Writing the Middle Sentences of a Paragraph

The middle sentences of a paragraph develop the specific idea. They give details. Each middle sentence should tell something about the specific idea of the paragraph.

Read the following paragraph. Notice how each of the middle sentences tells something about the specific idea stated in the beginning sentence.

Different animals have different ways to sleep in the deep blue sea. When the sea otter sleeps, it uses seaweed as a blanket. The parrot fish makes a sleeping bag by blowing a big bubble around itself. Many fish lie down on the floor of the sea to take their naps. Sea mammals need to stick their noses out of the water for oxygen, so they float near the surface while they slumber. None of these animals has to worry about falling out of bed!

1. How many middle sentences are there in this paragraph?
2. What are some of the different ways animals sleep in the sea?
3. What kind of sentence did the author use for the ending?
4. Remember, pronouns make our writing easier to read. Underline the pronouns in this paragraph.

Using the following beginnnng and ending sentences, write three or four sentences that complete the paragraph about the contest between the two minstrels in The Kalevala:

Introductory sentence: When Vainamoinen began to sing his song, Joukahainen found himself unable to move as the world about him began to change.

Concluding sentence: Seeing that he was no match for the Old Bard, the young Joukahainen cried out for mercy!
**Below are two sets of beginning and ending sentences. Choose one set and write three middle sentences to complete the paragraph. Use the questions to help you form your sentences.**

1. **Beginning:** One night I woke up and saw a shadow dancing on my bedroom wall.
   **Ending:** I laughed when I realized how a lost balloon had fooled me.
   a. What shape and size was the shadow?
   b. What did you think it was?
   c. How did you discover what it was?

2. **Beginning:** Dad always warned us to close the door of the hamster cage.
   **Ending:** I rushed to the kitchen and saw the hamster climbing into Dad’s shoe!
   a. Who left the door open?
   b. What did you do when you found out the hamster was missing?
   c. What noise or movement led you to the kitchen?

**Now write a well-constructed paragraph on what you are going to be for Halloween. Remember to include an interesting beginning sentence and at least three middle sentences and an ending sentence.**
