

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Create the Perfect Story

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Create the Perfect Story Poster**—a whole easel full of instructions for writing good stories.

Inside this Really Good Stuff® set you'll find:

- **Create the Perfect Story Poster**, 19" x 24"
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Create the Perfect Story Poster Activities

Introducing the Create the Perfect Story Poster

Make a copy of each page of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide, then display the poster in your classroom. Explain to students that a good story has different parts that go together in a special order to make sense. As students are reviewing the poster, explain that there are things they can do to make great stories. Point to the top left of the poster and have a student read the instruction aloud. Talk with students about why capturing the theme in your title is important for a good story. Continue by having a student read the next instruction. Moving down the easel, have students read and discuss each story part.

Choosing a Title

Explain that a good story usually has a title that captures the theme of the story. As a class, brainstorm titles of stories that students have read. Ask students to briefly discuss how the title relates to the story. If desired, try brainstorming a different, but appropriate title for some of the books.

Writing a Good Introduction

Give your students some hands-on practice identifying a lead (introduction) that grabs their attention. Provide different story books for each student. Explain that a good lead will hook the reader and grab their attention. Good leads may include a sound, a description, a question, a thought, or dialogue. Have the students read aloud and share their leads with the class. Discuss whether the lead encourages you to continue to read the book. Does it grab your attention and hook you? If not, try to brainstorm a better lead for the book.

Logical Sequence of Events

Challenge your students to a cooperative group activity. Think up a simple story and divide it into five events. Divide students into groups of five. Write a different event on each index card and give one card to each student. Have students read the different events and decide the sequence in which they should occur in order to make sense and tell a logical story. After a

predetermined time, ask all groups to read their sequence of cards aloud. The groups that have ordered the cards correctly win a prize!

Making Connections with Transition Words

Cover a bulletin board with paper and title it *Connect Ideas with Transition Words*. Have students brainstorm transitional words to use when connecting sentences or ideas and share them with the class. As students share, have them label index cards or sentence strips with the connecting words and post them on the bulletin board. Remind students to use the board to help them when they are writing.

Using Interesting Details

Share with your students the following story:

One day a girl went to the store. She saw lots of good stuff, but her mother would only let her get one thing. When she got home, she played with her new toy. It broke. She took it back to the store.

Encourage students to ask questions about the story. As they ask questions, write the answers to the questions on the chalkboard. For example, if they ask "How did the toy break?" You might write, "Her dog chewed it up." After a variety of questions are asked and answered, retell the story inserting all of the new details. Explain to students that interesting details bring a story to life. By asking questions, we can come up with good details to add to any story. Encourage students to pair up with a partner who will listen to their story and ask questions about it.

Create a Conclusion

Explain to students that a conclusion is an ending to a story. A good conclusion will tie up loose ends in the story and leave the reader feeling satisfied, not confused. Sometimes a conclusion will state what lesson was learned in the story. In a *Circle Story*, a conclusion brings a story back to its beginning, so that the story starts all over again. Sometimes a conclusion will leave us looking for more. These stories are, "To be continued...". Make copies of the *Create a Conclusion Reproducible* found in this guide and give one to each student. If group work is preferred, you can give one copy to each small group of students, or you can do a whole class lesson using the reproducible on an overhead transparency. Have students develop a variety of possible endings to the story given. Choose several students to share their endings with the class. Discuss what you like about each of the different endings.

Name _____

Create a Conclusion

One cold and rainy night I climbed into my bed and turned out the light. As I lay there waiting for sleep to come, I couldn't help but notice the strange shadows creeping across my walls and ceiling. There was also the eerie moaning and strange scratching sound at my window. What was going on? My mind raced. Was someone or something watching me? Perhaps they were waiting for me to drift off to sleep so they could attack! It became impossible for me to fall asleep. I tossed and turned all night. The next day at school, I was tired and grumpy. That night when I climbed into bed...

Write a sentence or two to end this story with as a Lesson Learned Story.

Write a sentence or two to end this story as a Circle Story.

Write a sentence or two to end this story as a To Be Continued Story.
