

Creating a Story/Narrative

<p>Step 1 Working Title</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working title helps you stay focused on your topic and purpose. • Use this title while you write the draft. Improve it later. • During a test your title shows that you have read and understand the prompt—the directions.
<p>Step 2 Quick Sketch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quick sketch lets you practice your story. • This is not an art assignment; the sketches help you picture the story to make sure that you have a beginning, middle, and end. • Sketch the events as quickly as you can with details that will help you when you write. • Use it to help you pick a setting, create characters, present a conflict, and plan for an ending.
<p>Step 3 Quick Notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jot words and phrases (descriptions, action verbs, details, places, names, feelings, time, weather, and so on.) by all dashes. • This is a second rehearsal; the notes will be helpful when you write; the notes will help you write the story quickly.
<p>Step 4 Interesting Beginning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a strategy for beginning your story; a strategy saves time and improves your work. • Try the Where, When, Action, Character, Comment, or Dialogue strategies. • Try several then pick your best “beginning” sentence.
<p>Step 5 Story Transitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions let your reader know that the scene or the action is changing; they are tools for developing your story. • Transitions often show the start of a new paragraph—a new time or a new place. They are sometimes called signal words. • Make them smooth and interesting; use them to bring events and characters to life.
<p>Step 6 Memorable Ending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the reader knows the purpose or point of your story. • Do not use “The End.” Give your readers a reason to think about the story or a reason to remember a character. • Let the ending share a feeling with your reader.

Writing Your Draft of a Story



<p>1. Use your Quick Sketch and your Quick Notes.</p>	<p>Review your plan and your notes—use them for organization.</p>
<p>2. Create variety in your sentences.</p>	<p>Variety in length! Variety in kinds! Variety in the way they start!</p>
<p>3. Include action verbs.</p>	<p>Stories need action. Show action with your verbs. Examples: devoured, hugged, snapped, joined, served, applauded.</p>
<p>4. Indent and start new paragraphs to show action and change.</p>	<p>Stories have lots of paragraphs—short and long. Start a new paragraph when the action changes. When using dialogue, start a new paragraph each time someone different speaks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(continued)</i></p>

Writing Your Draft of a Story

(continued)



5. Use story/narrative transitions effectively.	Use story/narrative transitions "here" and "there" as you begin paragraphs that show a new time or a new place.
6. Develop your story; show what is happening; paint mental pictures.	With words, show the readers what is happening. Use action verbs! Help them see, hear, smell, and sense the action.
7. Bring your characters to life.	Help them feel what the character(s) feel. Don't just tell what the character is doing (or did), show the action.
8. Use dialogue wisely.	Don't use dialogue too much. Choose the right places. Have a purpose for the dialogue in your story.
9. Make your ending the best part.	Give your reader a reason to remember the story, its characters, and its message.

Finding the Story Elements

An Extraordinary Day

It was no ordinary game of basketball at the YMCA gym. No, on this particular day something happened that changed everything for Jamal and Zach. On this day, against all odds, they became friends. Thanks to a squirrel.

"Shoot! Why did Zach have to come today? He hogs the basketball," complained Jamal to his best friend, Jake.

"We've been coming here every Saturday since second grade. You'd think you two would get over it by now," replied Jake.

"Well, I will when he does!" exclaimed Jamal as he grabbed a ball and tossed it at the hoop.

Suddenly, everyone started yelling. The boys turned to see what all of the racket was about.

That's when a squirrel ran right between Jamal's legs! "Where did it come from?" asked Jamal.

"The back door was left open. I saw it hop in then get confused and start running. We've got to catch it!" called Zach.

As Jamal stopped to think about the squirrel, Zach walked up behind him. Zach and his friends started throwing out ideas about how to catch the squirrel. Zach was a year older and much taller than Jamal. He had lots of friends. Jamal always felt a little afraid of Zach, and he stayed clear of him whenever possible. But on this day, an idea popped in his head and without stopping, it popped right out of his mouth like a ping-pong ball.

"Hey, what if we get a live trap from the Humane Society? I know they have them. We had to trap a stray cat, once," said Jamal.

