

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Setting Up a Writing Classroom	4
Expectations for Emergent Writers	6
Interactive Writing Settings	7
Writing Standards and Skills	8
Student Writing Checklist	9
Stages, Levels, and Rubrics for Emergent Writers	10
Writing Samples of Emergent Writers (Levels 1–11)	11
Rubrics for Emergent Writers	22
Daily Writing Exercises	25
Journal Writing—The Word Wall—Word Wall Activities—High Frequency Word Lists— Writing Learning Centers—Daily Oral Language	
Writing Activities	36
Class Books—Class Newsletters—Beginning, Middle, and End—Get It Together!— Autobiographical Writing—All About Me	
The Writing Process	43
Brainstorming Web—Venn Diagram—Check It Out!—First, Next, Then, Finally...	
Writing Genres	49
<i>Writing a Personal Narrative</i>	50
Narrative Writing Web—See the Picture—Personal Narrative Sample	
<i>Writing a Story</i>	54
Create a Character—Story Map—Story Sample	
<i>Responding to Literature</i>	58
Book Report Form A—Book Report Form B—Book Report Sample	
<i>Writing a Letter</i>	62
Model Letter—Letter Format—Letter Sample	
<i>Expository Writing</i>	66
Sentence Frames—Expository Idea Graph for Beginning Writers—Expository Sample	
Writing Instruction	70
Language Use and Conventions—What Is a Sentence?—Tell Me Something—Put It All Together!—What Is a Question?—Descriptive Language—Capitalization—Do It in Five!	
Home/School Activities	78
Bibliography	80

Writing a Story

Use this lesson to introduce how to write a story. The objective of this lesson is to write a story as a class.

Materials

- short story to use as a model story
- chart paper
- colored marker
- copies of “Create a Character” (page 55)
- copies of “Story Map” (page 56)

Directions

1. Read the book you have selected to the class. Discuss the elements of a story with students. What does a story have?
 - setting
 - characters
 - problem
 - solution
2. Read the title of the book with the students, pointing out the location of the capital and lowercase letters. Read the names of the author and illustrator, pointing out that the author and the illustrator are usually two different people.
3. Explain that a story has a beginning, middle, and an end. The beginning usually contains the setting and the introduction of the characters. The reader learns more about the characters and the problem in the middle of the story. The ending usually contains the solution to the problem.
4. Work together as a class to write a story. Record student ideas on the chart paper using the marking pen. First, discuss the characters. Which characters should be in the story? To get a better idea of the characters, have students illustrate a picture of a character using the character face on page 55. As a class, select the characters to be in the story. Remember to keep the number of characters limited.
5. Now, move to the setting. Brainstorm locations where the setting takes place. Locations might be home, school, playground, movie theater, or the store. Brainstorm problems for the story. Problems might be someone getting lost, being scared, getting hurt, or losing something. Now you are ready to write. Write each sentence as a class. Call on one student at a time to add to the story. Once the story has been written, read it to the class. Discuss changes needed. Instruct students to illustrate scenes from the story. Bind your story together when it is completed. Discuss a title as a class.
6. Explain to students that they are now ready to write a story of their own. Go through this same procedure to walk students through their own story. Use the story map on page 56 as a guide.

Story Sample

A first grade student at the midpoint of the school year wrote this sample of a story. The student uses complete sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation. This text is readable by adults who are familiar with phonetic spelling. Additionally, a number of high-frequency words are spelled correctly. The student introduces the character at the beginning of the story. The story contains a beginning, middle, and end, though the story is underdeveloped.

My name is mousy mouse.
Once I was sleeping in a girls
perse and I came home with
her. But she never saw me. But
one day there was something stickey
in there. So she took evething out
except me. So she put her perse in the
washing machine, and I got stuck
in there. When she took evething
out I snuck out, and I lived in
her bed, and I lived in here
sheets forever.

The Ends

(My name is Mousey Mouse. Once I was sleeping in a girl's purse and I came home with her. But she never saw me. But one day there was something sticky in there. So she took everything out except me. So she put her purse in the washing machine, and I got stuck in there. When she took everything out I snuck out and I lived in her bed. And I lived in her sheets forever. The End)