

Summer Reading Activities



	First Grade – Activity #8
Title	Tell, Sketch, and Write a Story
Parent Information	<p>Our lives are full of moments that can become opportunities to share oral and written stories. Have you ever spilled your coffee in the car, or found something special you thought was lost? Helping our children recognize small moment “stories” throughout the day can support oral language, early writing development, and an understanding of story structure and elements.</p> <p>Our memories or “stories” are often tied to emotion. Help your child identify the emotion that is connected to the event or memory to enhance the storytelling activity.</p> <p>Once a child has orally shared a story, they can also plan the story by sketching the beginning, middle, end. The sketch should include the characters, setting, and the significant event. Details such as labels and thought or speech bubbles for dialogue can also be included to build on the story telling experience. After the story is planned, children can write the story, matching the written text to the story plan. Encourage 1-2 sentences for each part of the story. This is also a great time to practice handwriting and writing conventions (capitals, punctuation, spelling, and spacing).</p>
Objective	Tell, plan, and write a story about something that happened to you
Time	20 – 30 minutes
Materials	Paper and pencil
Procedures	<p>Oral Story Talk with your child about their day to help identify a moment that could be used for a story (Ex. That was such a fun bike ride until we got to the hill.).</p> <p>Encourage your child to tell you about the event in a logical order from beginning to end. Prompt as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was there? (characters) • Where were you? (setting) • What were you doing before the hill? (beginning) • What did you do when you saw the hill? (middle) • How did that make you feel? (emotion) • What happened next or after that? (end) • How did you feel? (emotion) • Did you say anything or what were you thinking? (dialogue)

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Story Plan

Once they have orally shared the story, encourage your child to complete a quick sketch to plan the written story.

- That was such a great story! Let's plan the story out so you can remember all the details when it is time to write!
- Have your child complete a quick pencil sketch of the story with a beginning, middle, and ending section.
- The sketch should include all story elements (character, setting, event, emotion, and dialogue) and any key details.

B	M	E

Written Story

After the sketch is complete talk about the story your child will be writing. Encourage your child to use descriptive language and transitions to help the writing sound like a story instead of a list.

- What is something you could write to match the beginning of your story? (Ex. It was the perfect summer day for a bike ride. We rode easily down the path.)
- What sentence(s) would match the middle of your story? (Ex. Suddenly, there was an enormous hill!)
- What will you write at the end? (Ex. We had to huff and puff our way to the top. "Ugh!")
- Encourage your child to begin each sentence with a capital letter and lowercase letters to follow, include spaces between words, and end with the appropriate punctuation.
- Students should do their best spelling by using what they know about letter/sound relationships and sight word vocabulary. Encourage them to chunk and stretch out the sounds to write the words (Ex. /p/ /a/ /th/ - path.)
- Encourage your child to illustrate, read, and share their story with other family members.
- Save your child's stories to make a book of summer memories.

Additional Resources and Information

Visit Scholastic:

[Writing: 1st Grade](#)

Visit Reading Rockets:

[Writing Activities for Your First Grader](#)