

ENGLISH · GRADES 2–6

Story Writing Planner

Plan before you write

Why plan a story?

Children who plan write better stories. It's that simple. Without a plan, stories often start strong then wander. With a plan, even reluctant writers know where they're going. This planner takes 10 minutes — and saves 30 minutes of confusion later.

Every story has six parts

Part	What happens	Roughly how long
1. OPENING	Introduce character + setting	1 paragraph
2. BUILD-UP	Something starts happening	2 paragraphs
3. PROBLEM	Things go wrong	2 paragraphs
4. CLIMAX	The biggest moment — most exciting	1-2 paragraphs
5. RESOLUTION	How the problem is solved	1-2 paragraphs
6. ENDING	How the character feels after	1 paragraph



1. OPENING — Where and Who

Where does the story take place? Describe it in 2 senses (sight, sound, smell, etc.). Who is the main character? What's their NAME, AGE, and one thing about them that matters for the story.

2. BUILD-UP — What's the spark?

What changes the ordinary day? Something the character finds, hears, sees, decides, or meets. This is where the story really starts.



3. PROBLEM — What goes wrong?

What's the trouble? What does the character WANT, and what's stopping them from getting it? The bigger the problem, the better the story.

4. CLIMAX — The big moment

What's the most exciting moment? The chase, the confrontation, the discovery, the choice. This should be the most exciting part.



5. RESOLUTION — How is it solved?

How does the character solve their problem? They could be brave, clever, kind, or get help. The resolution should grow out of who the character is.

6. ENDING — How do they feel?

How is the character at the end? Different from the start? What did they learn? End on a feeling — not just 'and then they went home'.

Plan first, write second

Spend 10 minutes filling this in. Don't write the actual story yet. Once the plan is done, the story almost writes itself — you know what happens, you just need to bring it to life with description, dialogue and emotion.