Quickly, Zach looked up and his eyes met Jamal's. Jamal looked away. Why did he speak? Zach was sure to laugh. But it really was an extraordinary day, because he didn't.

"Hey, that's the best idea I've heard so far! Wanna ride our bikes over and get one?" asked Zach.

Jamal looked up in total shock. Zach can't be talking to me, he thought. But he was!

The boys grabbed their bikes and rode the mile to the Humane Society. They checked out the trap, just like a library book.

When they got back, the two boys set the trap and together decided the best thing to do was to clear the gym and turn off the lights. Then they put the corn and sunflower seeds in the trap. "Okay, let's all back out through the doors!" called Jamal, his voice instantly getting lost in the crowd.

"You heard him! Back out!" said Zach in a loud voice.

For several minutes it was completely silent, almost like nighttime. Patiently, everyone watched the squirrel come out ever so slowly and investigate the trap.

Suddenly, a bang rang through the gym. "We got him!" yelled Zach and Jamal at the exact same time.

Both boys laughed and smiled. They knew they had become friends—maybe not best friends, but friends who could solve problems together.

All it took was an ordinary squirrel to make it an extraordinary day.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Story Reading Guide

Title — Author	Setting — Characters	Problem/Conflict	Climax/Resolution	Opinion/Critique

Story for Quick Sketch

Soccer Superstar



Beginning

Last year, just after school started, my friend Kevin and I decided to sign up to play soccer. We sometimes played soccer in Kevin's backyard, but we had never really been on a team. We were excited and nervous when we got off the bus from school on our first day of practice.

I headed home to change clothes and then ran the three blocks to Kevin's house.

His mom was already in the car. Kevin was smiling when he saw me. I think he was as anxious as I was. We climbed in the car and put on our seat belts. Kevin showed me his new cleats.

There was a lot of traffic. It seemed like it took forever to get to City Park.

Just after we arrived and got out of the car, we heard someone blow a whistle. Kevin's mom pointed to the man blowing the whistle. She told us that he was our coach.

Quickly, we ran to join the other kids standing by our coach, Mr. Whitman.

He had an assistant named Mark. Mark wore cleats and had on a Skyview High School soccer shirt.

Mark and the coach smiled and told us to sit down on the grass. I was still very nervous.

After Mr. Whitman asked our names and told us about the team, we went to the middle of the field to practice passing the ball.

My friend Kevin was clear across the field, so I practiced with two other kids. It was tough at first, but then I caught on. We practiced for quite a while. Then the coach blew his whistle again. He lined us up, and Mark showed us how to kick the ball and told us three things to remember. He showed how to place your non-kicking foot even with the soccer ball, how to use the top of your foot to kick the ball, and how a good follow-through is important.

Now it was our turn. I felt very nervous.

I stood in line waiting my turn. Some kids had great kicks. Some weren't so good.

When my turn came, I stood just where Mark told us to. I walked up to the ball just like Mark had said. I kicked the ball using the top of my foot. It went flying into the goal. Everyone cheered.

Mark looked at me and said, "You're going to be a soccer superstar!"

I don't remember much after that.

But that night just before I fell asleep, I imagined my room filled with soccer trophies and awards.

I thought maybe Mark was right. I could be a soccer star.

Middle

End

Name: _____ Date: _____

Planning a Story/Narrative



Title _____



Quick Sketch
Plan your story.



Quick Notes
Jot helpful words and phrases.

