

## Skill

- \* Recognizing Cause-and-Effect Relationships
- \* Identifying Plot
- \* Examining Story Organization

## Management Tip

Use this organizer on the overhead projector with the whole group. After modeling its use several times, have students complete it independently.

## Literature Link

*The Storyteller's Beads* by Jane Kurtz (Gulliver Books, 1998).

Two young girls from different faiths run for their lives to escape the political upheaval in Ethiopia.

# Cause-and-Effect Machine

## Purpose

Students focus on character actions and their effect on the story line.

## Introducing the Activity

In a well-crafted story, character actions cause events to happen that have a direct effect on the outcome of the story. Have students recall characters from favorite fairytales. Ask: *What actions did the characters take that changed the course of the story? What effect did these have on the story's outcome?* Discuss their responses, pointing out the cause-and-effect relationship of each.

## Using the Graphic Organizer

1. Read aloud a familiar tale such as *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Ask students to listen for cause-and-effect relationships in the story.
2. Write the title on the graphic organizer. Explain that when a ball is put into the machine, it has an effect on each section it travels through. Similarly, character actions have an effect on the events in a story.
3. Ask students to identify a character's action, such as "Jack tricked the giant." Write their response on the top section of the machine. Then have them tell what happened because of the action ("He rescued the goose that laid golden eggs"). Write the effect in the middle section. Finally, ask students to explain how this cause-and-effect relationship changed the direction of the story ("Jack and his mother were no longer poor"). Record their response in the bottom section.
4. Distribute copies of the graphic organizer for students to complete on their own using cause-and-effect events from this story or other stories of their choice.

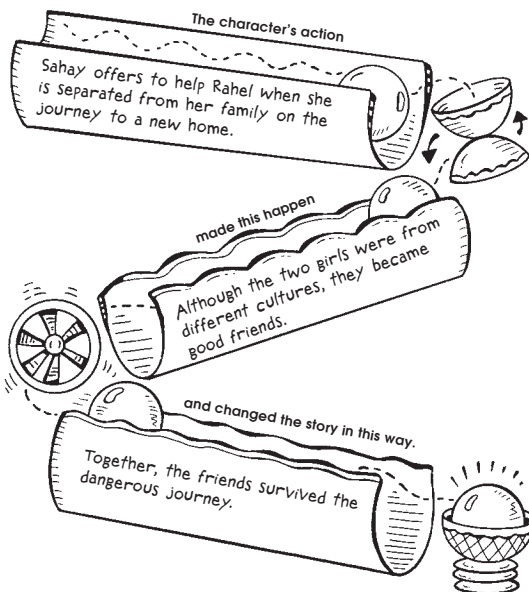
## Taking It Further

Invite students to imagine the character taking a different course of action in the story. Have them complete the organizer providing an alternative cause-and-effect relationship.

Name Alexis Date Oct. 23

## Cause-and-Effect Machine

Title: The Storyteller's Beads



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Cause-and-Effect Machine

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

