**RECOUNT - Retells events that occurred in the past**

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| **TEXTUAL FEATURES** | **The Solar Eclipse**  Last Friday, my four friends and I rode our bikes down to the lighthouse to watch the solar eclipse. We didn’t want holes burnt in our eyeballs, so we took a solar projector we had made out of cardboard and aluminium foil. That way, we wouldn’t have to look directly at the eclipse.  We arrived at 10am and it seemed like **half the town** was ready there, as well as a heap of people we had never seen before. Some of the strangers had a lot of fancy equipment with them. They certainly didn’t try to keep the smiles off **their faces** when we took out our solar projector!  After setting up our gear, we found a flat rock to lie on just wait. I **had packed** some salt ‘n’ vinegar chips, some rice crackers and a couple of packets of ‘Snakes”, so we could pig-out while we waited.  **About an hour later, someone yelled out ‘Contact!’** We crowded around our homemade screen, waiting for the eclipse ...and waiting … and waiting. I hadn’t expected it would take so long for anything to happen.  **As** time went on, the light began to fade, and everything around us lost its ‘sparkle’. It was awesome and creepy together **as** the world’s bright colours went dull and the air began to chill. Even the seagulls stopped squawking and **glided** quietly in to land, as if they were too frightened to stay in the air.  An hour and a half after it started, the eclipse was total. The sun was just a dirty brownish-orange halo in the muddy sky. The hush was total; no-one moved and no-one spoke. It had got much colder now, too – the temperature had dropped to just 9°C, and **I wished** I’d brought something warmer to wear. That could have been because I was really cold, or because I was spooked – or maybe both.  **Then** a sparkling ‘diamond’ of light flared on the sun, and the eclipse began to recede, at the same slow pace. By 2pm the eclipse was completely over, the temperature had risen and the colours were back in the world.  It was an awesome day I will never forget. | **LANGUAGE FEATURES** |