

The following paragraph is the final part of a story. Read it carefully.

As soon as the silly plant had slunk into the birdcage, curling its tendrils around its brass bars in curiosity and lettings its vines hang down through the bars at its base like a fringe, I slammed the door shut on her. "What are you doing?" Vera called out in alarm. "What have you done?" But it was too late. She was caught, and she knew it. I hung her in a sunny window. Every day I spritzed her with water, and I occasionally poured a cup of cool soil on the bottom of the cage to soothe her exposed roots. She was alive – and in time she adjusted to her life in captivity, and I would like to think that she even began to like it – but she never grew, not even an inch, ever again.

To create the beginning and middle of the story, you will need to imagine many possibilities. Answer the questions below to help you plan.

1. Other than the narrator and Vera, who else could you have in the story?

2. Where is the action going to take place? Will it take place in more than one location?

3. What time of day or night do you plan to use? Match your answers to the answers to question #2.

ACTION:

TIME:

ACTION:

TIME:

ACTION:

TIME:

4. Now write the beginning of the story.

5. What happens now?

ANSWERS WILL VARY