

What is Narrative Writing?

- Narrative writing tells a story.
- Relates a series of events (can be true or fiction) that entertains a reader.
- A fully developed story involves conflict introduced in the beginning, developed in the middle, and resolved at the end.

Purpose of Narrative Writing

- Create stories that entertain.
- Retell familiar stories, write sequels, and new episodes for favorite characters.
- Compose original stories.
- Include a beginning, middle, and end to develop the plot and characters.

Why Teach Narrative Writing?

- Everyone has a story to tell
- Improves students' reading abilities
- Transfer skills to other types of writing



Narrative Text Structure

“A key to comprehending narrative is a sense of plot, theme, characters, and events, and how they relate....Teaching students to attend to the organization of a well-formed story...improves not only comprehension but also the quality and creativity of stories the students compose.”

- Fitzgerald & Spiegel, 1983

Effective Narratives Include...

- Organization
- Entertaining beginning that grabs the reader's attention
- Suspense that keeps the reader reading
- Elaborated main event with details
- Satisfying ending

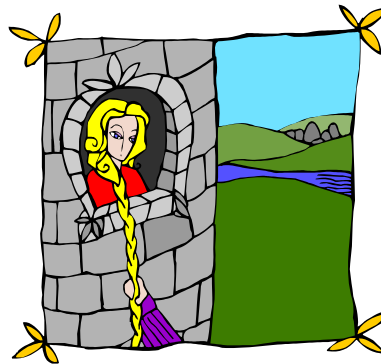


Common elements of story structure

- Character – person/persons in a story. *Who is the story about?*
- Setting – place/time where the story occurs. *When and where does the story take place?*
- Plot – sequence of events involving characters in conflict situations at the beginning, middle and end of a story. *What happens?*
- Conflict – tension or opposition between forces in the plot. *What's the problem?*
- Theme – underlying meaning of a story. *What's the point of the story?*

