Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_ BB O C

**Narrative Writing**

Sometime writing a short- story can be more like writing a poem than a story. The reason is because you have to get the reader interest in your main character and his/her story quickly even though we don’t have very many words to do that. Every sentence needs to makes sense, and every word has to be packed with power! If you don’t stay focused on what your character is doing step-by-step you can leave your reader feeling dizzy and confused. Remember you are only trying to tell a **very small part of your character’s journey** in a narrative. Some of the best children’s books can say a lot about a character without taking that character on a long crazy journey. Remember; Keep it simple. Make it interesting, and leave your reader wanting more. Here are some tips to help you make every word count.

I have learned that drawing a story map (like a comic strip) will help me move my character move though the story I am trying to tell without getting off track. This is a great way to see where the beginning, middle, and end of the story is.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The characters is… | In the beginning the character… | But there is a problem… |
| The character struggles to… | Finally the character realizes… | After this is all over the character… |

**The Opening Paragraph**

The opening paragraph is the most important one in a short story. Use it to hook your readers and draw them into the ongoing drama of your story. In the beginning paragraph of your story you have to do the following:

•Set the scene. Where are you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

•Introduce the main character. What’s his/her name, age, what do they look like, think, feel, and how are they reacting to the situation they are in? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Second Paragraph**

By the second paragraph we need to know what the goal or problem is? Start building up the climax (the problem that the character is in). This is an important place to include how your character thinks, feel, wants, likes, or does not like. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Third Paragraph**

Help your character solve their problem or situation. Do not leave them hanging. Readers like to know that the character is going to be all right and they want to know how they feel now that the problem is over. Don’t rush this part. Usually you see that you hit your 2nd page and you feel that you are finally done with this assignment, but your character and your reader deserves better! Use at least **6 to 10** sentences for your character to reflect on this situation. What did they learn from their story? Are they better off? Are they going to keep having problems in the future or is the whole mess over?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Editing**

When it's time to edit, remember to check if your story has moved forward. Yes, I know I've already said that -- but it's worth saying a hundred times, because it is one of the hardest things a writer can do. Cut out whatever is unnecessary and doesn’t move your character through your comic strip story. Another thing that I always mark students down on is the lack of new paragraphs and indents. You should have at **least 3 paragraphs** in this story; 1 for the character introduction, 1 for building climax, and 1 for the resolution. Please have someone else read over your work to fix when you write in past tense then switch to present tenses, or when your characters comments are jumbled and don’t make sense.

**Key Hints**

* As you are writing be careful to stick to one viewpoint. Who is telling this story?
* Pick no more than 2 characters. This is a SHORT story and we want to “know” your characters.
* If you get writers block put yourself into the story. Make yourself the main character. You already know how you would think, feel, and respond in a situation.
* This story does not need to be complicated. Pretend you are telling a little kindergartener a made up story. There is NO WAY anyone in this 6th grade class could write like an author of one of the books you read. The simpler the story, the better.
* Don't force your characters to say words that they wouldn’t really say. If the Main character is a kid, have them talk like a kid would.

**Grading**

Students will be graded on creativity and completion of the story. This story should include **at LEAST 2 full pages** of **writing/typing** that includes **3 or more paragraphs**. The Author has introduced the character, situation, and resolution to the reader. It is not rushed and the author has gone to a lot of effort to help us understand what the character is thinking and feeling though the story. The story includes many detailed sentences that are appropriate for a 6th grade writer. The voice of the author does not sound robotic. The character moves forward though his/her story and the story does not jump around and confuse the reader. Spelling and grammar is correct and I can tell this writing has been edited.

Scheduled date for completion:

* Wednesday March 30th