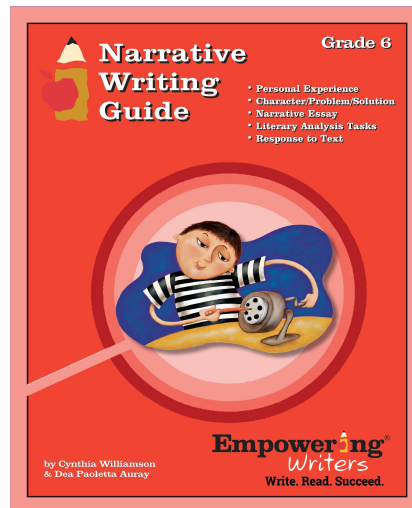




Grade 6 Narrative Writing Guide

Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 6: Endings



www.empoweringwriters.com
1-866-285-3516

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.

I lay awake until late that night thinking about how hurt and angry Daisy had been when she discovered that I’d spread the ridiculous rumor. What had I been thinking? Knowing I could lose my best friend over one reckless mistake made me feel furious with myself. I promised that I’d never again spread a rumor or listen to mean-spirited gossip. I hoped Daisy would realize how sorry I was and give me a second chance!

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.

It was a day that started with a daring idea and ended with a terrifying escapade. An icy chill raced up my spine when I thought about what could have happened. From now on, I was sticking to walking and bike riding. There was plenty of time for driving in just a few years.

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 story is about a girl named Molly who is convinced that she saw a real ghost at a haunted house.

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

So Molly realized she was wrong about the ghost. 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 story is about a girl who is unhappy about having braces on her teeth but learns that it's really no big deal.

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

**Having braces on my teeth wasn't the end of the world.
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 story inspired by the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying. Instead of the usual, “and they lived happily ever after” ending, write an extended ending. Include Jack’s memories and feelings about the main event, and any decisions, wishes or hopes he has as a result.

Jack and the Sugar Stalk

It wasn’t so long ago that a boy named Jack lived in a cozy cottage near a field of wildflowers with his family. Jack’s mom and dad were expert gardeners who taught Jack all they knew about working the land. Every summer, their garden was bursting with crunchy, crisp vegetables for salads. Berries grew in their brambles and grapes thrived on their vines. In the fall, they harvested bushels of juicy apples, pears and peaches. Together, they produced a bounty of delicious food for themselves and their neighbors, but doing so was a lot of work.

“I am so sick of pulling weeds,” Jack grumbled as he toiled away in the garden one sunny day. “And I am not only tired of picking grapes, but I’m sick of eating them too. I want candy!”

“Candy?” His mother was horrified. “Candy rots your teeth!” she said.

“Have a handful of berries if you have a taste for something sweet,” his dad suggested. “And finish pulling those weeds.”

Jack did as he was told, but he was seething with self-pity, convinced that he worked too hard and got too little in return. He dreamed of sleeping late on sunny mornings, napping on rainy afternoons and feasting on gooey marshmallows and cones of spun sugar until late at night. As the days wore on, these dreams only became more vivid.

On one particularly hot day, the unhappy boy was toiling away in the garden when he noticed an unfamiliar plant growing in a corner of his plot. He was delighted to discover that it was a stalk of sugar cane. Right then and there, he vowed to nurture the plant until it could be harvested for mountains of sugar.

Jack did just that. Day after day, he watered and fertilized the stalk of sugar. Soon, the plant was as tall as a tree and as wide around as the tires

on his family's tractor. Jack was admiring it when he noticed birds chirping happily as they pecked away at the sweetness of the stem. He climbed the stalk to shoo them away but every time one bird flew away, another appeared higher on the glossy green plant. So Jack climbed higher and higher. His muscles were aching by the time he reached the top and shooed away the very last bird. Before he went to bed that night, he pumped a bucket of pure, clear liquid from the well and watered his sugar stalk for the second time that day. The plant soaked it up eagerly.

The next morning, he was amazed to see how much the sugar stalk had grown. More magnificent than ever, it now soared straight into the blue sky and disappeared behind a fluffy cloud. But, once again, birds had flocked to the tall stalk to feast upon its irresistible sweetness. Just as he'd done the day before, Jack climbed the sugar stalk and shooed them away.

He climbed to the very top of the sugar stalk where it was shrouded with cloud and let himself fall into its cushiony softness to take a rest. He fell asleep dreaming of lazy summer mornings and rainy afternoons, of gooey marshmallows and cones of spun sugar. When he awakened, he discovered that the birds had pecked away his entire sugar stalk with their sharp beaks.

He looked down and saw his parents looking for him in the garden where the sugar stalk had once grown.

"Here I am," he called to them. "Come get me."

But they couldn't hear him and as the evening wore on Jack felt his stomach start to rumble. What would he have for dinner? Desperately, he tasted a handful of cloud and found that it melted in his mouth like spun sugar. He grabbed another handful and it was just as sweet as a marshmallow.

