

Cause and Effect

Skills/Standards

- Identifies cause and effect
- Understands cause-and-effect relationships

Purpose

In a story, the cause is the reason why something happens, and the effect is what happens as a result. Comprehension improves when readers recognize the connections between causes and effects. Consequently, this organizer assists students in identifying and analyzing causes and effects in stories.

How to Use the Organizer

If possible, use a plastic bowling set to physically model cause-effect. Have students take turns bowling. Ask the class why some pins fall down while others stay up. Connect the word *why* to the cause. The bowling ball is the reason (the cause) why the pins fall down. The pins fall down as a result of the ball hitting them. Transfer this concept to a story. What happens in a story is the *effect* or result. Why it happens is the *cause*.

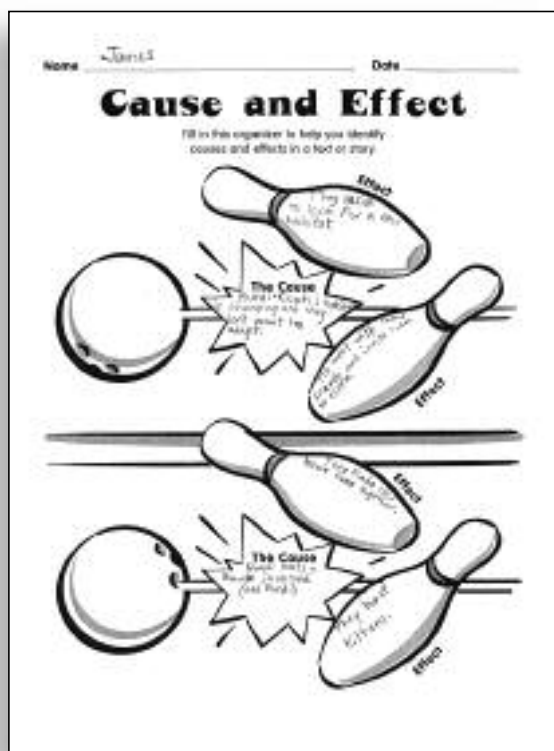
After reading a story aloud, ask students to identify some events that happen in the story. Write some of their responses on the board. Next, have students examine the events on the board and provide a reason why some of the events happened. Write the student-generated cause-effect relationships on the board. Clearly label the cause and the effect. Throughout the discussion, encourage students to look for a cause that creates multiple effects and for effects that have multiple causes. Illustrate multiple causes and multiple effects on the board to demonstrate the variety and complexity of cause-effect relationships.

Distribute the Cause and Effect organizer (page 27) to students. Have students work with partners or in small groups to identify additional cause-effect relationships in the story. Suggest, for example, that students examine a character's motive. Why does the character take a specific action? What is the effect of his/her action?

As a whole class, discuss the various groups' causes and effects. Point out similarities and differences.

More to Do

Use the organizer to assist students in understanding the cause-effect pattern in informational text. Direct students to identify signal words such as *for this reason*, *therefore*, and *as a result*.



Name _____

Date _____

Cause and Effect

Fill in this organizer to help you identify causes and effects in a text or story.