Beginning

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Middle

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Planning a Story/Narrative



1 Title Soccer Superstar

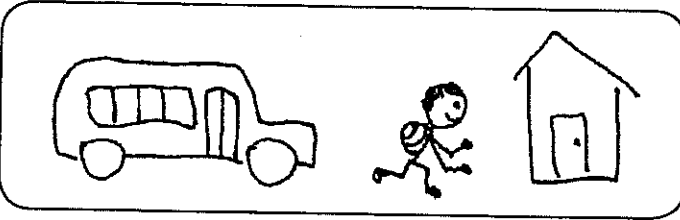


2 Quick Sketch
Plan your story.



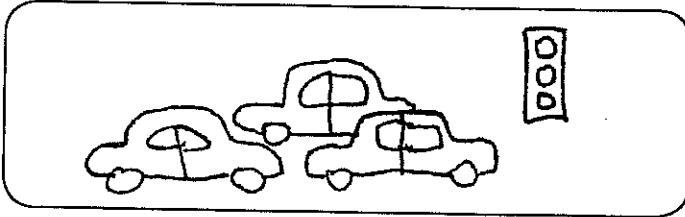
3 Quick Notes
Jot helpful words and phrases.

Beginning



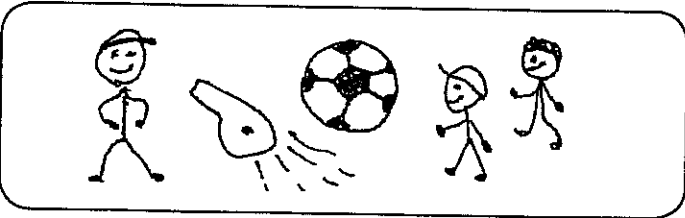
- first day of practice
- off school bus
- excited
- nervous

Middle



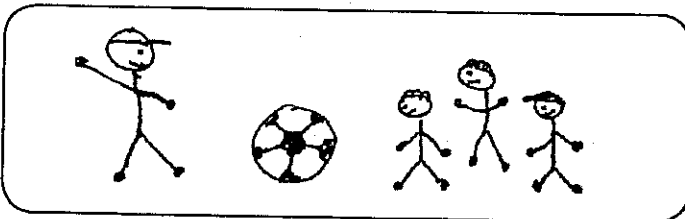
- Kevin's mom's car
- bad traffic
- get out of car

Middle



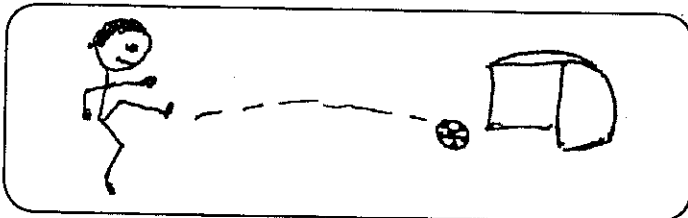
- coach blows whistle
- Mark – coach's helper
- practice passing ball
- Kevin far away

Middle



- kicking practice
- Mark shows how
- very nervous
- other kids try

Middle



- my turn
- kick ball to goal
- cheering

End



- Mark
- proud
- will be superstar
- imagine trophies

Story for Quick Sketch

A Lot of Work

Before I even turned the corner, I could hear the puppies barking. I guess it wasn't really barking. It sounded more like yipping and whining and squealing.

I'd been walking past Mrs. Croft's place every day since the puppies were born. There were two dark brown puppies, another with spots, and a fourth puppy with brown fur and a white tail and white paws. That fourth puppy always looked confused and lost.

Just as I came to Mrs. Croft's fence, I saw someone pick up the white-tailed puppy and give him a hug. My heart dropped.

Last night at dinner I had pleaded with Mom to let me have Frazier. Frazier is what I had already named that puppy.

"I'll think about it," she said. "I don't know if you can be responsible and take care of a new puppy. They take a lot of work, you know."

I had to find a way to show that I was responsible.

I looked again at the white-tailed puppy as he ran around the yard. The visitor had set him down to play with the others. She then walked toward the gate and said good-bye to Mrs. Croft.

As the visitor headed down the street, I realized that she had not secured the gate. Behind her ran four tiny puppies.

Then Mrs. Croft saw what I saw. She screamed and started calling for the puppies to come back. They would not listen. We looked at each other. "Help me," she pleaded.

I darted down the sidewalk and quickly grabbed the two brown puppies who were exploring some freshly planted flowers. I handed them to Mrs. Croft.

By then the visitor was also trying to help. She had cornered the spotted puppy and was carrying him back to the yard. Frazier, however, was missing.

