

## The Tree House



**Topic:** Adventure/Leisure

**Curriculum link:** Study of Society

**Text type:** Recount/Description

**Reading level:** 13

**Word count:** 322

**Vocabulary:** birthday, branches, decorate, ladder, pirates, poles, pretended, ramp, relay, sweet, underneath

**Possible literacy focus:**

- Identifying the features of a recount.
- Identifying adjectives: long, old, safe, strong.
- Identifying words with double letters: all, balloons, different, hidden, ladder, running, tree.
- Understanding the text at the literal level.

### Follow-up activities

#### Discussion and reflection

Ask the children:

*Why do you think the children like playing in the tree house?*

*What is the tree house built on?*

*How do you think they protected the tree when they built the tree house?*

*Why didn't they just build the tree house straight onto the tree?*

*What are some of the features of the tree house?*

*What did they do at the birthday party?*

#### Imagine if ...

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like if they were able to play in the tree house in the story. What would they do? What games would they like to play? Ask them to write about this and then share their writing with the class.

#### Understanding text structure – Recount

##### Description

Explore the structure of a recount description with the children. In *The Tree House* the first part of the text is a description of the tree house written mainly in the present tense.

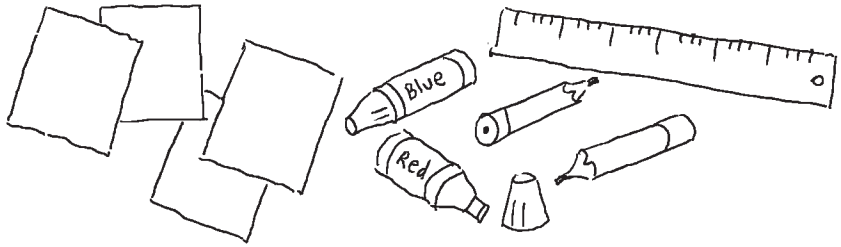
The second part of the text involves a recount of the girl's pirate birthday party in the tree house. This is written in the past tense as she is recounting the events of the day. A recount usually starts with a beginning, followed by a series of events, and then finishes with a conclusion, which may be a personal comment.

Use the chart below to show children how this text is structured. Discuss the book with the children and fill in the chart. Display this in the classroom.

<b>Description of the tree house</b>
<b>Recount of the pirate party</b> Beginning:  Events:  Conclusion:

# Tree house

You will need:  
paper, felt pens,  
pencils, ruler



1. Design a new tree house.
2. Draw your design on paper.
3. Think about how you could protect the tree and include this in your design.
4. Label all of the special features.
5. Share your design with the class.

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# Amazing new tree house

You will need:  
paper, pencils

1. Imagine that a brand new tree house in the local park is being officially opened.
2. Work with a partner.
3. One person is the reporter. Write a list of questions for the interview.
4. The other person is the designer of the tree house. Be ready to talk about your design.
5. Practice the interview.
6. Now perform it to the class.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Present and past

