

## The Three Brothers

Using *Harry Potter* to get participants excited about writing!

**Duration:**

1 hour

**Objective:**

Introduce participants to the basic elements of a story (characters, setting, plot, problem, beginning, middle, end) through studying an example (“The Three Brothers”). Participants will develop their own class set of “Story Strips” to be used in a homework assignment.

**Materials:**

-Board & chalk

-“The Three Brothers” story from *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (see below—it is possible to simplify the language in the story to make more age appropriate)

-Movie clip from *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (optional)

-Strips of paper from 3 different colors (for example: 5 strips of yellow, 5 strips of red, 5 strips of blue)

<b>Motivation:</b> 10 minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ask the participants who has seen <i>Harry Potter</i>. -Generate a list of helpful vocabulary and ideas about <i>Harry Potter</i>.</li><li>2. Provide some helpful vocabulary for the story -(examples: magical, winding, wand, cloak, stone, etc.) -Next to the words on the board, draw some helpful pictures to serve as reminders for the participants.</li></ol>	Materials needed: Board & chalk
<b>Information:</b> 25 minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the “The Three Brothers” story one time through, pausing frequently to check comprehension.</li><li>2. Write the following questions on the board: Who? What? Where? When? Why/How?</li><li>3. Watch the movie clip of the story to give students a better idea of its meaning. -After watching the clip, ask students in pairs or small groups to try to answer the W questions. Go over it as a whole group.</li></ol>	Materials needed: “The Three Brothers” story text Harry Potter movie clip Board & chalk

	<p>-Explain that Who refers to characters, Where/When to setting, What to plot, and Why/How to the problem. Explain that characters, setting, plot, and problem are the main elements in a story.</p> <p>-You may have to spend some extra time examining the “problem” element. Explain that problem, or conflict, is usually what drives the plot. It is what makes a story interesting and exciting.</p> <p>4. Draw the story graph (see below) and explain the concept of Beginning, Middle, [Climax], and End.</p> <p>-Read the story one more time and mark the various places within the graph when you reach them.</p> <p>-Ask questions like, “Which elements of the story do we see in the beginning?” (we meet the characters, we learn the setting, etc.</p>	
<p><b>Practice:</b> 15 minutes</p>	<p>1. Explain to the participants that now that they have studied one story, they will begin to create their own.</p> <p>2. Break the group into 3 smaller groups. Each group will be assigned one story element—Characters, Setting, Problem. With their group, they should write as many examples of that element that they can.</p> <p>-If there is confusion, do 1-2 examples for each.</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>-Strips of paper from 3 different colors</p>
<p><b>Application:</b> 5 minutes</p>	<p>1. Every participant should draw one element from each category (Characters, Setting, Problem). As a homework assignment, tell the participants that they are going to come up with their own stories. The element that is left up to them is the Plot. Participants should aim to write 1-2 pages (depending on ability).</p> <p>-Remind participants that they should make sure their stories have a very clear Beginning, Middle, and End.</p>	<p>Materials needed:</p> <p>-Story strips produced in the <b>Practice</b> section.</p>

<b>Conclusion</b> : 5 minutes	1. Ask participants what they learned today. Be sure to highlight the story elements covered in the lesson so that students will be mindful of them when writing their own stories for the next class.	Materials needed: -None
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## "The Three Brothers"

There were once three brothers who were traveling along a lonely, winding road at twilight. In time, the brothers reached a river too deep to wade through and too dangerous to swim across. However, these brothers were learned in the magical arts, and so they simply waved their wands and made a bridge appear across the treacherous water. They were halfway across it when they found their path blocked by a hooded figure.

And Death spoke to them. He was angry that he had been cheated out of three new victims, for travelers usually drowned in the river. But Death was cunning. He pretended to congratulate the three brothers upon their magic and said that each had earned a prize for having been clever enough to evade him.

So the oldest brother, who was a combative man, asked for a wand more powerful than any in existence: a wand that must always win duels for its owner, a wand worthy of a wizard who had conquered Death! So Death crossed to an elder tree on the banks of the river, fashioned a wand from a branch that hung there, and gave it to the oldest brother.

