

Name: _____

Due date: _____

Write Away 4

Topic:

WRITE A STORY: BEGINNING, MIDDLE and END

Background:

Writing a story can be one of the most satisfying - or one of the most frustrating - writing activities. Some writers follow a plan; they first create a framework or map which they follow as they write their story. Others simply begin with an idea and start writing to see where it takes them. Frustration (and confusion) arises when the plan becomes too complicated or contrived, or when the ideas which seemed so promising in the beginning start to falter and lose their momentum. In all cases, the writer must produce a story which has a clear **beginning, middle and end**. Giving some thought to these three components will make the story-writing process easier. This approach can also be used in other kinds of prose writing, such as personal essays and reports.

Activity:

Choose a first sentence from the following list:

1. *Peter entered the magic shop and took out the list of supplies he had been carrying around in his pocket all week.*
2. *The dog lifted its head and sniffed, then let out one long, blood-chilling howl.*
3. *It was a day like any other, with one difference.*
4. *"I won't," said Margaret.*

On the worksheet, write your sentence in the BEGINNING section. You may change names and add adjectives, adverbs or descriptive phrases if you wish.

Then choose a closing sentence from the following list and write it in the END section:

1. *Everything looked the same, but Peter knew nothing would ever be the same again.*

2. *The wind dropped, the sun set, the stars came out, and the day was finally over.*
3. *“It will all be fine in the morning,” she thought, closing her eyes and slipping gently towards sleep.*
4. *That was the way it all ended - or did it?*

Now the real work begins. You must find a way to get from your first sentence to your last sentence.

In the MIDDLE section of your worksheet jot down ideas that will help you move your story along from its beginning to its end. Keep it simple, and don't let the plot become too complicated. If you are having trouble coming up with a MIDDLE, write about a simple conflict, a task that must be completed, a question that must be answered, or a barrier that must be overcome. These are all simple but effective plot strategies.

When you have all three sections filled out, you have the beginnings of a story. **On a separate sheet of paper, write your story, starting with the first sentence.** The story should have at least three paragraphs:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Paragraph One | - BEGINNING (including your chosen opening sentence) |
| Paragraph Two | - MIDDLE - what happens next? |
| Paragraph Three | - END (including your closing sentence) |

Your MIDDLE section may require more paragraphs, especially if you use dialogue.

Hand in both your worksheet and your completed story. Your final copy should be neat in appearance and be edited for grammar and spelling.

WRITE AWAY: STORY WORKSHEET
BEGINNING, MIDDLE, END

BEGINNING	who? where? why?
MIDDLE	what next? why? what next? why? who and how? where?
END	who? where? why?

S*A*M*P*L*E
WRITE AWAY: STORY WORKSHEET
BEGINNING, MIDDLE, END

<p>BEGINNING</p> <p>“I won’t,” sniffled Margaret.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - she doesn’t want to go to her grandmother’s for the summer while her parents are away on a business trip - she hates the scary pictures on the walls and thinks there are ghosts in the house - she wishes Grandmother had a cat or dog, something to keep her company, but Grandmother won’t have pets because she thinks they’re bad luck 	<p>who? where? why?</p>
<p>MIDDLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - arrives at the house, grandmother is busy with bake sale at church and can’t stay to supervise her - hears strange noise and goes upstairs to attic - finds weird mirror - sees her own image, but she’s wearing old-fashioned clothes - feels funny and wakes up to find herself back in time - quickly looks around the attic and realizes the mirror is gone - searches the house (dodging people who are living in the house) and finds mirror in bedroom; a cat is sitting on the bed -stares at the mirror until she faints - wakes up back in present-day attic - but the cat is there too 	<p>what next? why? what next? why? who and how? where?</p>
<p>END</p> <p>The cat seemed to be smiling at her as she sat up groggily and looked around at the familiar shadows of Grandmother’s attic. Where had she been? She still felt shaky and absent-mindedly stroked the purring, black cat. And that was the way it all ended - or did it?</p>	<p>who? where? why?</p>