I looked up and down the street. No Frazier. I walked around all of the blocks near Mrs. Croft's house and asked others to help. Still no Frazier.

It was getting late, so I used Mrs. Croft's phone to call home. When I explained the problem, my mom said I could stay a while longer.

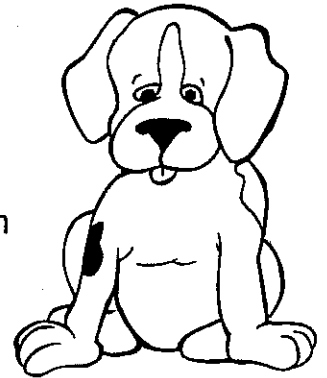
"Mrs. Croft, I am sorry we haven't found him," I said. "Let's try one more time."

She headed back down to the same place we had last seen Frazier. I decided to check behind the house.

"Mrs. Croft!" I yelled. "He's here with the others."

We both laughed when we counted all four puppies playing in the yard.

When I left, I made sure that the gate was locked. Then I started thinking about how I would convince my mom that I really could be responsible.



Beginning

Middle

End

Name: _____ Date: _____

Planning a Story/Narrative



Title _____



Quick Sketch
Plan your story.



Quick Notes
Jot helpful words and phrases.

Beginning

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Planning a Story/Narrative



1 Title A Lot of Work



2 Quick Sketch

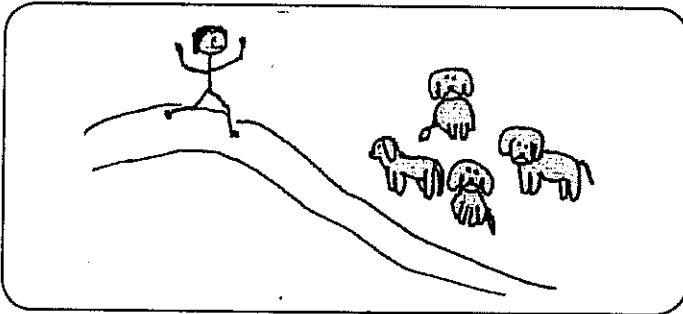
Plan your story.



3 Quick Notes

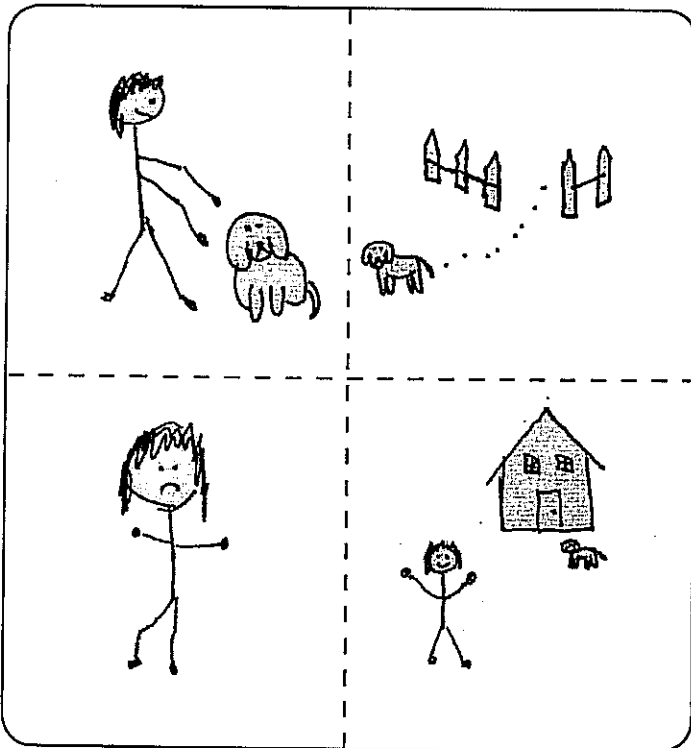
Jot helpful words and phrases.

