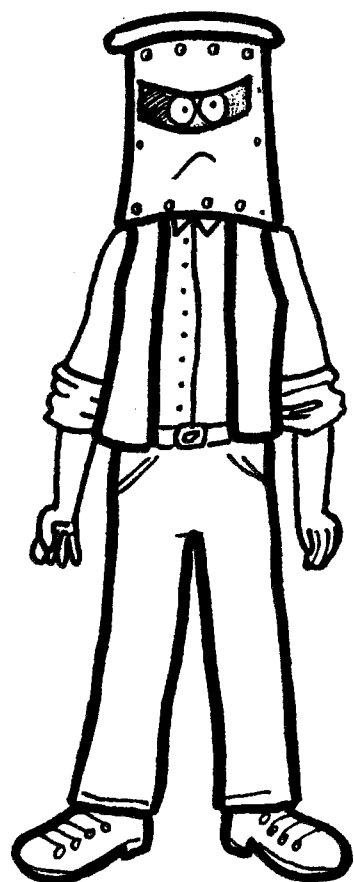


# Ned Kelly – HERO OR VILLAIN?

Recently an article appeared in the Nor'easter newspaper about the bushranger Ned Kelly. A number of people responded to the article with letters to the editor debating whether the outlaw was an Australian hero or villain. Here is the latest letter...



Dear Editor,

I cannot let Sally Thornton's letter to your newspaper, dated 16/1/2013, go unanswered because all the facts definitely point to Ned Kelly being a villain, not a hero. Let me cite to Ms Thornton some of these facts.

First, as a teen, Kelly was an apprentice to Harry Powers, which sounds commendable, until you become aware that Powers was a horse thief! The young villain went on to become accomplished at stealing horses, at the same time establishing a reputation around north-east Victoria as a bare-knuckle brawler. This makes him a thief and a thug.

Second, let me remind you of the indisputable fact that Kelly and his sidekicks were responsible for the cold-blooded murder of three police officers at Stringybark Creek. Kelly, after stealing the watch from the dead Sergeant Kennedy, is quoted as saying, "What's the use of a watch to a dead man?" This surely leaves no doubt that Kelly was a remorseless murderer.

Then, there is the siege at the Glenrowan Hotel in which Kelly and his gang of thugs held innocent civilians hostage. Around the same time, the gang attempted to derail a train carrying police troops and their horses. This makes Kelly a nineteenth-century terrorist.

Next, let us not forget that in the lead-up to the siege at Glenrowan, Kelly had despatched Joe Byrne to murder his boyhood friend and suspected police informer, Aaron Sherritt. Sherritt was unarmed and with his wife and newly born babe when Byrne gunned him down. This makes Kelly and Byrne vengeful bullies.

In summary, Sally, let the facts speak for themselves. Rather than set Ned Kelly high up on that hero's pedestal to be worshipped and adored, we really should be remembering him for exactly what he was – a notorious and villainous killer.

Prof. J S Providence (Melbourne, Australia)

Let's look at the way grammar is used in a **persuasive text**: Persuasive texts, like the one opposite, are generally organised in **paragraphs**. The first paragraph is used to introduce the argument and state the writer's position.

- 1 Read the first paragraph of the letter in 'Ned Kelly – hero or villain?'. What is the writer's position in this argument? Circle the word or words in the **first paragraph** that show the writer's position. Does he want to persuade you that Ned Kelly is a hero or a villain? \_\_\_\_\_

The paragraphs following the opening statement are generally used to present a series of arguments, often with **topic sentences** starting with **text connectives** to link the arguments in each paragraph. For example: *First,...*

- 2 Read the rest of the letter to the editor, then write the **text connectives** used to link the paragraphs  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Write one example of a **topic sentence** used to introduce the main idea of a paragraph.  
\_\_\_\_\_

In this persuasive text, the writer has carefully selected **specific noun groups** to portray the main character in a negative light to further persuade the audience of his point of view.

- 4 Write the **noun groups** in each paragraph that are used to describe Ned Kelly.

First paragraph: *a villain*

Second paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Third paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

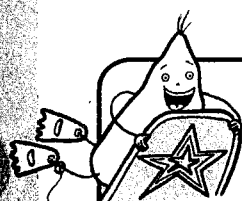
Fourth paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Fifth paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Write the **antonym** for *villain* used to contrast Ned Kelly. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Write 2 **modal adverbs** used on page 84: \_\_\_\_\_

## Star challenge



Write a letter to the editor about someone you regard as a hero. Use **specific noun groups** to portray your hero in a positive manner in order to persuade your audience that your hero is deserving of an award.

OR: Argue one side or discuss both sides of one of the following arguments:

Should professional sport be played on Anzac Day? Is climate change real?