Reading Activity

Story Grammars

Story Map/Story Grammar Activity can be used in conjunction with LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE APPROACH and/or graphic organizers as a Beginning-Intermediate-Advanced Writing Activity

Purpose: Semantic Development and Syntactic Development

Focus: Identify a common organizational pattern or “grammar” of a reading text

ELDC (Continuum) Level(s): High Intermediate 3, Proficient 1, Proficient 2, Proficient 3

Procedure: Introduce story grammars by using the Language Experience Approach. (See Beginning- Writing Activities Language Experience Story). The second time, have each group prepare one. Once groups have mastered story grammars, individuals can prepare their own, but include incentives for the group to help individual members. For example, you might want to give a team a point for each member who receives a grade of B or higher.

Example: Setting: ____, Characters: ____, ____, Problem: ____, Goal: ____, Events Leading to goal (list in order): ____, ____, ____, Resolution: ____ (Three possibilities include: character solves problem, character learns to live with problem, problem defeats character)

Note: Story grammars help students understand that most stories have a common organization. Story grammars help students to write reports, evaluate the quality of stories, find answers to their questions about stories, and write their own stories.

Story Map/Story Grammar Activity:

a) Use graphic organizers such as the Plot Maps (Story Maps, Story Grammars) on the following pages to assist students in organizing ideas

b) Use question prompts as starters to identify key story elements (Who; What, Where, When, Why, How. Review key story elements/objectives below with the key questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Story Elements – Objectives</th>
<th>Key Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characters: ____, ____, ____</td>
<td>Who? How…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivation ____, Goal: ____</td>
<td>What…? Why…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting: Time ____, Place _____</td>
<td>When…? Where…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem: ____ Resolution: ____</td>
<td>What…? Why…? How…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause ____ Effect (Result) ___</td>
<td>Why…? What…? How…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events leading to goal (in order): ____, ____, ____</td>
<td>What…? Why…? How…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions leading to resolution/result (in order): ____, ____</td>
<td>What…? Why…? How…?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Story Grammar (Continued on next pages)
**Story Map/Story Grammar Activity:** (See previous page)

**Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)**

**TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT** ___________________________ **Author** __________

**Plot:** The series of events that make up a story are the plot. Use the chart to plot the reading.

**STORY PLOT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposition (Beginning)</th>
<th>Climax</th>
<th>Resolution (End)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rising Action (Conflict)</td>
<td>Turning Point</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Story Grammar (Story Map, Story Plot Map)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposition/Beginning:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Conflict: External /Internal:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rising Action:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climax:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Resolution/End:</th>
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Story Map/Story Grammar Activity: (See previous pages)

Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)

TITLE/TOpic/TEXT ________________________________________ Author __________

Plot: The series of events that make up a story are the **plot**. The four (4) main elements of the plot are *Exposition, Rising Action (Conflict), Climax (or Turning Point), and Resolution.*

Directions: Use the chart to plot the reading.
**Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)**

**Turning Point/ Climax**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literary Elements: The series of events that make up a story are the <strong>plot</strong>. The elements of the plot are <strong>exposition, rising action, internal/external conflicts, climax (or turning point), and resolution</strong>. Directions: Complete the boxes with information from the reading.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Climax:** When the rising action reaches a high point, or **climax** (or **turning point**), the reader is at the highest point of interest in the story. At the climax, the reader really wants to know what will happen next. 

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**External Conflicts** (problems) between characters, nature, or outside forces 

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**Internal Conflicts** in the mind of a character as she/he struggles to make a decision 

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**Rising Action** After conflict begins, the tension in the story begins to increase. Things are happening, and the reader doesn't know what will happen next. This is **rising action**. 

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**Resolution:** Near the end of the story, the conflicts are finally resolved. The reader finds out what happened (the **resolution**). 

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**Exposition** is the beginning of the plot, telling characters and setting. 

**Characters:** 

**Setting:** Place- Time-
Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)

Turning Point/ Climax

Literary Element – Plot: The series of events that make up a story are the plot. The four (4) main elements of the plot are Exposition, Rising Action (Conflict), Climax (or Turning Point), and Resolution. Directions: Use the chart to plot the reading.
**Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)**

**TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT** ____________________________ **Author** ___________

**Literary Elements:** Complete the chart with information in the reading: *Title, Author, Characters, Setting, Main Conflict, Events, & Resolutions.* (What do the little characters show?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTERS</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SETTING: TIME</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLACE</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN CONFLICT</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT #1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVENT #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVENT #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVENT #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVENT #5</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOLUTION</th>
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Story Map/Story Grammar Activity: (See previous pages)

Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)
Rising Action Narration Map

Complete the chart below with information from the reading: Title, Author, Characters, Setting, Beginning Action, Events, Turning Point (Climax), Events, and Resolution / Conclusion.

Directions: Use the text or lesson summary and identify all of the literary elements listed below.

Title ___________________________________________________ Author ______________________

Characters _______________________________________________________________________

Setting:  Time __________________________  Place: __________________________

Beginning Action
_____________________________________________________________________________

Events
_____________________________________________________________________________

Events
_____________________________________________________________________________

Turning Point (Climax)
_____________________________________________________________________________

Events
_____________________________________________________________________________

Events
_____________________________________________________________________________

Conclusion
_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
**Story Grammar (Story Map or Plot Map)**

**Directions:** Complete the chart with the story elements. Use the text or lesson summary.

**CHARACTERS**

- ____________________
- ____________________
- ____________________
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- ____________________

**SETTING**

**TIME**

- ____________________
- ____________________
- ____________________

**PLACE**

- ____________________
- ____________________
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- ____________________

**THEME**

- ____________________
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**PLOT EVENTS**

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**CONFLICT**

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**RESOLUTION**

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- ____________________

**TITLE/TOPIC/TEXT**

- ____________________
- ____________________

**AUTHOR**

- ____________________