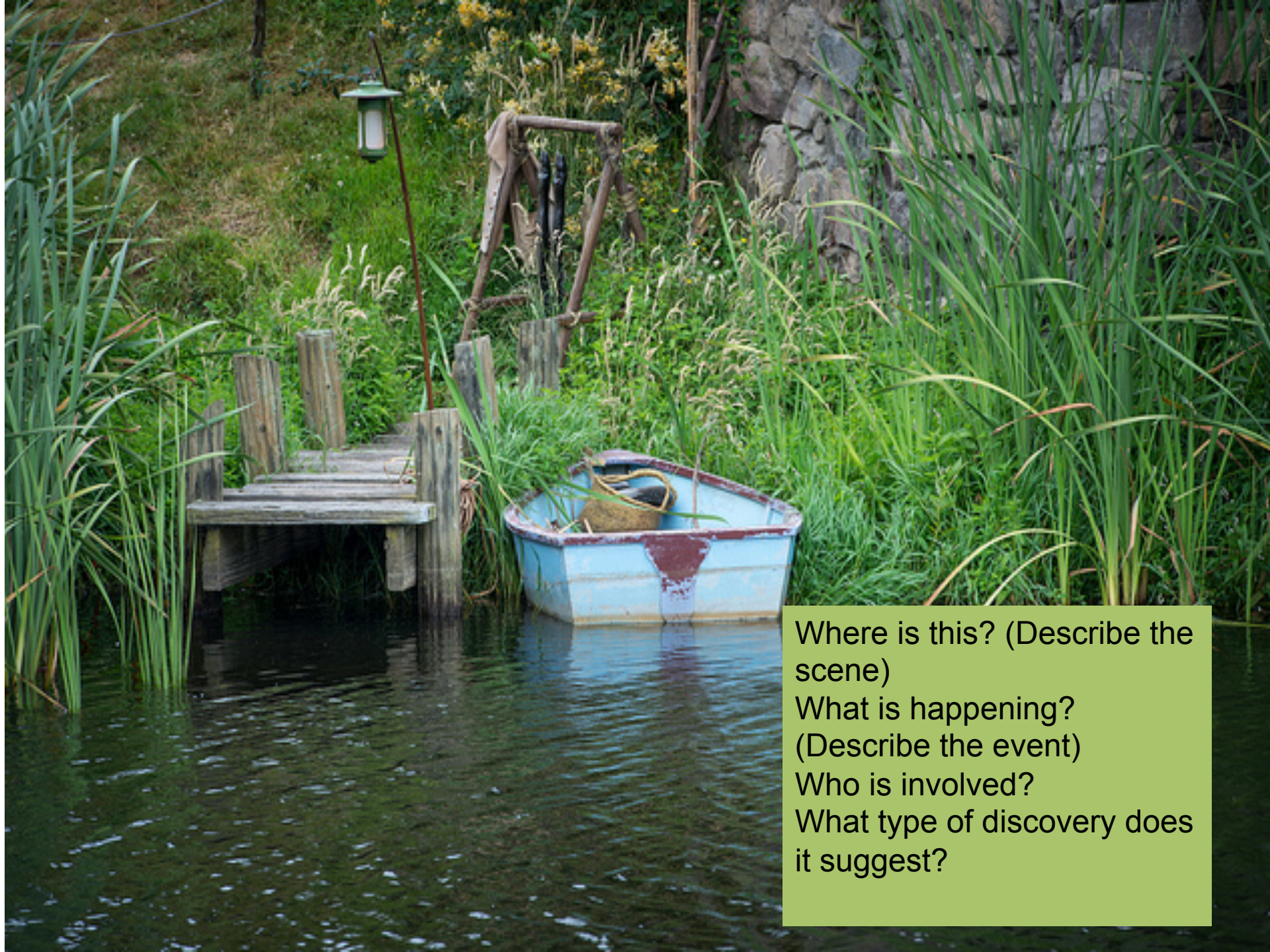
<http://users.aber.ac.uk/jpm/minisagas1.html>

http://dailypost.wordpress.com/dp_writing_challenge/fifty/

Look at the next image

answer the questions and then try a 50 word story.

(Image from Darcy Moore Flickr)



Where is this? (Describe the scene)

What is happening?
(Describe the event)

Who is involved?

What type of discovery does it suggest?

Cut this down to fifty words

Find the beginning, middle and end

- It was an adventure – small boat, big river, long grass and two young boys traipsing through the Amazon looking for gold and glory. Until the rain fell and mum called them home for dinner. So near to discovery and yet so far. No one would ever learn the secret of the glen – not till the next expedition.

The structure

Beginning

It was an adventure – small boat, big river, long grass and two young boys traipsing through the Amazon looking for gold and glory.

Middle

Until the rain fell and mum called them home for dinner.