Beginning



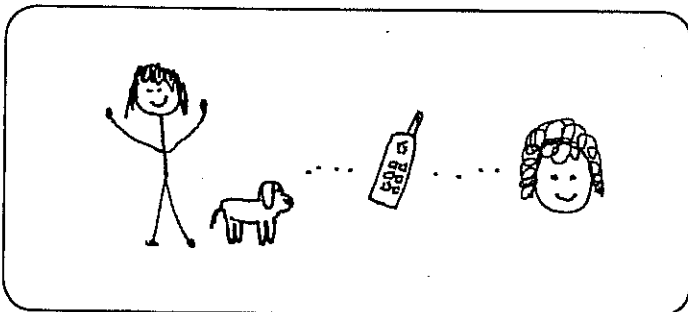
- walking
- noise
- 4 puppies
- last night

Middle



- holding Frazier
- set down
- left gate open
- puppies run
- "help me"
- ran
- found 3
- look for Frazier
- worried
- playing in yard

End



- Mrs. Croft
- happy
- called Mom
- responsible

Starting a Story/Narrative

Directions: All of the examples below could have been used for "Soccer Superstar."
Experiment when you write your story/narrative. Try several different ways,
then choose the best.

Where	On the bus heading home from school, I made plans with my friend Kevin. This was our first day of soccer practice.
When	Last year, just after school started, my friend Kevin and I decided to sign up to play soccer.
Action Verb	Kevin grinned as I joined him in the back of the bus. We were both excited about playing soccer.
Introduce a Character	Kevin is my best friend. He is better than me at most games, but I am determined to be better than him in soccer.
Interesting Comment	Joining a soccer team was not my idea, but I was determined to be the best player on the team.
Dialogue	"Meet you in fifteen minutes," I yelled as Kevin ran toward his house. It was the first day of soccer practice. Neither of us could wait to get to the park.

Using Story/Narrative Transitions

Definition/Description: Use story transitions to show that the action is changing; when the character(s) moves to a new place; to connect the events in a story. Add more story transitions to this list.

In between the time
In the meantime
The following day
Some time later
By (four o'clock)
In (the late afternoon)
As soon as
In just (twenty minutes)
Almost as quickly
When (we arrived)
An hour later
Meanwhile
Immediately
Afterward
Hours went by
Right away
After that
At first (I saw)
After (we walked a mile)
Now
Soon
Just then
Just as
Later
Later on
Then
Before (I could)
Before (dark)
Just before (dawn)

While (we studied)
When (we finished)
After (our visit)
At (dinnertime)
Moments later
For a long time
In (the spring)
Late (in the day)
By the time
Before (sunrise)
On (Wednesday)
During (dinner)
While (visiting)
As (it rained)
A short while later
That evening
At the same time
As (we made a plan)
On (Thanksgiving morning)
Quickly
Suddenly
The next day
That night
At dusk
At dawn
A day later
Finally
Never
During the day

Find the Story/Narrative Transitions

The Day My Voice Fell Out

Last week as I walked down the street happy as can be, a cat ran by. I didn't see it. A butterfly flitted around. I didn't see it. I was busy thinking about what I was going to do at the park when I got there. I was too busy to notice the crack in the sidewalk until, BAM! I tripped over it.

I landed hard.

When I fell, something was knocked out of my mouth. It was my voice! Quickly, I tried to grab it, but it went slithering away. It seemed happy to be free. It jabbered and sang and yelled as it slithered away.

I tried to yell for help but no sound came out of my mouth. The policeman on the corner didn't even look my way. The woman pushing the stroller just kept right on going.

So I ran after my voice. I noticed it was headed to the park, just like me.

As it slithered on, it talked to everything it passed by. It passed a beetle then an ant and even a squirrel.

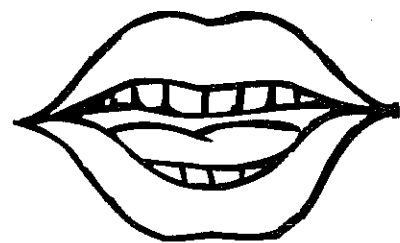
All the while I ran behind it, trying to catch up. It sure was a fast-talking, fast-moving little guy.

Finally, I got a lucky break.