Sample Narrative Writing Products

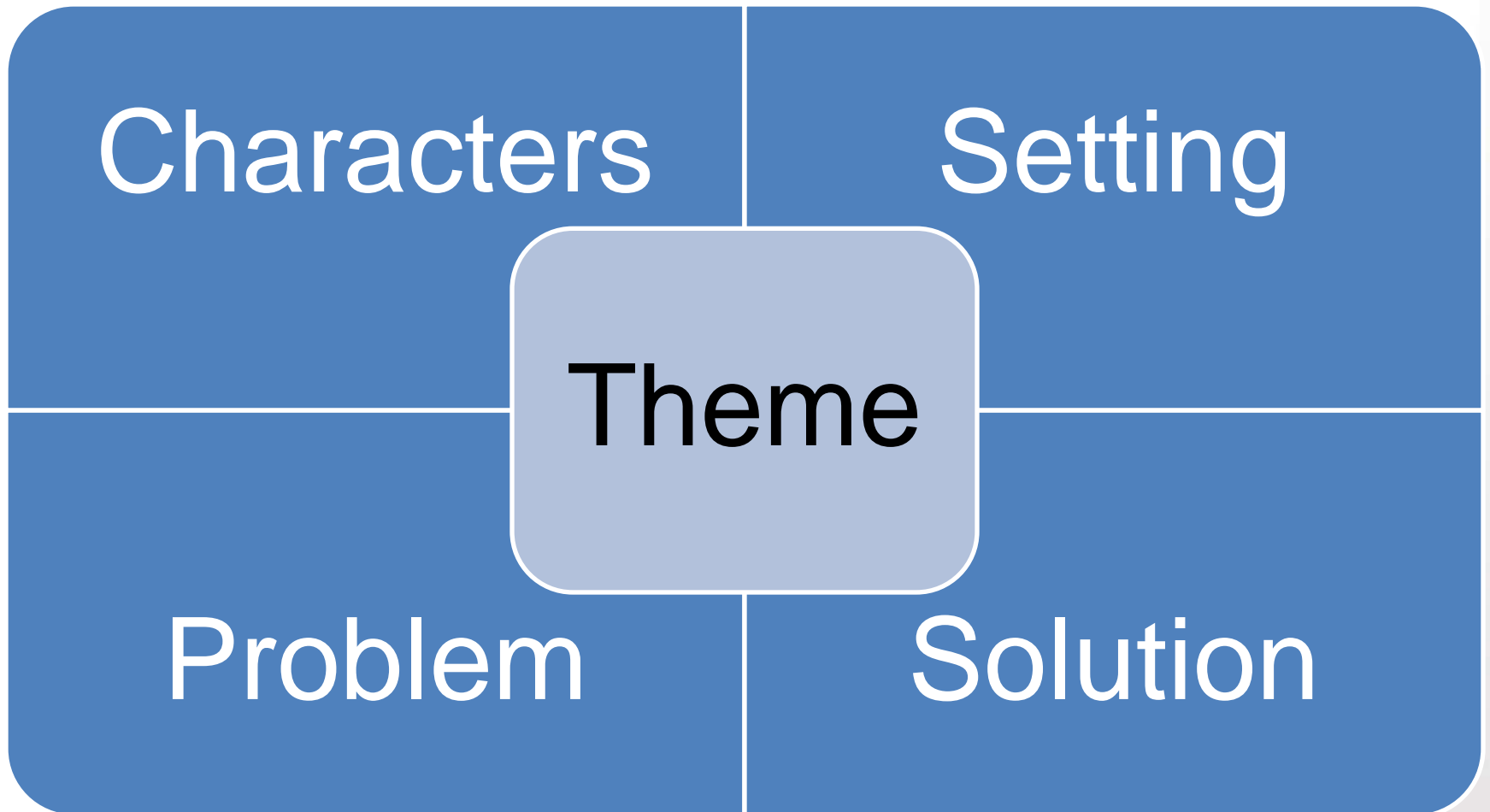
- short stories
- personal narratives
- imaginative narratives
- retellings of stories
- sequels to stories
- readers theaters



