



Perfect Endings

This activity is designed to help students demonstrate understanding of appropriate story endings while developing their own personal point of view. Drafting a new ending helps to teach students important active reading skills, while providing an opportunity for them to practice narrative writing.

<p>Overview:</p>	<p>Students will write an alternate ending to a story the class has read together.</p>
<p>Standards addressed:</p>	<p>Common Core Standards</p> <p>Reading Standards for Literature 3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.</p> <p>Reading Standards for Literature 3.6 Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.</p> <p>Writing Standard 3.3.a–d Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.</p> <p>Reading Standards for Literature 2.5 Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.</p> <p>Writing Standard 2.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.</p>
<p>Activity works best with:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual student • Small groups • Whole group
<p>Preparation time:</p>	<p>Low</p>

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<p>Materials:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with Internet access • LCD projector • Whiteboard • Paper • Pencils
<p>Preparation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open the 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 personal narrative picture book that you feel has a strong ending; click the orange “Read Online” button to open it.
<p>Introduction:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell students that a great ending to a story is just as important as hooking the reader at the beginning of a story. • Explain that endings wrap up the main idea of the story and may use these common strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Showing feeling – Showing a memory – Describing a hope or a wish – Wrapping up the main idea of the story • Write or post these strategies where students can easily reference them. • Introduce students to the book you have chosen.

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Activity:

- Read the book you've chosen aloud to students.
- Ask students to recap the whole story and then recap just the ending. Ask, "What event(s) and/or character(s) caused that ending?" Chart their responses.
- Ask students, "Do you like that ending?"
- Tell students that they will use their knowledge of effective endings to write their own, new ending to the story. This can be done in pairs or individually.
- Pick a place in the story where students should start writing their new endings. Go to this page on the website and leave the projection there while students are working.
- Endings should be in complete sentences and should relate to the story but show some of the students' personal creativity.
- Mention again that endings wrap up the main idea of the story and may use these common strategies:
 - Showing feeling
 - Showing a memory
 - Describing a hope or a wish
 - Wrapping up the main idea of the story
- If there is time, have students read their endings aloud.

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Tips for expansion:

- Create a document to pass out to your students with three to five short story-lines from books you've read together in class, with three to four choices for endings for each story. One ending should be the right choice, which students would be able to come to understand through the text. The correct choice should also meet one of the common ending strategies discussed above. This could be worked on individually or in pairs before students write their own ending to the story.
- Read the endings of two to three other picture books to show students other examples of ending strategies.
- Have students create a [Bali Shadow Puppet](#) play using one of the new endings. You can find instructions for this project online in the Craft Projects section, among many other resources, available to you to download for free on the **We Give Books** website at www.wegivebooks.org/resources.