

Developing Plot

Read each story description below. Think about events that can be used to establish the conflict in the beginning of the story, increase the tension in the middle, and reach a resolution at the end. Then fill in the plot map with your ideas.

1. A boy finds a stolen racing bike. When the owner comes looking, the boy has a hard time telling the truth about the bike. The owner rewards the boy for his honesty.

Beginning	Middle	End

2. A girl's best friend says he will cheat on a test. The girl wants to help her friend but she does not want to cheat. The girl helps the friend in another way.

Beginning	Middle	End

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Narrating Your Story

These two passages describe the same scene but create different moods.

Set Your Mood	
First Mood	Second Mood
Maddy slowly trudged up the barren hill. All around her was empty sky, as if even the clouds did not want to visit this unlucky place. In the distance, she could hear the low whining of the machines that were going to change her village's way of life forever.	Maddy practically pranced up the hill. She looked around at the wide-open sky and felt anything was possible. She could hear the low singing of machines off in the distance, the machines that would help her village survive.

Use the following information to write a story passage using two different moods. Write in either first-person or third-person point of view.

This was the first time Pat had tried in-line skating. Pat was in a park. The first five minutes on the skates were especially memorable.

Mood One: _____

Mood Two: _____

Circle a mood below. Then write three sentences to illustrate it.

scary humorous peaceful angry happy



Revising a Story

Have I**yes**

- clearly described the conflict at the beginning?
- added details to make the characters and setting seem real?
- used precise words to set the mood of the story?
- used dialogue to show how the characters think, act, and feel?

Revise the following story, using the checklist above. Check off each box when you have finished your revision. Use the space above each line, below the paragraph, and on the sides to make your changes.

Practice Makes Perfect

Becky wanted to be president of the student council, but she had to make a speech. She practiced her speech in front of a mirror. Then she read it to her older sister, Molly.

Molly said she was nervous. She made Becky read it over and over again.

The next day, Becky was waiting her turn backstage. Then the principal called her name. She reached into her pocket for her speech. It wasn't there! She had left it in her locker. The principal called her name again. The boy behind her told her she was scared. So she went out.

She remembered the whole speech. She had read it so often that she had memorized it! All the students clapped.



Sentence Fluency



Don't use too many clauses and phrases in one sentence.
Make your writing smooth and easy to follow.

Stringy sentences

That day the carnival was supposed to come to town, and Yoshi had really been looking forward to this, but he was suddenly unsure he had enough money to go on the rides, and he asked his brother to lend him some money, just in case.

Smooth sentences

That day the carnival was supposed to come to town. **Yoshi** had really been looking forward to this, but he was suddenly unsure he had enough money to go on the rides. **He** asked his brother to lend him some money, just in case.

Turn the following stringy sentences into smooth sentences.

1. The ship sailed into view, while the band played a triumphant song, and the crowd went wild with joy, and gave up a loud cheer.

2. After John saw Kate, he went to the store, and there he found a great watch, and he thought it would make an interesting surprise for Kate's birthday next week.

3. Rosa and Izzy flew their planes in great loops over the county and there they saw the mighty river flowing and people dancing on its banks, in great celebration, and Rosa and Izzy leaned out and waved at all the people, so far below.

4. The teacher was very late, later than she had ever been before, and the students didn't know what to make of it, and they wondered if school was going to be canceled for the rest day.