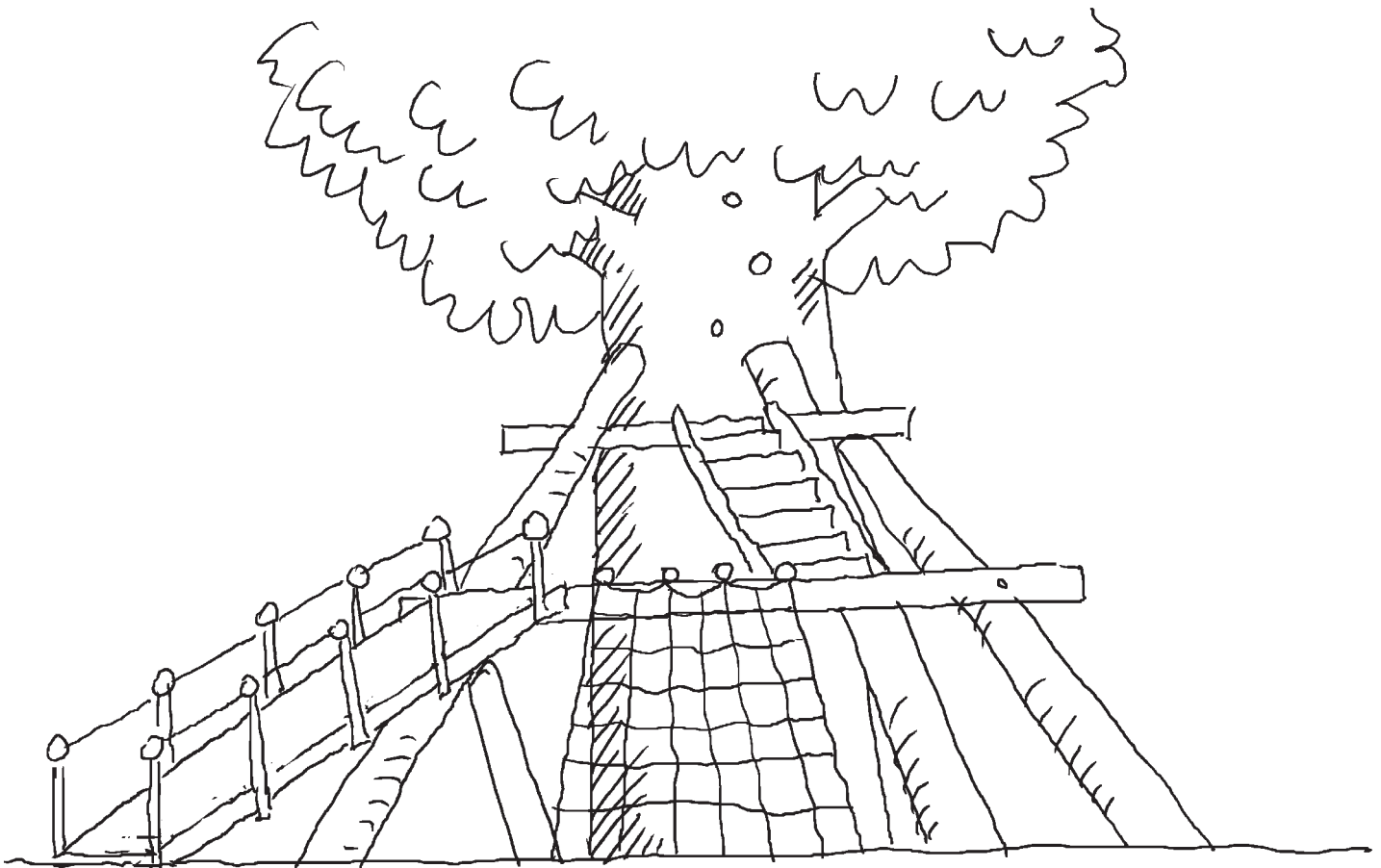
Cut out the sentences. Find all of the sentences that are written in the past tense. Paste them onto a sheet of paper and write the heading “Past tense” at the top. Now paste all of the present tense sentences onto another sheet of paper. Write “Present tense” at the top.

In this tree there is a tree house.	The tree house is on top of the poles so that it does not harm the tree.
My sister hid bags of sweets in different parts of the tree house.	I had a birthday party in the tree house.
There is a very big tree in the park near my house.	We have races climbing up the rope ladders.
I love playing in the tree house.	Everyone came dressed up as a pirate.
One team of pirates had to climb up the rope ladder and down the ramp.	I had a birthday cake with a sailing ship on top.
We play lots of games.	My sister helped me to decorate the tree house with balloons.
Then we all went hunting for the hidden sweets.	I can climb a rope ladder to get to the tree house.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Labelling the tree house

Cut out the labels and stick them next to the parts of the tree house.



poles

trunk

rope ladder

ramp

steps

platform

branches