



Turn Your Students Into Authors!

ELA lesson to generate excitement for narrative storytelling.

Includes
Storytelling
Graphic
Organizer



Crafting their own narratives (and publishing their own book!) as a class can boost your students' ELA skills in a big way by:

Encouraging creative thinking

Students imagine story ideas and brainstorm together—and each student contributes original text and an illustration to the class book!

Improving their vocabulary

Challenge your authors to add descriptive details using a variety of adjectives, action verbs, and new vocabulary words.

Learning from peer feedback

As students share their works-in-progress with classmates, they use key collaboration skills such as listening and explaining.

Motivating even reluctant writers

Students at all learning levels get excited to write—and their confidence grows when they see their work published in a real book.



Learn more

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!

Or, scan with
your smartphone
to get started



Brainstorm Your Story

Use your imagination to brainstorm the important parts of your story. You can brainstorm in whatever order you like. (For example, you may want to start with the characters or setting first).

Problem

Choose one type of problem question, then write a story idea underneath.

Was the problem caused by the character or something that happened to the character?

Does the character want something they don't have? *Examples: A friend, a bike, or something else*

Has something in the setting changed? *Examples: Moving to a new home, a blue monster appeared on the school bus, or something else*

Characters

Examples: Superhero, scientist, kangaroo, or something else from your imagination

Who is your main character?

Personality traits:

Looks like:

Sounds like:

Setting

Examples: Playground, volcano, Mars, the 1800s before electricity

What is the setting?

Looks like:

Sounds like:

Smells like:

Plot

Beginning: How do the characters find out about the problem?

Middle: How do the characters try to solve the problem?

End: How do the characters finally solve the problem? How do they feel about it?



Turn Your Students Into Published Authors!

For more than 20 years, Studenttreasures Publishing has provided teachers and schools with FREE book publishing kits to turn their students' stories into professionally bound books. To find out more information about this program and to order a free publishing kit for your class, visit [studenttreasures.com/sc](https://www.studenttreasures.com/sc).

4 Easy Steps to Publishing Your Class Book



1 Order Your Free Kit

Choose your publishing date and select your kit layout. You'll receive your free kit, including writing and illustration pages, a sample book, a step-by-step teachers' guide, and more.



2 Get Creative

Have your students fill the pages with their writing and illustrations. (More resources for topics and tips are available online.) You'll also receive order forms to send home to parents to order their own copies of the book.



3 Publish Your Book

Submit your completed kit for publishing in the provided box, and we'll send you your **FREE, deluxe hardcover book** along with any additional copies ordered by parents.



4 Celebrate

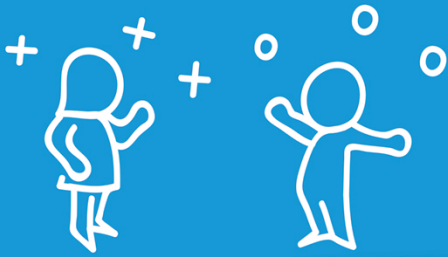
Throw your proud authors a book-signing party, authors' tea, or student reading. Visit [studenttreasures.com/sc](https://www.studenttreasures.com/sc) for more fun celebration ideas.

Order your **FREE Publishing Kit** and get started at [studenttreasures.com/sc](https://www.studenttreasures.com/sc) today!

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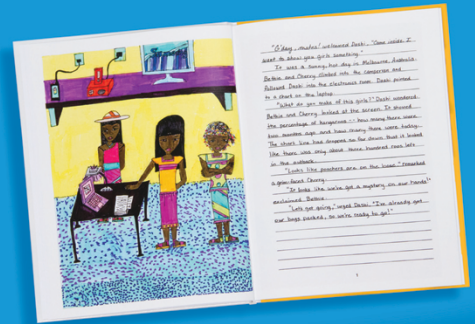


Plan Your Story!



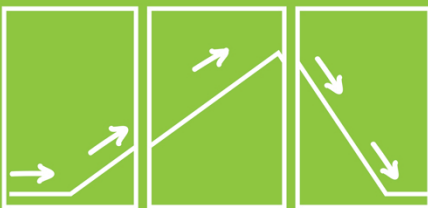
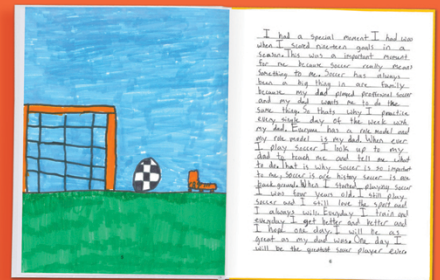
CHARACTER

Who is in your story? What are their feelings and actions?



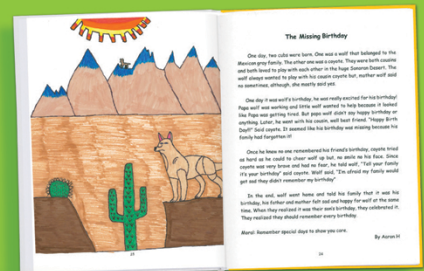
SETTING

What details show where and when your story takes place?



PLOT

What is the problem and how does it get solved?



Now bring your story to life!

