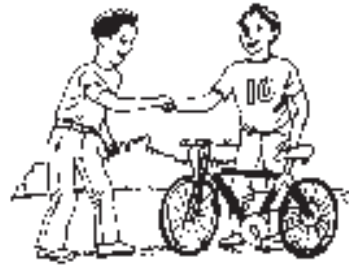


Developing Plot

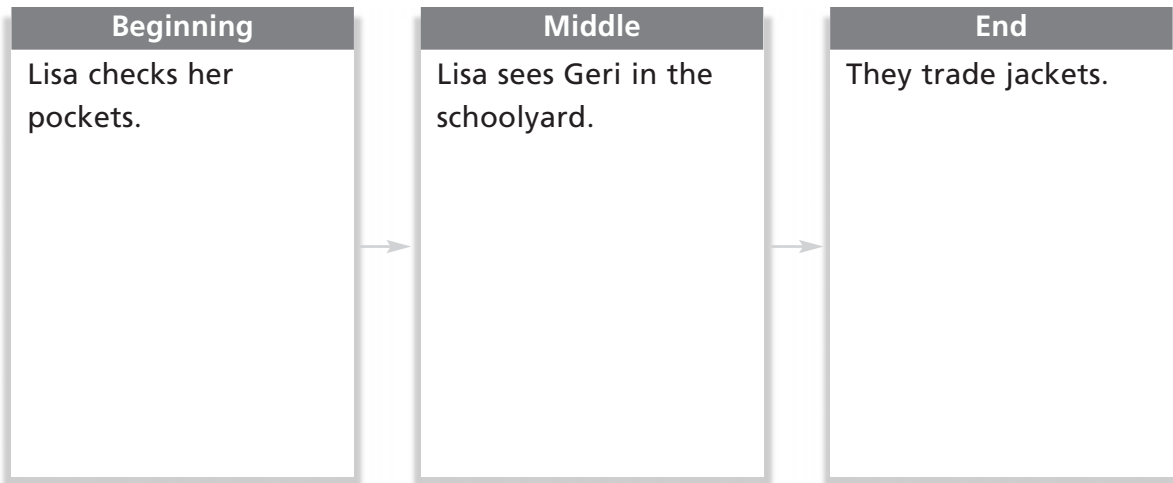
A **plot** is a series of made-up events in a story. Every plot has a **beginning**, a **middle**, and an **end**.



Beginning	Middle	End
The conflict is the main problem characters must deal with.	The characters work to find a way to resolve their conflict.	The resolution shows how the conflict is settled and answers any questions readers might still have.
Tony didn't think he could face Sam after their argument.	Sam came to see Tony. "Tony, I'm really sorry," he pleaded. "Can you forgive me for losing your videotape?" Tony sighed. "Maybe, but it was my favorite tape."	Sam helped Tony pay for another blank videotape, and the two of them worked together to film another basketball game.

Read the story description below. Then fill in the plot map with events from the story.

- When she checks her pockets, Lisa realizes she has the wrong jacket.
- By mistake, she has taken the jacket of a popular girl named Geri.
- The two girls get together to trade jackets.
- Lisa is surprised to find out that Geri is as nice as she is popular.



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Dialogue

Dialogue, or what characters say, reveals the characters' personalities and shows what they do, think, and feel. Through dialogue, characters can also tell about story events. Dialogue can make a story more fun to read.

Without Dialogue

Ben boasted about his trumpet playing when he told us about the concert.

With Dialogue

"My trumpet playing was the best thing in the concert!" Ben bragged. "Too bad you weren't there to hear me!"

Read the descriptions below. Then write dialogue that shows what the characters are doing, thinking, or feeling.



- Paul is nervous about playing in today's game. His teammate Dennis feels confident and reassures Paul.

- Marisol is thrilled because she found a five-dollar bill on the street. Her mother shows that she is practical when Marisol tells her about the money.

- Rita is trying to do her homework and is annoyed because her pesky little sister, Jill, keeps bothering her.

Narrating Your Story

Your story’s narrative voice creates a mood. The mood can be scary, funny, peaceful, angry, happy, or sad.

- The mood is set at the beginning of a story.
- Word choice and the way sentences are built—long or short, simple or complex—create mood.

Write two story beginnings based on the situation described below. In Beginning 1, use words and phrases that create a humorous or happy mood. In Beginning 2, use words and phrases to create a sad or scary mood.

Josh and his family are preparing to move out of their apartment. Some of their neighbors come to say good-bye. Josh and his family are ready to load their things into the moving van. However, the elevator seems to be out of order.



Beginning 1:

Beginning 2:

Revising a Story

Have I	yes
• clearly described the conflict at the beginning?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• added details to make the characters and setting seem real?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• used precise words to set the mood of the story?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• used dialogue to show how the characters think, act, and feel?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Revise the following story. Use the checklist above to help you. Check off each box as you revise. Make changes in the spaces above the lines, in the margins, and below the paragraph.

Emily came downstairs on Saturday morning and thanked Dad for making her favorite breakfast. She was hungry, but when she saw the envelope next to her plate, Emily lost her appetite.

Emily wondered if the letter was from the basketball camp she had tried out for. Emily had been hoping to get a letter from the camp for a long time. Her friend Trina had gotten her letter of acceptance already. They really wanted to go to this camp together.

Emily was afraid to open the letter. What if this was a rejection letter? Would Trina go away to camp without her? Emily didn't know how she'd get through the summer without her best friend. Dad smiled and suggested that Emily open the envelope. Emily opened it. She was accepted!

Sentence Fluency

Sentences with too many clauses and phrases will make your writing difficult to follow. Revising can help you smooth out your writing by breaking up stringy sentences into smooth ones.

Stringy Sentences

This morning was harder than usual because my alarm clock didn't ring, so I woke up late and rushed out the door, and everyone knows that when you rush you forget things, which of course is what I did of course, when I forgot my keys.

Smooth Sentences

This morning was harder than usual. My alarm clock didn't ring, so I woke up late and rushed out the door. Everyone knows that when you rush you forget things. Of course, this is what I did. I forgot my keys.

The sentences below are confusing because they have too many clauses and phrases. Break the sentences up, and rewrite them so they read smoothly.

- 1. Math is usually easy for me, but this algebra test was difficult, even though I had studied hard, because I let myself get distracted by the weird-looking pictures next to each problem.

- 2. The night was dark, but the moon was bright, and we used the moonlight to find our way along the mountain road that led back to our cottage where we climbed into bed and slept soundly until morning.

- 3. Tom refused to read the book, even though his mother told him it was a fabulous adventure, and his older brother said he loved it, but then one day Tom was stuck in a car with nothing to do but read that book, and he loved it.