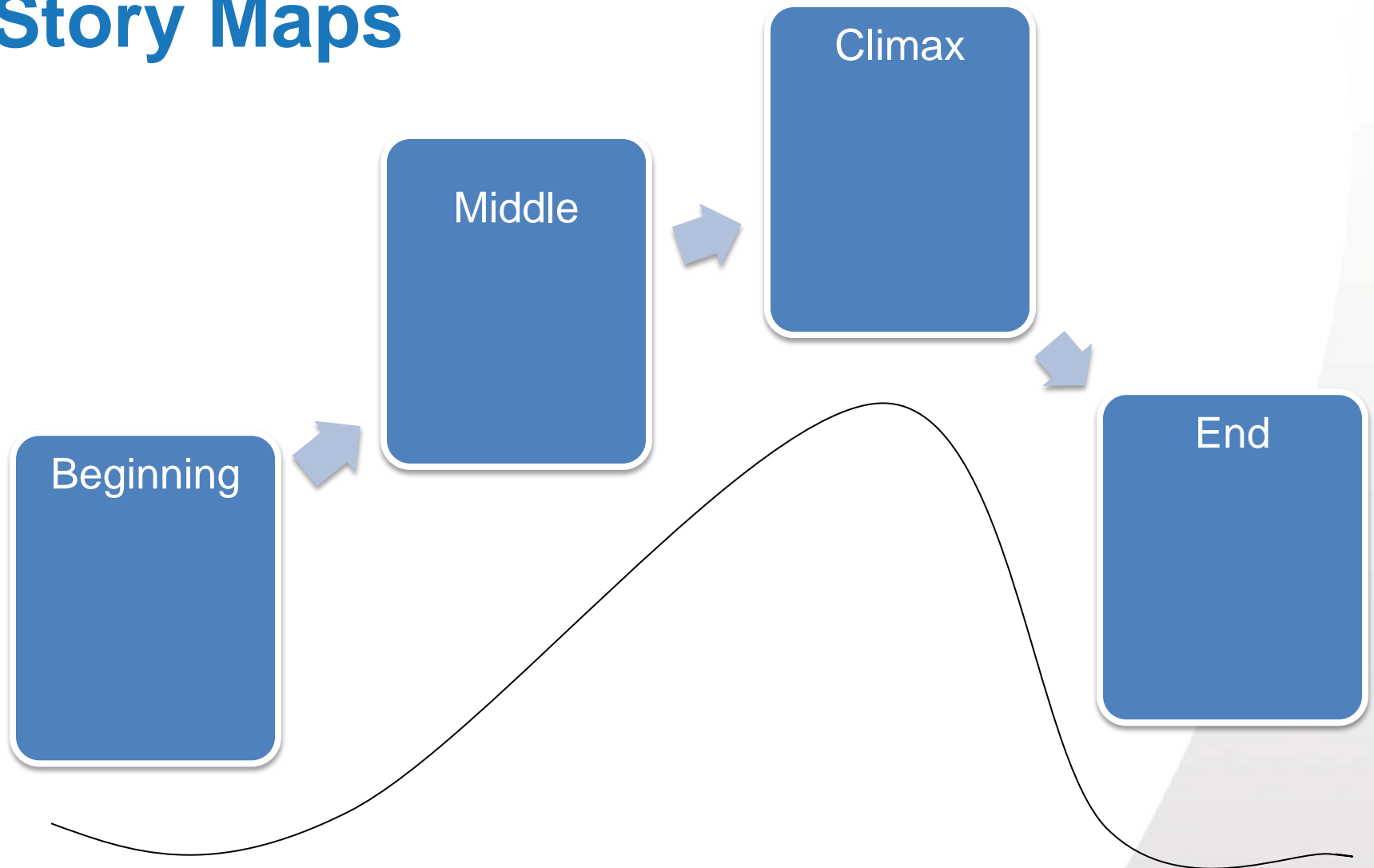
Instructional Approaches

- Model your own writing
- Study mentor texts
- Story maps
- Graphic organizers
- Mini-lessons with time for independent practice

Story Maps



Story Maps



Teaching Elements of Story Structure

1. Introduce the element by defining and listing characteristics. Read several stories to students that illustrate the element. After reading, discuss the story to probe students' awareness of how the author used the element to construct the text.
2. Analyze the element in stories – continue reading stories that demonstrate the element. After reading, analyze the elements using details from the text.
3. Immersion – investigate how authors use the element during independent reading
4. Review the element.
5. Create a class collaborative story that includes the element of study.
6. Individual writing

Teaching Setting

1. Define/List Characteristics - The setting is where and when the story takes place.
2. & 3. Analyze Setting within Text (teacher modeling followed by independent practice) ****Please note that these most likely will be separate mini-lessons and not all taught at one time.*
 - *Location* – stories can take place anywhere (i.e., *Where the Wild Things Are*)
 - *Weather* – stories take place in different kinds of weather (i.e., *Brave Irene*)
 - *Time of Day* – stories take place during the day or at night (i.e., *Owl Moon*)
 - *Time Period* – stories take place in the past, present or future (i.e., *A Wrinkle in Time*)

Teaching Setting

4. Review setting
5. Create a class collaborative story with a clear focus on setting ****Please note that this same piece of writing can be used to teach the other elements of story structure. For example, in the next lesson, the teacher will focus on character development.*
6. Students engage in independent writing with a focus on developing setting in their narratives.

Your Turn!

Now ask yourself:

- What are the common elements of narrative story structure?
- What are some effective ways to teach narrative writing?



Check for Understanding

- What are the common elements of narrative story structure?
 - Plot, characters, setting, point of view, theme
- What are some effective ways to teach narrative writing?
 - Story map, graphic organizer, mentor text

