



You're the Author, You Write the Sequel

This activity is designed to address issues of comprehension and creative writing; and to encourage students to use their imagination to create original stories based on existing text.

<p>Overview:</p>	<p>Students will apply comprehension skills and practice creative writing skills by reading a text and brainstorming possible sequels to the story, then (optional) creating their own original book by writing and illustrating the sequel.</p>
<p>Standards addressed:</p>	<p>Common Core Standards</p> <p>Writing Standard 4.3 a–e Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear sequences. (See standards for criteria.)</p> <p>Writing Standard 5.3 a–e 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–Medium</p>
<p>Materials:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with Internet access • LCD projector (if reading as a class) • Paper (optional) • Stapler (optional) • Pens/Pencils (optional) • Crayons/Markers (optional)



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Preparation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct your web browser to the We Give Books website at www.wegivebooks.org.• Log in to your account and select a campaign to support.• Choose a book to read and click the orange “Read Online” button to open it.
Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell students you will read a story that has many different and interesting characters.• Explain to them what a sequel is and tell them that, when the story is finished, they will think about what could happen next to the characters.• Have students list stories for which they know there are sequels (e.g., Star Wars, Harry Potter, etc.).
Activity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the story as a whole class or in small groups.• When the story is finished, talk to students about the characters and the story’s ending.• Ask students to brainstorm things that might happen next to one of the characters, or all of the characters.• Be sure to make note of all of the ideas by writing them down yourself, having students write down their own ideas, or assigning one or two students to be scribes who write down the ideas for the class.• Be sure to tell them that all ideas are good ideas and to use their imagination!
Small group/ adaptation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask students to work together to brainstorm things that might happen next to one of the characters, or all of the characters.• Write down all of the ideas, or assign a couple of students to be scribes who write down the ideas for the class.

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Tips for expansion:

- Have students write their sequel down on paper and edit the story until they have a final draft, or manuscript. This portion of the activity might be incorporated into an English/Language Arts lesson that could span several class periods, depending on your timeframe, or be assigned as homework.
- Once students are satisfied with their story, have them take several pieces of paper (amount will depend on the length of the story), fold them in half, and write and illustrate their own book, being sure to credit themselves as the author and illustrator on the front cover!
- Have a Reading Mentor Day with a lower grade where each student pairs up with a younger student. As a whole group, read the original book on www.wegivebooks.org; then have the older students read the sequel that they wrote to the younger students.
- Have students turn their sequel into a [Shadow Puppet](#) play. 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.