End

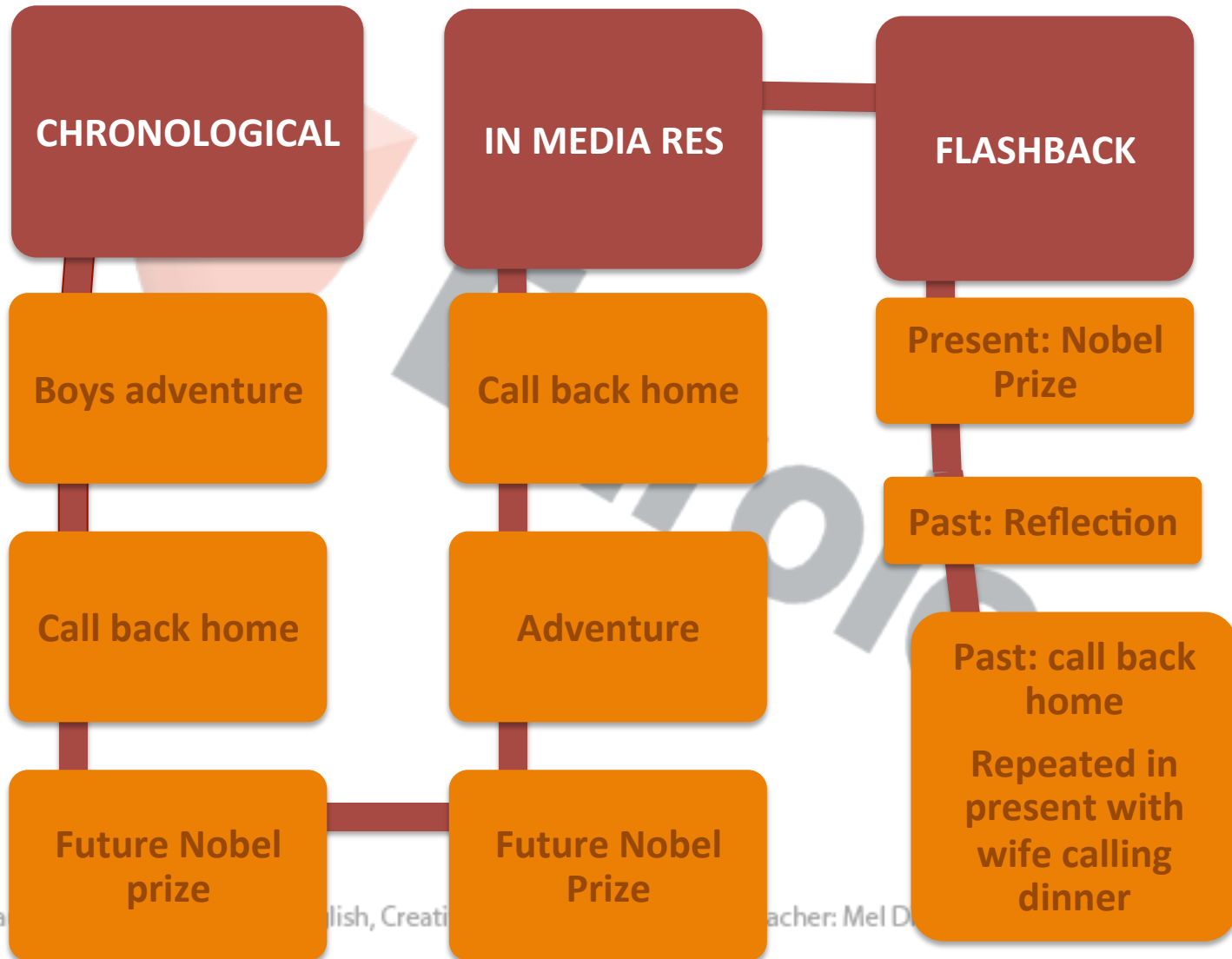
Years later the Nobel prizewinner for medical research still had the fossil on his desk.

Show not tell

- It was an adventure – small boat, big river, long grass and two young boys traipsing through the Amazon looking for gold and glory. Until the rain fell and mum called them home for dinner. Years later the Nobel prizewinner for medical research still had the fossil on his desk.

What happened in between?
Hints are more powerful than the whole story

A different start



Harness your inspiration with more 50 word stories

ACTIVITY 1

Use these statements as a stimulus for discovery writing in 50 words. Give yourself 15 minutes only –

Story 1: To search to find and to know who you are

Story 2: It is not the discovery but the questions you ask that are important

Story 3: Follow me into a new world

ACTIVITY 2

Include the following in your 50 word stories

Story 4: a key; a cloud; a cow

Story 5: a sword; a hut; a spider; a nurse

Story 6: glasses; a mask; earrings and a notebook

ACTIVITY 3

Choose one of the stories to develop into an extended story: aim for

800-1000 words.