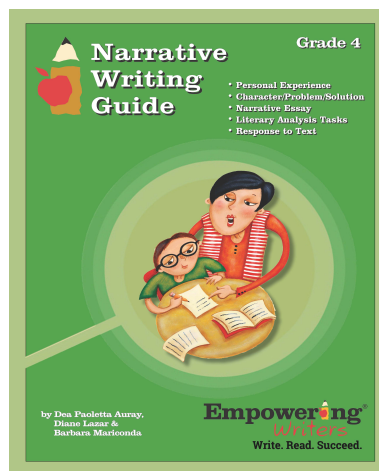




Grade 4 Narrative Writing Guide

Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 6: Endings



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Name _____

ANALYZE THIS ENDING! (1)

Read this story ending.

- Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
- Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
- Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
- Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

Tim leaned back against the building and heaved a sigh of relief. It had been close, that’s for sure. When he shut his eyes he could still see the huge, slobbering dog snarling and snapping at him. He knew that if he ever wanted to explore the junkyard again, he’d check first to see if the dog was there. And he’d come armed with some dog biscuits or a very big bone!

THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

Name _____

ANALYZE THIS ENDING! (2)

Read this story ending.

- Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
- Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
- Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
- Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN
- Underline the main character’s defining action in YELLOW.

I hug my little bundle of joy close to my neck and breathe in its sweet smell. The trip to the shelter is forever etched in my mind as I recall all of the animals waiting for their forever homes. Choosing was the hardest part and my heart feels sad for the others who were not adopted today. I decided from here on in, I will volunteer to help get the other animals adopted. My perfect Siamese kitten will be my constant companion and maybe one day I’ll get to take home another deserving pet.

THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

Name _____

ANALYZE THIS ENDING! (3)

Read this story ending.

- Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
- Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
- Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
- Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN
- Underline the main character’s defining action in YELLOW.

I shuddered at the thought of the sound of the deafening wind and rain. I had clung to my mom and whispered soft words of encouragement to keep her from crying. In those terrifying moments, the house shook and the walls felt like they were about to collapse around us. It was now clear to me why people build underground shelters. Reliving that moment, I hoped that I would never experience another tornado as long as I live.

THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

Name _____

ANALYZE THIS ENDING! (4)

Read this story ending.

- Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
- Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
- Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
- Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN
- Underline the main character’s defining action in YELLOW.

Mari smiled as she walked up the dock. The sight of the majestic animal leaping out of the water continued to play in her mind like a video. The fear of being so far out in the water was a distant memory as Mari realized that a whale watch is an incredible experience. One she will have again and again. In fact, now she wants to explore the possibility of being an oceanographer in the future.

THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!



Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! (1)

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a time I went fishing. I hooked something really BIG. It was a sea monster. I discovered it was friendly and let it go. We remained friends from that day on.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, I let my new friend go. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.



Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! (2)

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a time I made pizza from scratch. I made the dough myself, cooked the sauce, and added the cheese. It was delicious.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

**I finished cooking the pizza and ate it all. It was delicious!
THE END**

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.

Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! (3)

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about going on vacation with my Grandma at Disneyworld. We rode every ride and had fun.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

**I had the best time in Disneyworld with my Grandma.
THE END**

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.



Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! (4)

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about going to my first rodeo. I ate a ton of food. There was steer wrestling and roping events. Watching the bull riding was my favorite event. I'm going back next year.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

That's the story of my first rodeo. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character's memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.

Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! - MAKE-IT-YOUR-OWN

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Write a story summary:

Now write a boring story ending.

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character's memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.



Name _____

Read this retelling of the story of "The Three Little Pigs". The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying. Instead of the usual, "and they lived happily ever after" ending, write an extended ending. Include the Smart Pig's memories and feelings about the main event, and any decisions, wishes, or hopes he has as a result.

The Three Little Pigs

"I'm telling you two," said Smart Pig, "building a house takes a lot of careful planning!"

"Hogwash!" said his two brothers, both glued to the T.V. set. They were all getting ready to leave home for the first time, to make their way in the world on their own.

"Okay," said Smart Pig in a huffy way. "You two can sit there watching Porky Pig reruns. I'm going off to plan my house!"

"Goodbye," said the two Pig brothers, their eyes never leaving the screen.

So Smart Pig set off in his shiny red truck for the Home Improvement and Building Supply Store. He marched inside. A salesman approached him.

"May I help you?" asked the salesman.