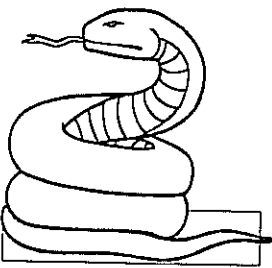
Just as it turned to yak at a leaf on the sidewalk, it tripped on a crack. I rushed up and grabbed my voice and shoved it in my mouth, lickety-split.

"You should watch where you are going," I said to my voice as I headed to the monkey bars.

And then a big, happy grin returned to my face.



Bringing the Characters to Life

Character	Telling	SHOWING!
<p>Aunt Susie</p> 	<p>Aunt Susie was very skinny.</p>	<p>The car pulled up and Aunt Susie slid into the backseat next to my four brothers with room to spare.</p>
<p>The clown</p> 	<p>The clown made us laugh.</p>	<p>The clown pulled his enormous red nose, and a twirly-gig flipped up from his hat. I had to cover my ears from all the screeching and howling that was coming from the crowd.</p>
<p>The snake</p> 	<p>The snake wanted to get out of the box.</p>	<p>The snake wiggled back and forth like a windshield wiper, stretching its body as long as it could up the side of the box.</p>

Show; Don't Just Tell!

	Telling	Showing
Example 1	<p>Roller Coaster Ride</p> <p>Ben, my cousin, and I wanted to ride the roller coaster first. We looked at the big, monster tracks. We were excited and scared at the same time. I listened to the people screaming. I was not sure. It was my first time to ride the big roller coaster.</p> <p>Ben really wanted to try it. He did not want me to change my mind.</p>	<p>Roller Coaster Ride</p> <p>Ben took the last bite of his cotton candy.</p> <p>"I'm ready," he yelled as he pointed to the coaster in the distance.</p> <p>Ever since his birthday, he had talked about this ride. He's eleven. I am only ten. We stared at each other for a minute. My heart screamed let's do this, but my head said you are too young for the big coaster. It will eat you alive.</p> <p>Ben gave me a huge smile. He knew I might back out. Before I could change my mind, he slapped me on the back and gave me no chance to retreat.</p> <p>"Beat you to the line," he laughed as we both raced down the dirt path.</p>
Example 2	<p>Waiting for a Friend</p> <p>I sat on the front steps of the building. I was waiting for Darion. He and I were going to spend some time at the park. It is only a few blocks away.</p> <p>I was hot. I was very hot. It seemed like it might rain. I could feel the wetness in the air. I thought that if it rained, it would cool down.</p> <p>Playing in the park in the rain seemed like a good idea.</p>	<p>Waiting for a Friend</p> <p>The beetle stuck its head out from behind the bottom step for the third time. I'd been watching it for a while as I sat on the steps just trying to pass the time till Darion arrived. Wondered if it felt the heat the way I did. Do beetles sweat? I did. That's for sure.</p> <p>I wiped my head for the hundredth time, hoping Darion would show.</p> <p>Mr. Jenks, who lives at the top of the steps, came out to visit. He talked about the heat. Said it would rain for sure.</p> <p>"My friend and I are heading to the park," I told him. "I hope the rain pours and pours. The park's an awesome place when it rains."</p>

Writing the Ending to a Story/Narrative

Note a Feeling	<p>Jena's grandparents smiled as she accepted the award. They knew that she was, indeed, a hero.</p> <p>Coach Weston, with his star players, walked proudly across the field to congratulate the winning team.</p>
Remember a Character	<p>Miranda wasn't crazy. She just wanted everyone to know the truth.</p> <p>After the race, Trevor hung his blue ribbon on the wall near his poster of the Olympics and the empty space, which was waiting to hold a gold medal.</p>
Think About the Story	<p>Sometimes you don't have to come in first place to feel like a winner.</p> <p>Jim and Katie smiled as they signed my cast but warned me that our next adventure would take place in a much safer place.</p>
Get the Point	<p>I was never late for Mrs. Polly Thomas's piano lessons again.</p> <p>The boys had learned a thing or two about friendship.</p>