

PBS KIDS WRITE ON! EQT

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Classroom Activities Teacher's Guide

Enclosed in this packet are a series of resources to help your students break down the process of story writing.

Activity 1: Get Ready to Write!



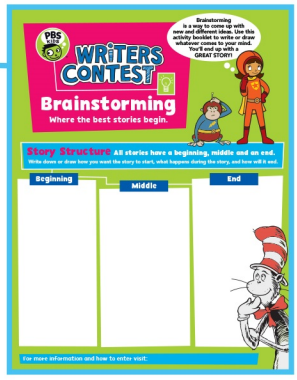
Activity Objective:

This worksheet is intended to help your students start to form ideas for potential stories. The activity provides your students with a blank page to freely develop story ideas through text and illustration. Serving as a precursor to the Brainstorming sheet, this is a place for the child to draw or write topic ideas for their story.

Potential Prompt:

All stories start with an idea of the characters, places or events that will be in the story. You can draw/write any idea you have in this space and then we'll talk about how it might become a story.

Activity 2: Brainstorming



Activity Objective:

Even short stories are complex, and require students to work on a number of elements: characters, plot/story structure, climax/resolution, and setting. This worksheet is intended to help your students expand upon their story idea(s) to develop a strong story.

WQED



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Activity 3: Revising



Activity Objective:

This worksheet is intended to help your students develop self-criticism skills so that they can refine and improve their stories. There are two versions of this worksheet, one with the questions and answers filled out and one with blank questions and answers for you to fill out based on the reading and writing skills of your students.

Potential Prompt:

How are you feeling about your stories? Do they hold your interest? One of the hardest thing to do as a writer is to review and revise your stories. This is done by "critiquing" your story, which means evaluating all of the parts of your story to see if they are what you want. As you read through your stories, ask yourself the questions on the worksheet. If you don't think you can check off the boxes, think about how you can change, or revise, your story so that you can check off each of the boxes.

Activity 4: Illustrations



Activity Objective:

This worksheet is intended to help your students practice making thoughtful, engaging illustrations for their stories. On the worksheet are some examples of words that you can write into the boxes if you would like to provide the students with the words.

You can also allow your students to pick words or phrases from their own stories and have them draw corresponding images.

Potential Prompt:

Lots of books have both pictures and words. The pictures are important because they can show things that aren't in the words of the story, and they can add funny, happy, sad or scary feelings to the story. (You can show examples of books with illustrations and talk about elements and feelings). In this worksheet you will draw an illustration of the word or words in each box. When you do this, try to show something about the word that helps tell more. ***For example, for the word "school" is it a red school? Is it a school in winter?*** You can use a picture to tell more about the people, places and events in your story.

Supplementary Worksheet: Caption Writing





Activity Objective:

This supplementary worksheet is designed to help children think about the relationship of images and illustrations to text, or captions. The worksheet provides a few examples of pictures and captions. You can leave the rest of the worksheet blank for your students to draw pictures and write captions for that that picture or you can pre-populate some of the spaces with images to help your student relate current lessons to the story writing project.

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PBS KIDS WRITERS CONTEST

Get Ready to WRITE!





pbskids.org/writerscontest

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WRITERS CONTEST

Brainstorming

Where the best stories begin.

Brainstorming is a way to come up with new and different ideas. Use this activity booklet to write or draw whatever comes to your mind. You'll end up with a GREAT STORY!



Story Structure

All stories have a beginning, middle and an end.

Write down or draw how you want the story to start, what happens during the story, and how will it end.

Beginning	Middle	End



For more information and how to enter visit:

Main Character The person, animal or thing your story is about.

Create a list of different characters you want in your story and describe them.
(Spike the dog is fluffy, Aunt Sally always wears funny clothes.)

Character	Description

Setting Where your story takes place.

Create a list of different places (the zoo, the moon) and choose whether it's the past, present or future (last year, next Tuesday). Think about how the setting might affect your character (the snow made it cold).

Setting





Problem & Resolution

The challenge your character(s) face and how they overcome it.