"Yes," said Smart Pig. "I am planning on building a house. I need to buy my supplies."

The salesman nodded and pointed to a display on his right. "We have a special on this fine thatching straw," he said. "A dollar a truckload, while supplies last."

Smart Pig poked at the straggly straw. He blew on it and watched it fly this way and that.

"No," said Smart Pig. "This straw will never do. I want to build a strong house."

"You certainly are a smart pig," said the salesman.

"That's my name," said Smart Pig, smiling proudly.

The salesman pointed to a display on his left. "These sticks are stronger than the straw. Buy five, get one free!"

Smart Pig scratched his head. He looked at the skinny wooden sticks. "Hmm..." he said, as he tapped at the sticks. "Hmmm...." He picked one up and bent it across his chubby little knee.

CRACK! It broke in two.

"Please, sir," said the salesman, "Don't handle the merchandise like that!"

Smart Pig shook his head. "These sticks will never do. I want to build a really strong house."

(continued)

“You certainly are a smart pig,” said the salesman.

“That’s my name,” said Smart Pig, smiling proudly.

The salesman pointed to a display in the corner. “These bricks are the strongest things we have. Only ninety nine cents each with an eighty nine cent mail in rebate.

Smart Pig took his time. He blew on each brick. He tapped them, and scratched at them. They seemed very strong.

“Okay,” said Smart Pig. “I’ll take them! Let’s load up the truck!”

When Smart Pig had the truck loaded he drove to his building lot. He hopped out. He measured, dug, measured, mixed cement, measured again, poured cement, and laid the bricks one by one. As he was working he saw his two brothers at their lots, one on the right and one on the left. The first brother threw together a straw house.

“A dollar a truckload,” he hollered, pointing to the flimsy straw. “I had enough money left to buy a color T.V.” he squealed. Smart Pig grunted and shook his head.

“You’ll be sorry,” he snorted.

The second brother threw together a stick house. “Buy five, get one free,” he hollered, pointing to his skinny sticks. “I had enough money left over to buy a color T.V.” he squealed. Smart Pig grunted and shook his head.

“You’ll be sorry too,” he snorted.

That night Smart Pig finally finished his strong brick house and settled down in his parlor. Suddenly there was a terrible commotion outside. There was a lot of huffing and puffing, snarling and squealing. When Smart Pig looked out the door he saw his first brother’s straw house blowing down the avenue. His brother was running toward the stick house, with a terrible wolf right on his curly little tail.

“Oh boy,” said Smart Pig. He held his breath as his brother ran into the stick house. He made it, but just by the hair on his chinny chin chin.

Then came the next terrible commotion. There was a lot of huffing and puffing, snarling and squealing. There were suddenly a lot of sticks tumbling down the avenue. Now both of his brothers were running toward his brick house with the terrible wolf on their curly little tails.

“I notice neither one of them is carrying a color T.V.” said Smart Pig shaking his head with a sigh. He rushed to the door and held it wide open. “Hurry up you two,” he snorted.

They ran in, and made it just in time, just by the hairs of their chinny chin chins. Smart Pig was glad he’d bought the double steel door. The wolf, however, was not glad.

Charging into it gave him a terrible bump on his chinny chin chin.

The three brothers watched the terrible wolf head back down the road. THE END

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (1) - ENDINGS

Read this story **ending**. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

So that is the story of my big soccer victory. THE END.

Revise this by writing an **extended story ending**.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of the soccer game.
- A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
- The main character's feelings about the game.
- A decision that the main character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the main character feels.

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (2) - ENDINGS

Read this story **ending**. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

It was really frightening but we finally landed safe and sound at the airport. THE END.

Revise this by writing an **extended story ending**.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of the airplane ride.
- A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
- The main character's feelings about the experience.
- A decision that the main character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the main character feels.

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (3) - ENDINGS

Read this story **ending**. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

**My bedroom looked great and a
I was so glad we redecorated.
THE END.**

Revise this by writing an **extended story ending**.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of what the room looked like before decorating.
- A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
- The main character's feelings about the experience.
- A decision that the main character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the main character feels.

Name _____

Magic Out My Window

Something just outside the window catches my eye. I gaze into the sage green leaves and purple blossoms of the butterfly bush, its branches dancing gracefully in the breeze. There it is perched on one of the coneshaped flowers! I gasp in delight and slowly, quietly move toward the window. I sit back on my heels and settle myself comfortably, at eye level with this gorgeous jewel of nature.

