



Invent Something!

Writing prompt inspired by Lemony Snicket

Though Lemony Snicket shares seemingly endless stories of tragedy concerning Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, he is also generous in his description of the talents that each of the Baudelaire orphans possess. Violet, the eldest, particularly excels at inventing things and is often able to do so with whatever materials are on hand. This comes in quite handy as she and her brother and sister are often in precarious situations where an invention is needed in order to rescue themselves from almost certain death.

How inventive are you? Write a description of an invention that you would make in order to protect yourself or a loved one from coming to harm—which is a phrase that means getting hurt from a dangerous situation. In addition to the playground equipment, the materials you have available to build your invention are:

- a broken swing from a swing set
- several candy wrappers
- sand or mulch
- a soccer ball
- bendy straws from juice boxes
- a scarf
- four bricks

The dangerous situation that requires your invention is that a very glum gorilla has escaped from the zoo and has taken over the monkey bars on the school playground. Please describe how you built your invention and how it works to save you or your friends from the gorilla. You don't have to use all the materials if you don't need to. You may also draw an instructional diagram or picture of your invention.

In homage—a word that means a show of respect—to Mr. Snicket, please give an alliterative name to your invention, which means that what you call your invention should use words that have the same consonant sound at the beginning of each word or syllable. "Great Gorilla Grabber" would be an example.