



Realistic Fiction

This activity is designed to help students analyze a story for plot and learn the concept of writing to a specific audience. Both of these skills strengthen students' general reading and writing ability.

Overview:	Students will present realistic story ideas in complete sentences using a book read in class as the model for plot outline.
Standards addressed:	<p>Common Core Standards</p> <p>Reading Standard for Literature 2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.</p> <p>Writing Standard 2.3 Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.</p> <p>Speaking and Listening Standard 2.6 Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.</p>
Activity works best with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual student • Small groups • Whole group • Classrooms/Library
Preparation time:	Low
Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with Internet access • LCD projector • Whiteboard • Paper • Pencils



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Preparation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open a web browser and log in to the We Give Books website at www.wegivebooks.org.• Log in to your account and select a campaign to support.• Choose a realistic fiction book; click the orange “Read Online” button to open it.• Research the author to learn a few interesting and relatable facts to share with your students.
Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Model the process of brainstorming story ideas that you feel will be of interest to readers. The ideas should be presented as succinct and descriptive sentences. (E.g., “A little boy searches for his missing dog.”) Explain to students why you think these ideas might be of interest to a reader.• Introduce the book that you chose for this activity. Explain that it is realistic fiction and describe what that means (that although the story is “made-up,” it is possible some of the people, places and events could be based on real things).• Share some of the interesting information that you learned about the author.• Explain to students that before the author wrote the book, he/ she brainstormed story ideas that seemed realistic and might be interesting to readers.

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<p>Activity:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the book aloud to students. • Ask students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “What was the author’s story line idea?” – “What parts of the story make you think that it is realistic (that it could really happen)?” • Tell them that they are going to brainstorm several possible stories to write, like the author did, and like you modeled for them earlier. • While brainstorming, students should keep the following in mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The stories should be realistic fiction. – The stories should be summed up in one sentence. • Students should be prepared to tell you why their story ideas will be of interest to a reader. • Students can work independently, brainstorming on blank paper, or in small groups. Ask students to brainstorm three story ideas – written in complete sentences. • Bring students together. Ask them to think of you as a publisher who is looking for the next “big” book to publish. Call on several students to “wow” you with their one-line descriptions.
<p>Tips for expansion:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a great first activity in a writing series; or on taking a realistic fiction piece through the publishing process.