



# Classroom Activities Teacher's Guide

Enclosed in this packet are a series of resources to help your students break down the process of story writing.

## Activity 1: Get Ready to Write!

### Activity Objective:

This worksheet is intended to help your students start to form ideas for potential stories. The activity provides your students with a blank page to freely develop story ideas through text and illustration. Serving as a precursor to the Brainstorming sheet, this is a place for the child to draw or write topic ideas for their story.

### Potential Prompt:

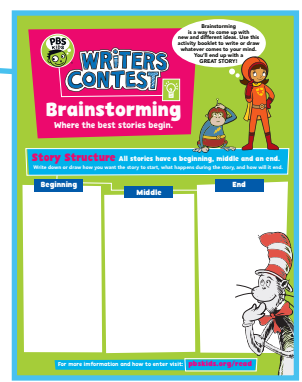
All stories start with an idea of the characters, places or events that will be in the story. You can draw/write any idea you have in this space and then we'll talk about how it might become a story.



## Activity 2: Brainstorming

### Activity Objective:

Even short stories are complex, and require students to work on a number of elements: characters, plot/story structure, climax/resolution, and setting. This worksheet is intended to help your students expand upon their story idea(s) to develop a strong story.



The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is produced by PBS and is based on the Reading Rainbow® Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, a concept developed by WNED. National prizing and promotional considerations provided by LeapFrog® with additional promotional support from Highlights for Children®.

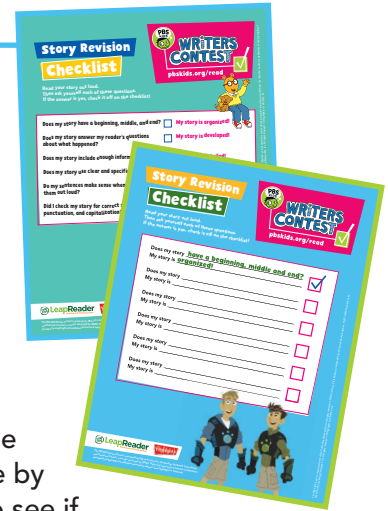
### Activity 3: Revising

#### Activity Objective:

This worksheet is intended to help your students develop self-criticism skills so that they can refine and improve their stories. There are two versions of this worksheet, one with the questions and answers filled out and one with blank questions and answers for you to fill out based on the reading and writing skills of your students.

#### Potential Prompt:

How are you feeling about your stories? Do they hold your interest? One of the hardest things to do as a writer is to review and revise your stories. This is done by "critiquing" your story, which means evaluating all of the parts of your story to see if they are what you want. As you read through your stories, ask yourself the questions on the worksheet. If you don't think you can check off the boxes, think about how you can change, or revise, your story so that you can check off each of the boxes.



### Activity 4: Illustrations

#### Activity Objective:

This worksheet is intended to help your students practice making thoughtful, engaging illustrations for their stories. On the worksheet are some examples of words that you can write into the boxes if you would like to provide the students with the words.

You can also allow your students to pick words or phrases from their own stories and have them draw corresponding images.

#### Potential Prompt:

Lots of books have both pictures and words. The pictures are important because they can show things that aren't in the words of the story, and they can add funny, happy, sad or scary feelings to the story. (You can show examples of books with illustrations and talk about elements and feelings). In this worksheet you will draw an illustration of the word or words in each box. When you do this, try to show something about the word that helps tell more. *For example, for the word "school" is it a red school? Is it a school in winter?* You can use a picture to tell more about the people, places and events in your story.



### Supplementary Worksheet: Caption Writing

#### Activity Objective:

This supplementary worksheet is designed to help children think about the relationship of images and illustrations to text, or captions. The worksheet provides a few examples of pictures and captions. You can leave the rest of the worksheet blank for your students to draw pictures and write captions for that that picture or you can pre-populate some of the spaces with images to help your student relate current lessons to the story writing project.