Then the second brother, who was an arrogant man, decided that he wanted to humiliate Death still further, and asked for the power to recall others from Death. So Death picked up a stone from the riverbank and gave it to the second brother, and told him that the stone would have the power to bring back the dead.

And then Death asked the third and youngest brother what he would like. The youngest brother was the humblest and also the wisest of the brothers, and he did not trust Death. So he asked for something that would enable him to go forth from that place without being followed by Death. And death, most unwillingly, handed over his own Cloak of Invisibility.

Then Death stood aside and allowed the three brothers to continue on their way, and they did so, talking with wonder of the adventure they had had, and admiring Death's gifts. In due course the brothers separated, each for his own destination. The first brother traveled on for a week or more, and reaching a distant village, sought out a fellow wizard with whom he had a quarrel. Naturally with the Elder Wand as his weapon, he could not fail to win the duel that followed. Leaving his enemy dead upon the floor, the oldest brother proceeded to an inn, where he boasted loudly of the powerful wand he had snatched from Death himself, and of how it made him invincible.

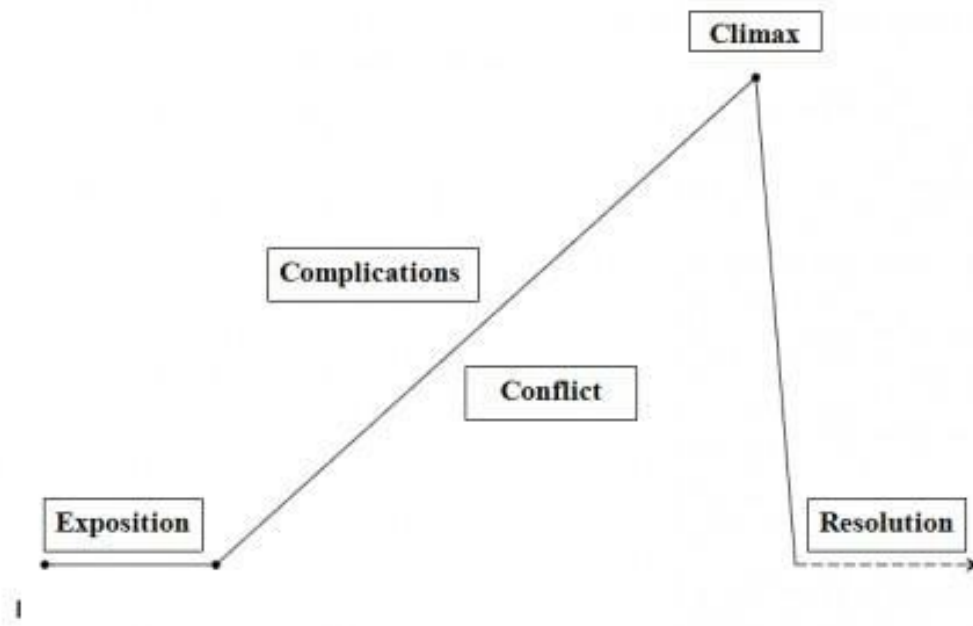
That very night, another wizard crept upon the oldest brother as he lay, wine-sodden, upon his bed. The thief took the wand and, for good measure, slit the oldest brother's throat.

And so Death took the first brother for his own.

Meanwhile, the second brother journeyed to his own home, where he lived alone. Here he took out the stone that had the power to recall the dead, and turned it thrice in his hand. To his amazement and his delight, the figure of the girl he had once hoped to marry, before her untimely death, appeared at once before him.

Yet she was sad and cold, separated from him as by a veil. Though she had returned to the mortal world, she did not truly belong there and suffered. Finally the second brother, driven mad with hopeless longing, killed himself so as truly to join her. And so Death took the second brother for his own.

But though Death searched for the third brother for many years, he was never able to find him. It was only when he had attained a great age that the youngest brother finally took off the Cloak of Invisibility and gave it to his son. And then he greeted Death as an old friend, and went with him gladly, and, equals, they departed this life.



**Streamlined Plot Diagram**