 INCLUDED IN YOUR LESSON PLAN

Equipment
A list of materials - all the things you will need to complete this lesson.

Instructions
A step-by-step guide on how to use this lesson plan, and have fun writing.

Extension activities
Extra activities in case you don't want the writing fun to end.

OBJECTIVES
What the writer will learn

How to make a story interesting by creating a problem for your main character and introducing a second character who creates conflict in the story by making things difficult for the 'hero/heroine'.

How to create a story that hooks the reader from the start and keeps them reading till the end.

Who is this Lesson Plan for?

This lesson plan is for teens and adults who have created a hero and a villain, and want to know how to put these characters into a story.

This lesson will help you use the information you collected when you developed your characters, to decide what is going to happen in your story.

You will use this information to create a plot with a story problem, a beginning, a middle and an end.
INTRODUCTION

A story isn't really a story unless something happens in it.

For example a piece of writing about a boy or girl riding their bike to school isn't a story unless something happens to them along the way eg, they fall or are pushed off their bike, somebody tries to kidnap them, they find a lost dog, they find a sack of money hidden in a tree etc.

Then things need to keep happening to the character so that the reader will stay interested and keep reading.

In this session you will use your hero and villain and put them in a story and make something happen to them.

It's up to you and your imagination to decide what happens, where, when and how it happens.

The thing that happens will need to cause a problem for your main character.

They will have to resolve the problem or learn to deal with it. This is usually where your story ends.

MATERIALS

What the writer will need.

1. A comfortable place to write
2. Something to write on and with
3. A profile/background information for a hero and one for a villain (you will learn how to do this in Heroes & Villains Part 1 - Create Great Characters.)
4. A blank piece of paper to plan your story on.
5. Your imagination.

PREPARATION

Warm up exercises

This is what we do to get our brains into gear for writing.

Make a list of problems or obstacles that a character might have - think of problems that real people face like hunger, thirst, homelessness, lack of shelter, fear for the safety, something important taken from them.

To help you, you can list problems you or someone you know has faced recently, or perhaps problems you read about in a book.
STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use the hero you created in *Heroes & Villains Part 1* and make a list of problems they might have to face. Try and think of situations in which the villain might be involved and could even be the cause of the problem.

Here are some sample scenarios of situations where your hero and villain could come into conflict. You can use one of these in your story or think up your own:

- Your hero and villain are stuck in an elevator together and are running out of oxygen.
- Your hero and villain are locked in the school gym together. If they’re late to practice, they miss out on being in the school sport’s team.
- Your hero and villain are in a cave together and only one of them can reach the elixir of life in time.
- Your hero and villain are both being chased by a bear.
- The hero and villain are in a sinking ship and will both drown unless one of them jumps off.
- Your hero and villain are reaching for the same weapon.
- The villain has locked the hero in a jail cell and the escape button is just outside the door.
- The hero and villain are standing on the edge of a cliff. A mountain lion is coming for them and there’s only one escape rope.

Once you have an idea for a story, you need to work out what will happen, and in what order.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. **What** is the problem being faced by your main character?
2. **Where** is it taking place?
3. **When** is it taking place?
4. **Who** or what is causing the problem?
5. **How** does main character plan to fix things?
6. **What** further problems arise?
7. **What** happens next?
8. **How** does the main character actually fix things?
9. **What** happens in the end?
10. **How** is the main character changed by what happened to them?

Areas of Learning

You’ll learn how to plan a story and work out which parts go where.

You’ll also learn now to use characters in a story.

You will review what happens in the story.

Finishing a story is one of the hardest things for a writer.

Following the steps outlined in this plan will help you follow your story through to the finish.

You will use your own personal responses to things to decide on your character’s actions.
3  Next you need to work out the order that things will occur in your story.

We will go into more detail in the "Plotting" lesson plan, but here's something simple you can do.

Draw a table with three columns.

Label the columns, Beginning, Middle and End.

Use the answers to the plot questions that you gathered in part (2) of this activity.

Assign them the appropriate spots in your story. Below is an example of how I would do this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEGINNING</th>
<th>MIDDLE</th>
<th>END</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is main character's problem?</td>
<td>How does main character plan to fix things?</td>
<td>How does the main character fix things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where and When is action taking place?</td>
<td>What further problems arise? (You need ongoing conflict to keep your reader interested.)</td>
<td>What happens in the end?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who or what is causing the problem? (We need to be introduced to the villain early on too.)</td>
<td>What happens next? (What is the impact of these new problems on the main character?)</td>
<td>How has the main character been changed by what happened to them?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXTENSION**

After doing these Heroes and Villains workshops, you will now have a good understanding of who your main character is, and what their problems or obstacles are.

If you have answered the questions from the above table, you will also have a rough plot outline.

Now that you have a plan for your story, go ahead and write it.

*Remember to use your five senses; sight, smell, taste, sound and touch, to make your story more interesting for the reader.*

**Reflections and/or Assessment tasks**

1. Why is it important to plan your story?
2. What does every story need to turn it from an event into a story?
3. Does your story have one of these?
4. How relevant is setting to your story?
5. Think of a scenario to put your hero and villain in conflict.

**TIPS**

1. Every story needs conflict
2. That means there must be someone or something causing problems for your main character.
3. How your character deals with these problems or obstacles will depend on the type of person they are.
About

Writing Classes for Kids

I set up Writing Classes for Kids because I wanted to create affordable classes for kids and teens who love to write.
I also wanted to create a resource for teachers and home schoolers, to be used in the classroom or home.
As a published author and journalist, I’m giving young and new adult writers a guide to crafting stories and non-fiction pieces.
My classes/lesson plans will give kids ideas to get started, ways of structuring, plotting, characterisation and setting.
I’ll also provide suggestions for writing tight, being logical, sequencing and other skills that can be applied to essay writing and various text types.

THE LESSON PLANS

There are lesson plans for writers aged 8 to adult.
I’m launching with a FREE lesson plan plus the following detailed five lesson plans:

Teen to Adult
  1. Heroes & Villains part one - Create great Characters
  2. Heroes & Villains part two - Create a story for your Hero & Villain

Writers 8-12
  1. Writing For Fun - Picture This
  2. Writing For Fun - Pets & Animals
  3. Writing For Fun - Old Character, New Story

Future Lesson Plans
Lesson plans on the blog will be updated regularly. Here’s a sneak peak at some of the topics to be added as we go:
• Mindmapping
• Plotting
• Writing Anthology Pieces
• Grammar & Tense
• Essay Writing
• Story Pyramids
• Character Collages
• Setting
• Dialogue
• Non fiction beginnings
• Fiction beginnings

If you’d like to see a lesson plan developed on a particular topic for a particular age group, please feel free to email me at:

My Writing & Teaching Experience

I worked as an advertising copywriter and a journalist before having my first book published in 2008.
I have a Diploma in Professional Writing & Editing, a Diploma in Journalism and a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment.
I have run writing workshops for primary & secondary students and adults throughout Australia with sessions focussing on story ideas, plot, character and setting.
I have worked with school groups to develop student anthologies and can create reading and writing activities to meet a range of curriculum needs.
I love mentoring young writers, and hope that my sessions will help you explore the wonderful world of your imagination.

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