P7: THE LINK TO THE START (present)

Use a cyclical structure by referring to the beginning.

So now I sit here, staring at the cold, concrete cell walls, dreaming of my old life.

P1: THE HOOK (present)

Engage the reader in the narrative.

I stare at the cold, concrete cell walls. I can't believe it has come to this: let me tell you how it all began...

P2: THE EXPOSITION (past)

Introduce the character.

I used to live a normal life. I strolled home from school every day in the afternoon sun, enjoying how it glinted on the fallen leaves; they looked like they were made from gold and bronze.

P6: THE RESOLUTION (past)

Write about a clear ending. It doesn't have to be happy.

We headed for the border, hoping to avoid the checkpoints. Suddenly, the spotlight from a helicopter glared down at us.

P5: THE CLIMAX (past)

The problem gets even worse.

We had minutes to pack cramming our lives into just one tiny case each. I felt as though I was breaking apart.

P4: ONE SENTENCE (past)

Use a one sentence paragraph for a line that deserves to stand out.

Was this really happening?

P3: FLASHBACK TO CONFLICT (past)

Introduce a problem that happened in the past.

It was an ordinary autumn day. I arrived home from school and found my mother at the door; she looked horrified and trembled as she told me the news.

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