

## Chain Stories

*Keep students on their toes by passing their stories to their friends to finish!*

**Level:** Intermediate

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Materials:** Paper, pens, themes or topics

**Objectives:** Students learn the elements of a story and how to build a story piece by piece.

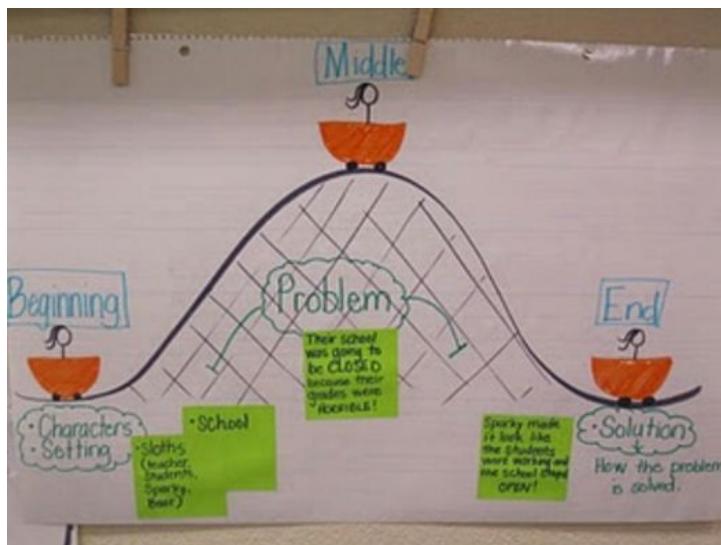
### 1. Motivation/Warm Up

Students sit in a circle with several sheets of paper and a pen. Students write their name on the first sheet of paper in front of them. Upon instruction, students begin writing a story. Have students write for 3-5 minutes about anything. It may help to provide a group theme like fairy tales, scary stories, or talking animals. If necessary, provide an opening line like, "It was a dark and stormy night..."

### 2. Presentation

Present the elements and outline of a story using a rollercoaster diagram.

- In the beginning, characters and setting are described;
- In the middle, characters face a problem or conflict;
- In the end, the story describes how the problem is solved.



### 3. Practice

After 3-5 minutes, have students pass their stories to the right. Allow 2 minutes to read the story they've been given and then 3-5 for students to add to it. Continue this activity. As time passes, remind students that they should be at the middle or end of the story. Stop when the papers have reached everyone or when the time you allotted is finished. Give students back their

original sheets that have their name on the first sheet. Have students read the stories to each other.

#### **4. Produce**

For homework, ask the students to identify a beginning, middle, and end to the story and to answer the following questions: Who are the characters? What is the setting? Is there a problem? Would they change the ending? How? What is a good title for the story?

\*Alternative: An alternative to this activity is 'Musical Chairs Writing.' Instead of having students remain stationary while passing their stories to the right, have the stories remain stationary, play music, and when the music stops students stop at the story they are near.