

The Elements of a Story

Turn your students into confident writers as they review story elements and create original narratives.

Objective Students will write a narrative. (Note: Fictional narrative is used as the example, but the lesson can be adapted for personal narrative.)

Standards

CCSS ELA, Grs. 2–5

- W.3 Write narratives with descriptive details and clear event sequences

Time 60 minutes

Materials

For Drafting

- Plan Your Story! classroom poster
- Brainstorm Your Story activity sheet
- Markers

For Publishing

Studenttreasures FREE Kit, which includes:

- ✓ Step-by-step publishing guide
- ✓ Pages for writing and illustrating final drafts
- ✓ Cover, title, dedication, and About the Author pages
- ✓ Free classroom copy of your published book for the teacher!

Lesson

1. Ask students about their favorite storybooks. Why are the stories fun to read? What do the stories have in common?
2. Remind students that authors and illustrators use their imagination to write stories. Students can be authors and illustrators, too!
3. Use the Plan Your Story! poster to review narrative elements. Encourage students to identify and describe these elements in books the class has read recently.
 - **Character:** What traits describe the characters and show they are different from one another?
 - **To decrease the challenge:** Focus on how characters respond to events in the story. Point out that this is a way to get to know what kind of person a character is.
 - **To increase the challenge:** Discuss characters' motivations. What do they care about? Why do they do what they do?

What details show a character's feelings?

- **Setting:** Where and when is the story?
 - **To increase the challenge:** Discuss how the setting affects the characters and the action. How would changing the setting change the story? How can authors use details about buildings, objects, clothing, dialogue, and more to flesh out a setting's place and time?
 - **Action or Plot:** What problem do the characters face? Is it a problem of their own making or something that happened to them? How do they try to solve it? What changes as the story moves forward?
 - **To increase the challenge:** Review plot elements, including exposition, rising action, turning point, falling action, and resolution.
4. Tell students they will write their own stories. Hand out the Brainstorm Your Story activity sheet.
 5. Next, have students draft their stories. Remind them to show how the problem and resolution affect the character(s). Encourage students (especially grades 3 and up) to use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to show how characters respond to situations.
 6. Provide time for students to share peer feedback on one another's stories, as well as draft an illustration that depicts their story's character, setting, and plot.

Publish It!

1. Guide students to use pens to copy their final writing drafts and markers to draw their final illustrations on the pages included in your free publishing kit.
2. Work with students to put the finishing touches on their class book. Use the included pages in your kit to create a cover, title, dedication, and About the Authors page.
3. Submit your completed kit, and your class's original work will be transformed into a published class book!

Order your **FREE Publishing Kit** and get started at studenttreasures.com/sc today!

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