The delicate specimen lazily opens and closes its wings like a small insect fan. The wings resemble colorful stained glass windows with symmetrical designs in shades of turquoise, purple, and black. Surprisingly, the under sides of the wings are different – brilliant orange and iridescent gold dots and blotches stand out on a background of black.

I reach for the giant magnifying glass on my desk, hoping it will help me get a better, up close and personal glance at this exotic creature! Its head and body are black with white polka dots. Two slender antennae curve down in front of its alien-like head. I watch, fascinated, as its skinny wand of a tongue probes the flower, probably looking for pollen.

I smile at the sight of this fascinating creature with its thin, segmented torso. I stretch out my arms and enjoy the warm sun shining on my shoulders and laugh at the thought of both of us – the butterfly and me – basking in the golden rays of this summer afternoon.

The scent of roses and fresh cut grass wafts through the window. I imagine the butterfly enjoying the scent as well. As if reading my mind, she flutters her wings and bobs on an invisible air-stream away from the

window. I stand up to see where she's going, sad to see my unsuspecting friend go. I see her flitting from branch to branch until she lights on the tumble of wild red roses. Her vibrant colors stand out even more against the scarlet flowers. She seems undisturbed by the screech of a blue jay nearby or the rhythmic patter of a woodpecker on a nearby tree. She continues on, floating this way and that until she is out of my range. I sigh, sorry to have her leave me.

That's when I get the idea. I head to the kitchen, grab my brother's digital camera, and head out into the yard. I look among the bushes and flowers that line the lawn until I catch sight of her. Then I calmly approach, raise the camera, and SNAP! Again, and this time I activate the zoom lens.

I smile at the image I carry back inside with me. This will help me capture and save these lovely few minutes my butterfly friend shared with me. I know when winter comes I'll look at the photo, smile, and remember the gift of this lazy summer day. Without a doubt, as snow is falling, this photo will make me hope for an early spring!



Name _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS TASK: EXTENDED ENDINGS

You've read the story Magic Out My Window. In this personal experience narrative, the author includes a lot of elaborative detail but the plot doesn't include a lot of action. The main character quietly observes the setting. Write an essay to identify the theme of the story and explain the main character's point of view. Provide evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Your teacher will walk you through the following STEPS:

1. Read, annotate, analyze, and summarize the story.
2. Fill in the following:
 - Who is the main **point of view** character? _____
 - What is the **setting**? _____

 - What is the main character's **motivation**? (What does she/he **want**?) _____

 - What is the **conflict**? (Who or what stands in the way of the main character's motivation?) _____
 - Fill in the summarizing framework that outlines the **plot**.

This story is about _____ .
The problem / adventure / experience _____ .
The problem was solved, experience or adventure concluded when _____ .

- What is the **theme**? _____
3. Consider the task:
 - What is the theme of the story?
 - How do you know this is the theme?
 - What is the main character's point of view?
 4. Your teacher will MODEL this process with you. You may use the sentence starters to help you cite examples in the source text.

SENTENCE STARTERS:

- This personal experience narrative focused on _____.
- The theme is clearly _____.
- Throughout the story the controlling idea _____.
- In each paragraph _____.
- Further evidence of this is _____.
- For example, in paragraph _____.
- The author writes _____.
- The theme is also evident when _____.
- The author illustrates this _____.
- The reader understands this when _____.
- At the end of the story _____.
- Certainly, _____.

Name _____

NARRATIVE EXTENSION TASK: EXTENDED ENDINGS

You've read the story Magic Out My Window that ends with the main character photographing the butterfly to help remember how beautiful the spring scene with the butterfly had been. What other ways might there be to preserve a memory or capture an important moment? Rewrite paragraphs 6 and 7, ending the story with the main character using some other means of remembering.

Fill in the summarizing framework for the original story:

This story is about _____.

The problem/adventure/experience was _____.

The problem was solved, experience or adventure concluded when _____.

Now, imagine your revised ending. Fill in the summarizing framework indicating your changes:

This story is about _____.

The problem/adventure/experience was _____.

The problem was solved, experience or adventure concluded when _____.

REMEMBER: Use the productive questions to fully elaborate your Extended Ending:

- **MEMORY:** What did you remember most?
- **FEELING:** How did you feel about the experience?
- **HOPE/WISH:** What did you hope or wish for?
- **DECISION:** What did you decide?
- **DEFINING ACTION:** What did you DO?

On another paper, write your new **EXTENDED ENDING!**