To this day, Jack lives high in the skies above your town and every day he has nothing to do but feast upon the spun sugar and gooey marshmallow sweetness of the clouds. **THE END**

Name _____

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!

That's why I'll never forget the day we hiked to the top of mountain! THE END.

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

Include at least 3 of the following:

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

Revision:

Name _____

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!

**I was sad when our adventure was over.
THE END**

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

Include at least 3 of the following:

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

Revision:

Name _____

The Case of the Missing Strawberries

Our community garden was flourishing. On my family's plot alone, the peppers and tomatoes had sprouted, and best of all, there were hundreds of tiny white flowers blooming in the strawberry patch. Each one would grow into a bite-sized, ruby-red orb of deliciousness! We were the only family to have planted strawberries in their plot and my friend Fred was really envious.

"Brussels sprouts, broccoli and kale," he complained. "That's all we're growing in our garden. Why can't we grow something delicious like your strawberries, Tony?"

I just shrugged. What could I say? Clearly, his family thought that vegetables were more important than sweet, juicy berries. When he was grown up, Fred dreamed of living in the country with a yard full of blueberry bushes, grape vines and, of course, a big strawberry patch. Until then, all he had to work with were crops chosen by his practical parents and this 10x12 community garden plot in the middle of the busy city where sirens blared and people crowded the sidewalks around the clock.

Every day, it seemed, I had to remind him that our small plots were better than nothing. We were both city boys, but we loved getting our hands dirty in the garden. That's where you could find us on most days after school and on Saturday mornings carefully weeding and watering our thriving plants.

As the days grew warmer and the sun beamed down on my berry patch, I started counting down the days until the fabulous fruit could be harvested. All the other members of the community garden admired my berry patch and once I'd caught a little girl from the neighborhood leaving the garden with strawberry juice running down her chin. I wasn't pleased, but I forgave her in an instant. After all, she'd only taken one and those berries were hard to resist.

(continued)

Finally, harvest day came. It was a Saturday, the day of our annual block party, and I was going to make a big strawberry shortcake to share with the whole neighborhood. Everybody on West 80th Street looked forward to this yearly picnic when we'd close the street to traffic and play "kick the can" right in the middle of the deserted road. We'd barbecue on the sidewalk and everybody brought food to share, including crisp salads made from the greens grown in the community garden. Last year, our family had contributed a vat of crunchy, spicy pickles made from cucumbers we'd grown ourselves. Everybody had loved them! This year, they'd be even more pleased with the home-grown treat we were bringing.

I got up early on the day of the block party and found Mom busily baking in the kitchen. As I ran down to the community garden, I could smell the light fragrance of her sweet, crumbly shortcakes in the air and I felt really excited about the day ahead. But my spirits took a nose-dive when I arrived at my plot and realized there'd been an unwelcome visitor to my strawberry patch. Stunned, I searched through the wide, green leaves of the strawberry plants. Not a single berry remained. I clapped my hand to my forehead and clenched my fists with rage. Who would have done such a thing? I put on my detective's hat.

My first suspect was the little girl but that didn't make sense. She was always accompanied by her mother, who was a trusted friend of my mom's. Of course, any member of the community garden could have been the berry burglar, but we all knew better than to steal from somebody else's plot. Then it hit me: Fred. He'd definitely had the opportunity — and those strawberries were, after all, hard to resist. But he was my friend and he knew how much I'd been looking forward to picking and sharing my strawberries. How could he betray me like that?

At the block party, I confronted him.

“I didn’t take your berries,” he said. I’d never do something like that,” he said.

“Well, somebody did,” I said, angrily stomping away in frustration. Fred seemed honestly dumbfounded at my accusation. If he’d just admit it, I’d forgive him, but he denied it over and over again. I wanted to believe him, but who else could have stolen the strawberries?

I got an answer to that question later in the evening when I walked past the community garden and saw a round, furry body squeezing itself under the fence. It was a woodchuck who probably lived in the park a few blocks over. The well-fed creature waddled over to Fred’s plot and began feasting on curly leaves of kale. Case closed. Critter forgiven.

When I tried to apologize to Fred, he accused me of taking his kale! I guess I deserved that. I sincerely hope he will forgive me and we can be friends again someday. These days, when I am working in the garden all by myself, I am reminded that forgiveness does not always come easily when you’ve hurt somebody.

Name _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS TASK: THE CASE OF THE MISSING STRAWBERRIES - ENDINGS

You've read the story The Case of the Missing Strawberry. In this story the author drops hints about the theme throughout the text but it doesn't become clear until the ending. Write an essay that identifies the theme of the story and 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:
 - How would you define "theme?"
 - What is the theme of the story?
 - How do you know this is the theme?

Repeat part of the question in your response. This makes a strong main idea sentence!

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 _____.
- Throughout the story _____.
- 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

The story The Case of the Missing Strawberries ends with a friendship shattered as Fred is unable to forgive Tony for accusing him of taking the strawberries. Extend the ending to reflect the future of the boys' friendship.

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 main event. 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 MAIN EVENT:

- **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 or at the keyboard, write your new EXTENDED ENDING!