Parts of a Narrative: Story Elements

Subject: Language Arts

Grade Level: 3rd

Common Core State Standard: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3.a Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

Goal: The students will develop an understanding of the components of a narrative.

Objective: Given a short story and a story map, the student will read the story and complete the story map including all five story elements missing no more than one. (Bloom’s Taxonomy Applying Level/DOK Level 2)

A. Introduction/Motivation

1. Welcome the students to class.
2. Inform the students that they will be learning about story elements which are the parts of a narrative.
3. Draw the students’ attention to the Smart Board (or computer and projector) and play the YouTube video, “Flacubary - Five Things (Elements of a Short Story)” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6I24S721ps
   - Ask the students follow-up questions after the video.
   - Ask the students if they know the five elements of a narrative.
   - (Optional - bodily/kinesthetic – P.E. and Health Integration – Allow students to stand beside their desks and dance along to the song the second time it is played.)
4. Tell the students that by the end of the lesson today they will read a short story and complete a story map including all five story elements.
5. Inform the students that it is important to know the essential elements of a story to make reading narratives or stories easier to understand and follow along with.

B. Study Learning

1. Inform the students that there are five essential elements of a story: characters, setting, plot, conflict, resolution. These elements keep the story running smoothly and allow the action to develop in a logical way that the reader can follow.
2. Show the students a poster containing the five elements and definitions of each.
   (Attachment #1: http://www.katiekazoo.com/pdf/KK_FiveEssentialElements.pdf)
   (The following is the information that should be written on the poster or PowerPoint presentation.)
The **characters** are the individuals or animals that the story is about.

The **setting** is the where the story takes place – the location.

The **plot** is the structure of the story – what takes place in the story. It should have a beginning, middle, and end.

The **conflict** is the problem(s) in the story.

The **resolution** is how the problem in the story is solved – the solution.

3. Explain that every narrative story should have all five of these things. When you are reading a narrative, you should be able to determine what the story elements are. When you write a narrative, you have to make sure you include all of them.

4. Review the story of Cinderella.
   - Draw the students’ attention to the interactive Cinderella story elements game on the Smart Board. [http://www.learner.org/interactives/story/cinderella.html](http://www.learner.org/interactives/story/cinderella.html)
   - Go through the game and allow volunteers to come to the board and choose the five story elements.
   - Ask appropriate follow-up questions.

5. Introduce the book, *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*, and read the text aloud.
   - Ask appropriate before, during, and after reading questions.
   - Stop periodically and use “think alouds” to model locating the five story elements.
   - (Health) Have a class discussion about exercise and good nutrition using the information from the book.

6. Provide the students with the handout entitled, “Story Map.” (Attachment #2)
   - Instruct the students to fill in the bubbles with information from the story as we go over it together.
   - Have a class discussion about the main characters, setting, problem, plot, and solution from the story.

7. Provide another example of identifying the story elements from a story read in class recently.
   - Draw a semantic web on the board and fill it in with the five story elements.

**Guided Practice**

8. Divide the students into small groups of 3 or 4 and give them a handout entitled, “Writing Parts of a Story.” (Attachment #3)
   - Read the book, *Owen*, by Kevin Henkes aloud to the students.
     - Ask appropriate before, during, and after reading questions.
   - Have the students pick a recorder and a reporter for their group.
   - Instruct the students to work together to fill in the squares on the handout with the story elements from the book, *Owen*.
   - Allow time for students to complete their work and go over the correct answers.
   - (Monitor students as they work and provide feedback as needed.)
Independent Practice

9. Give each student two story elements task cards. (Attachment #4)
   - Call on students to read the paragraphs orally.
   - Allow the students time to answer the story elements questions individually.
   - Go over the correct answers.

C. Culmination

1. Review the poster containing the five story elements and the definitions of each.
3. Tell the students that they are going to do one more activity together. (bodily/kinesthetic – P.E. and Health Integration)
   - Divide the students into small groups.
   - Inform the students that they are going to work together to create a short play that they will act out in class for us.
   - Tell the students that their play must include all five of the story elements, and it must be based on some type of physical activity that they can demonstrate for us. (Example: playing football)
   - Tell the groups that their play must not last over four minutes.
   - Allow time for the groups to create their play and to perform it.
   - Have the audience determine the five story elements in each play.
4. Clarify any questions or misconceptions at this time.

D. Follow-Up

1. Tell the students to clear their desks except for a pencil.
2. Provide the students with a copy of the short story, *A New Start* (Attachment #5) and a story map (Attachment #2)
   - Instruct the students to read the story and fill in the story map with the five story elements from the story.
3. Tell the students to complete the crossword puzzle on the second page once they finish the story map.

Materials and Resources:

1. Computer, projector and/or Smart Board
2. “Five Essential Story Elements” poster (Attachment #1)
3. Interactive Cinderella story elements game
4. Book, *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*
5. “Story Map” (Attachment #2)
6. “Writing Parts of a Story” (Attachment #3)
7. Book, *Owen*
8. Story elements task cards. (Attachment #4)
9. *A New Start* short story (Attachment #5)
10. Dry erase board and markers

**Adaptations for Lower Grades:**
- Provide stories, books, and examples written on a lower grade level.
- Choose a book on a lower reading level than book, *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*
- Select easier topics for the writing activities.

**Adaptations for Upper Grades:**
- Provide stories, books, and examples written on a higher grade level.
- Choose a book on a higher reading level than book, *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*
- Select more in depth topics for the writing activities.