

Activities with Paper

Make a Foldable Book

English Language Arts

K-4

Two Lessons





Overview

Students will produce a small foldable book on which they can write and illustrate an original story. While this lesson focuses on story elements, the small foldable book can also be used for a wide range of academic exercises and is especially useful in Social Studies and Science.


Objectives

Students will

- Follow steps in a process to create an 8-page foldable book
- Review story elements: setting, character, problem and solution, ending
- Write and illustrate an original story that contains each of the main story elements and represents a finished product.

Activities

1. Introduce the task: Explain to students that they will make their very own mini-book. Share that some of the world's greatest authors made books exactly like the kind we will make today. A famous author named Jane Austen, who wrote 200 years ago, wrote most of her books by hand. She created booklets like the kind we will make today because they were small, portable and she could feel her book getting thicker and thicker as she wrote in its tiny pages. For many authors, writing in something that looks and feels like a book is more satisfying than writing on sheets of paper or on a computer.

2.  Take a piece of printer paper. Place it on your desk so that it is in landscape orientation.

3.  Fold it horizontally. Be sure to fold it neatly and to make a firm crease across the paper.
4.  Fold it again.
5.  Fold it a third time.

MATERIALS

- One sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper per student
- A pair of scissors per two students
- A pencil
- Crayons or magic markers


OTHER RESOURCES

This lesson is ideally introduced after students have been taught the following story elements:

- Setting
- Character
- Problem
- Solution
- Ending

Make a Foldable Book



6.  Now, unfold the paper so that it is just folded in half, as pictured left. You should see the indentations of four rectangles.

7.  Cut the middle vertical crease just one square as pictured left.

8.  Next, unfold the entire page.

9.  Now fold it as shown. You should have four squares across, as pictured left.

10.  Open the hole that you cut. It should form a diamond, as pictured left.

-  Push the left and right corners of the diamond together.

11.  It will form an 8-page book with a very thin spine.

12.  Number the pages by writing the number of each page on the lower right corner.



Lesson 2: ELA application: Story Elements

You can use the foldable book to have students review basic story elements including:

- Title
- Setting
- Characters
- Problem
- Solution
- Ending



Step One: First, review the story elements above. You may opt to read a fairy tale and have students identify each of the elements within the story. Point out that all stories have a setting, characters who face a problem, and an ending.

Step Two: Remind students of their foldable book. Ask if they would like to write their own story in their foldable book. Have students turn to page 2 of their foldable book. Ask students to select a setting for their story. You can jumpstart this process by having a group brainstorm about settings. List the settings on the board. When students have selected a setting, they should draw it on page 2 of their foldable book. Then, they should write a sentence establishing the setting on the bottom of page 2.

Step Three: Allow students a few minutes to dream up a main character or characters. As a group, you can brainstorm a list of characters and their characteristics. When students have selected a main character or characters, they should draw it or them on page 3. They should then write a sentence or two introducing the main character (s) on the bottom of page 3.

Step Four: Ask students to give their main character(s) a problem. As a class, brainstorm a list of problems that someone may have. When students have selected a problem for their character(s), they should draw it on page 4. Then, they should both draw and write a sentence or two about the problem facing their characters on the bottom of page 4.

Step Five: Explain that readers have to understand why it is so important that the problem is solved. Ask: "What will happen to your character if the problem is not solved?" If the consequence is not grave, then the reader will not care much about the problem. As a class, brainstorm a list of consequences that may happen if a problem is not solved. On page 5, students should both draw and explain why the problem facing their characters is so grave.



Step Six: Tell students to dream up a way their characters try to solve the problem—but keep in mind that this first attempt to solve the problem cannot succeed. On page 6, students must both explain how students try to solve the problem and why they fail. On this page, they may opt to write only and not draw.

Step Seven: Ask students to find a second way characters try to solve their problem...and make this solution a success. On page 7 and 8, students should write and draw a happy resolution to their characters' predicament.

Step Eight: Hold mini-conferences with students in which students read their stories to you. Give them feedback and praise and encourage them to make any revisions necessary. One-on-one feedback on creative stories is invaluable to the development of young writers.

Step Nine: Have students create a title for their story and write it on their cover page together with their name as author. They should illustrate the cover as well.

Step Ten: Create a “mini-book library” in your classroom where all the foldable books are on display. Provide time for students to read each other's books and discuss them with the authors.

Adaptations

For students with significant difficulty following instructions, you may find the attached visual helpful. We recommend producing an already folded sheet with the section to be cut colored. This will allow students the option cut the necessary section and do the last step in the production process.

Page 6	Page 5	Page 4	Page 3
cut here			
Back Cover	Front Cover	Page 1	Page 2

Evaluation

Evaluate student mastery of this skill by checking that the foldable book is neatly assembled and that pages are numbered correctly. Also, check that the student has correctly introduced each element on the relevant page. While this activity is largely a “story elements review” exercise, students should feel encouraged to use this structure to tell a really enjoyable story. Read their stories aloud and congratulate students on good storytelling—always making sure to explain what makes their storytelling effective.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing a Story using Story Elements

Use these directions to help organize your story.

Front Cover: Write the title of the book and draw a picture. Also, write your name as author.

Page 1: Draw the setting of your story. Add a sentence to describe the time and place your story is set in.

Page 2: Draw the main character(s) in your story. Write a sentence in which you introduce the main character(s).

Page 3: Give your main character (s) a problem.

Page 4: Explain why the problem has to be solved.

Page 5: Explain one way the character tried to solve the problem...and why it didn't work.

Page 6: Explain another way the character tried to solve the problem...and why it worked.

Back Cover: Bring your story to a satisfying conclusion.

Use the picture below to make sure you are formatting your book correctly!

Page 6	Page 5	Page 4	Page 3
cut here			
Back Cover	Front Cover	Page 1	Page 2

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Practice Sample Story

<p>Cinderella was about to give in to despair when suddenly her fairy godmother appeared. "You shall go to the Ball, my dear," the fairy godmother said. And with a wave of her wand, Cinderella was dressed for the Ball and ready to go! Thank goodness for fairy godmothers!</p>	<p>Amazingly, Cinderella managed to complete all 2,234 chores! She ran to her stepmother and asked, "Can I go to the Ball?" Her stepmother looked at her coldly. "No," her stepmother replied. "But you promised!" Cinderella wailed. "But I lied!" her stepmother smiled.</p>	<p>Meeting the Prince was Cinderella's only chance of escaping her stepmother's evil clutches. She had to go to the Ball. She simply had to!</p>	<p>Cinderella desperately wanted to go to a Ball that the Prince was having. Unfortunately, her stepmother said she had to do 2,234 chores instead!</p>
<p>In this spellbinding tale of treachery and deceit, a young girl tries to overcome her hardships to make a better life for herself. Will she succeed? Read <i>Cinderella</i> to find out!</p>	<div> <div>Cinderella</div> <div></div> <div>By</div> </div>	<p>Long, long ago, in a lovely village in the countryside, there lived a young girl.</p>	<p>Her name was Cinderella. She lived with her stepmother and her two stepsisters. I am sorry to tell you that they treated Cinderella very poorly.</p>

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