

Story Blender

Purpose

Students will learn to write a story with multiple paragraphs that develop a situation or plot, describe the setting, and include an ending.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard

For each group of four students: paper, pencils, two strips of green paper, two strips of pink paper, four strips of yellow paper (large enough to write on), container

Activity

A. Introduce the Activity

1. Divide students into groups of four and give each group two strips of green paper, two strips of pink paper, four strips of yellow paper, and a container large enough for the papers to go into (e.g., shoebox, flower pot, coffee can).
2. Have each student in the group take one strip of yellow paper and a strip of one other color of paper. (Allow students to trade colors when they find out the meanings of each.)
3. Discuss the elements that are necessary for a good story. Call on students to name a few and write the following categories on the board: “character,” “setting,” “events.”
4. Have students write a setting/place name on their pink papers, character names and occupations on the green papers, and events on the yellow papers.
5. Have the students fold the papers and put them in the containers.

B. Create Stories

1. Choose a character name from one of the containers. Write it on the chalkboard.
2. Have the class create a character. Ask the students for details about that character’s appearance and personality.
3. Pick a container and choose a pink paper for the setting and two yellow papers for the events. Write them on the chalkboard.
4. Instruct the groups to add details and linking actions to create a coherent and complete story using the character, setting, and actions written on the chalkboard. Have one member of the group write the story down as it is being created.

(continued)

EXTENDING
THE



ACTIVITY

During the week, have students carry small writing journals with them. Have them write possible character names, places, and events in their writing journals as soon as they think of them.

connecting
across the
curriculum



Science

Have students research a particular invention. Instruct them to create a story about its effect on the life of a character.

Standards Link
5.5.1

Activity (continued)

5. Have a few groups share their stories. If a story lacks an ending, make up one as a class.




C. Apply What Students Have Learned

1. Collect all of the strips of paper and write all of the students' characters, settings, and story actions on the chalkboard in the appropriate columns.
2. Have each student choose a complete set of elements (character(s), setting, and events) and write a story with descriptive details and a complete ending.

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

When students have finished their stories, assess their knowledge by asking them the following questions:

-  What are some of the elements of a story?
 -  How do you think of details for your characters?
 -  What are the characteristics of a good ending?
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