**O/L English Study Materials by RCF: Test 16 – Completing a Story (First line given) – Some Tips with an example.**

**Structure**

The first thing to remember is that stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. A story has to be in the right order or your readers won't understand it.

**Beginning**

The beginning of a story is where you introduce your readers to your **style**, **setting** and **characters**. Often a writer will give his characters a problem to solve. This keeps the reader interested, as they'll want to find out what happens.

**Middle**

In the middle you develop your story. The reader begins to ask more questions and starts to learn what will happen to the characters.

**End**

In the end you tell readers exactly what happens to the characters and how they solved the problems you gave them at the start.

**Also**

Don't leave any questions unanswered at the end of the story and make sure your reader knows what happens to all your characters - unless you are planning a sequel (second part), in which case don't tell the reader everything! Then they'll want to read your next story to find out what happens.

In order to have a story your character has to face a challenge at some point. Otherwise it is one long description. Think about the situation to find a potential conflict, maybe the bus will break down on the way home. Maybe she'll accidentally get on the wrong bus, or it will get hijacked. Maybe she'll have to walk or hitchhike to get home.

**Example**:

Test 16:

Complete the following story.

One day my mother and I went shopping…

One day my mother and I went shopping and bought some clothes. After that when we were coming out of the shop an alarm rang. We were surprised as everyone looked at us, as if we had stolen something.

The security officer told us that something had gone wrong and he wanted to check our bags. He found nothing wrong and then he wanted to check my mother's handbag. He found a tag on it. It was the security tag which had triggered the alarm. It had been given to my mother when she entered the fitting room and my mother had forgotten to return it.

My mother explained everything to them and then we came home. That was an unforgettable incident in my life.