

Activity 5 Create an Alternate Ending



Students become authors and use their imaginations to create an alternate ending for a story. This activity helps put parameters on that imagination by focusing students' creativity to align with the context of the original story.

Learning Objectives

- Create an alternate ending to a story.
- Develop details and events of an alternate ending that are logical and accurate in relation to the context of the story.

Getting Ready

- Select an eBook with a strong story plot.
- Connect your computer or laptop to the whiteboard.
- Have drawing and writing materials available for each pair of students. [Note: If computers and appropriate software are available to students, provide them with an electronic drawing program and also a word processing program. If the technology is not available to the students, drawing materials may be paper, pencils, crayons, markers and similar materials. Writing materials may be paper and pencils or pens.]

eBook Learning Activity

1. Project the eBook onto the whiteboard and read through the selected eBook with the whole class, letting various students take turns reading.
2. While reading, ask comprehension questions every few pages or so as the story progresses.
3. After reading the story, ask students to tell you where in the story the plot intensified to its peak point. Search words or phrases from that part of the story until students agree the current page projected is the climax of the story.
4. Leave the current page with the story climax projected on the whiteboard.
5. Have students group into pairs. Provide each pair of students with writing and drawing materials, either physical or electronic.
6. Ask each pair to work together to write and illustrate how they would end the story. Tell students they need to be prepared to justify how their ending is reasonable and consistent with the existing context of the story. Depending on how many copies of the eBook are available, each pair of students may check out the book to review as they work, or they may take turns doing so.
7. Students may collaborate on both the story ending and the illustration, or one student can create the written ending while the other creates the illustration. [Note: provide guidelines regarding the time allotted; the length you expect; whether they need to include dialogue, action and description or not; and similar objectives you have for their completed work. It is suggested that you ask for 4 to 5 paragraphs and no more than 2 pages of written work and an illustration for each major paragraph, event or idea of the ending.]
8. As students work, they should consider "What would have happened if _____?", "What if _____ had not happened?" and similar questions.
9. Have pairs share their story endings, including their rationale for the ending they created.
10. Display the drawings and illustrations.
11. Compare and contrast the actual and alternate endings.

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Additional Ideas and Alternate Grouping Suggestions

- Have students expand their alternate endings into a PowerPoint slide presentation with a title slide and a specific number of slides to present their alternate ending, including one created piece of artwork or imported image for each slide.
- Have students create an alternate ending to the story, using a number of vocabulary words you have identified from the story.
- Have students individually write a second alternate ending, with a specific focus, e.g. introducing a new character, changing the point of view, altering the problem, etc.