Create a list of problems (passing a math quiz, fighting an evil villain). Then in a separate list create ways to solve the problem. Choose your favorite scenarios and circle them.

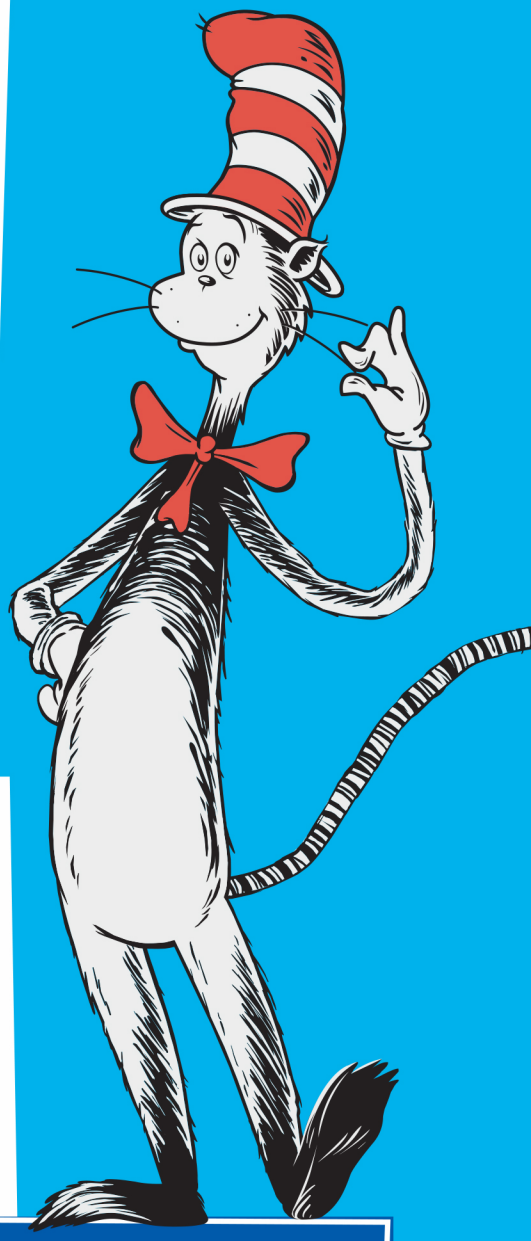
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Problem



Resolution



All that brainstorming has paid off! You now have a basic plan. Turn the page over and use the space to start your story.

Have fun!

Let the story writing begin!





Story running long?
Grab another sheet of paper!

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Story Revision Checklist

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Read your story out loud.
Then ask yourself each of these questions.
If the answer is yes, check it off on the checklist!



Does my story have a beginning, middle, and end?	☐	My story is organized!
Does my story answer my reader's questions about what happened?	☐	My story is developed!
Does my story include enough information?	☐	My story is detailed!
Does my story use clear and specific words?	☐	My story has good vocabulary!
Do my sentences make sense when I read them out loud?	☐	My story has good sentence structure!
Did I check my story for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization?	☐	My story is proofread!



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Read your story out loud.
Then ask yourself each of these questions.
If the answer is yes, check it off on the checklist!

- [x] Does my story have a beginning, middle and end?
  My story is organized!
- [ ] Does my story _____
  My story is _____
- [ ] Does my story _____
  My story is _____
- [ ] Does my story _____
  My story is _____
- [ ] Does my story _____
  My story is _____
- [ ] Does my story _____
  My story is _____



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Draw This!

Draw a picture that illustrates the word "School" in the box below. Then, choose seven more words to write and illustrate in the remaining boxes. After you're done, explain to a classmate, teacher or parent what you drew and why.

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Happy 	**School** (Draw a picture here.)	(Write a word here.) (Draw a picture here.)

Sample words:
(Use these or make up your own)

Bedtime	Reading
Birthday	Sad
Family	School
Playground	Summer



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Write This!

Write a caption for the picture below. Then either draw your own or cut and paste pictures into the empty boxes. Then write a caption for each picture.

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It's a happy, sunny day!



(Write your own caption here.)



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