



Mom's high heels



Grandpa's shoes

The Secret Room

by Loretta Price

When my brother and I were young, we had a secret playroom in the attic. We used to sneak up there when my parents were downstairs. The first time we were in the attic, we found a locked box. We searched all over until we found the key. We unlocked the box and it was full of old clothes – not only our parents' clothes, but also our grandparents' clothes! After that, we would go up there whenever we could. We used to dress up in the clothes and pretend that we lived in the past.

Last week, when talking with our parents, we admitted playing in the attic as kids. My dad replied that they had known all along! They had decided not to tell us in order to let us think we were being sneaky. My brother and I agreed that we were glad. It had been fun thinking we had a secret.



Reading to write: A story about a secret

6. Look at the photo. What do you think is in the box? Read Loretta's story to check.

Focus on CONTENT

When you write a story, include these things:

- an introduction: what the story is about
- background information: who, where, when
- what happened: the events in order
- a conclusion: why the story was special or what you learned

7. Read Loretta's story again. What information does she give for each item in the Focus on Content box?

Focus on LANGUAGE

Use *in order to*, *so that*, and *not only . . . but also* to connect ideas.

*I got online **in order to** read more about the mystery.*

*The soccer player did an interview **so that** he could tell the truth about his life.*

*The detective **not only** solved the crime, **but** she **also** caught the thief.*

8. Find the sentences in Loretta's story with the connectors from the Focus on Language box.

9. Circle the correct answers.

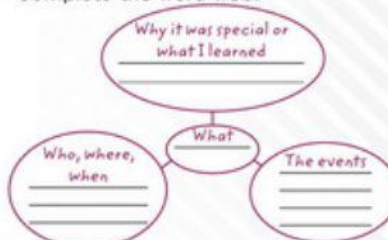
1. I used to tell stories **so that** / **in order to** make my friends laugh.
2. The thief **not only** / **so that** lied about his actions, but he also asked his friend to lie.
3. Did you follow that man **so that** / **but also** you could help solve the mystery?
4. The book was not only old, **in order to** / **but also** valuable.



Writing: Your story about a secret

PLAN

Choose a secret or mystery to write a story about. It can be something that happened to you, something you know about, or something you create. Complete the word web.



WRITE

Write your story. Use your notes to help you. Include connectors. Write at least 150 words.

CHECK

Check your writing. Can you answer "yes" to these questions?

- Is information from the Focus on Content box in your story?
- Do you use connectors correctly?