



MCAS grade 4
Narrative Extension Task

For this question, you will write a story based on the passage. Your writing should:

- Use characters, settings, events, and other details from the passage.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on “Hiding Out,” write a story that tells the events from Polo’s point of view. Use what you know about the characters, setting, and events from the passage to write your story.

Summarizing Framework

This is a story about me (Polo)

The adventure was I was outside for the first time ever!

The adventure concluded when I ran to the shed with my brother and we decided to go out into the wide world.

This student created an effective narrative that followed the organizational structure of the Empowering Writers Narrative Writing Diamond. It included all essential story elements and followed closely from the original source text. The student includes a wide range of sentences and some high level of vocabulary that add to the complexity of the piece. “Hoping my brother wouldn’t shun me for stupidity like usual. ...My brother told me crisply...I was fully engaged in the dirt...drenched...bolting up...yanked me up.”

What Worked:

Organization: You clearly see the diamond structure reflected in this student’s writing with a beginning, middle and end.

Entertaining Beginning: The student used dialogue to hook the reader into the story and create a sense of wonder. After reading the first sentence or two, the reader wants to find out what is going to happen. That is the function of an effective beginning.

Elaborative Detail: There is some elaboration of the setting within the first several sentences. The author writes, “My brother was too busy staring dreamily at the strange brown colored carpet and rolling on it.” and continues, “I deeply sniffed the carpet my wise brother called earth...It smells like...flower pots.” What do feelings look like is also woven into the narrative: “I could feel my heart pounding, I felt my eyes widen to the size of saucers, my body stiffened..”

Suspense: This author does a great job of adding a hint of anticipation to leave the reader hanging ever so slightly. “Suddenly he yanked me up sharply. ...I heard footsteps...I could feel my heart pounding...Before I knew it...I felt my eyes widen to the size of saucers, my body stiffened, my instincts told me to pounce...”

Main Event: This portion of the story should be the longest and include techniques such as action, description, dialogue, feelings, thought/question, and possibly a sound. The author uses several of these to convey the story.

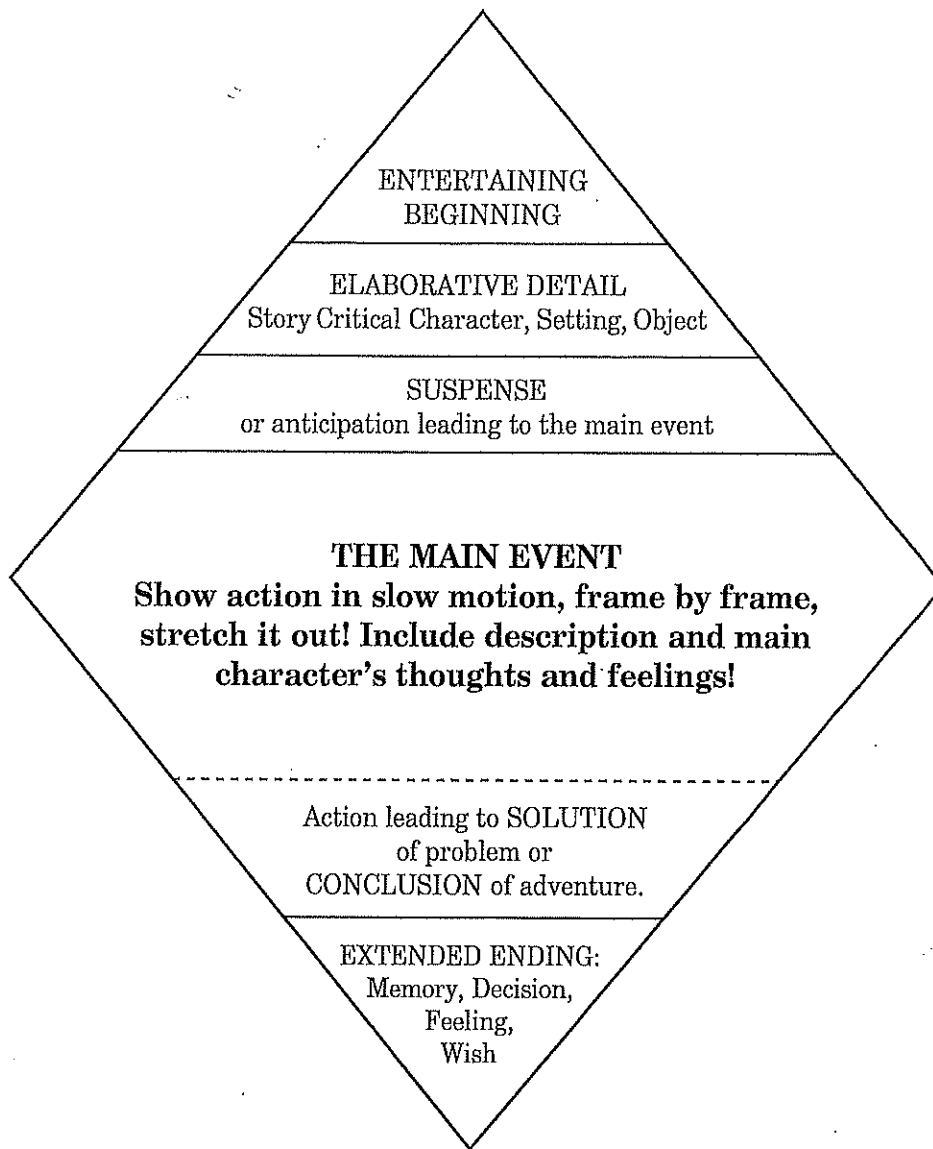
Extended Ending: The author ends the story with a decision that Polo and his brother Marco make. “Beyond that fence is the whole world, and it’s just waiting for us.”

Feedback with Prescriptive Lesson:

CHOOSE a Focus Skill

Based on this narrative, the student could use additional instruction in creating a main event.

Section 5 Main Event: All lessons for additional practice.



entertaining beginning - dialogue

"I still cant believe we managed to pull this off." I said while looking at my older brother in admiration. My brother was to busy staring dreamily at the strange brown colored carpet an rolling on it."What are you doing? I said curiously."Oh I am merely feeling the amazing wonders of earth." My brother replied dreamely."mmmmmm" I deeply sniffed the carpet my wise brother called earth." It smells like ...(I hesitated) flower pets." I said hoping my brother wouldn't shun me for stupidity like usuall."Earth." My brother told me crisply.I pawed the green strands" this feels like a broom strand." I told my brother. His proper name is Marco but, he hates that name, I am called Polo I am not terribly fond of that name either so we just merely call each other brother." its dark here ,like the inside of a box!" I thought excitedly. "No,its better then a box."Marco said. I couldn't hear the rest of it because I was fully engaged in the dirt"I was okay. Suddenly he yanked me up sharply."Shhh!" he said urgently."What."I said bolting up on full alert.I heard foot steps steadily getting louder.I hear them getting quieter.I could felt my heart pounding.Before I new it I felt my fur getting drenched,I felt my eyes widen to the size of saucers,my body stiffened, my instincts told me to pounce but my Brother told me not to. It ended quickly almost as soon as it started. I shivered I do NOT like water ,Most cats don't. It came again ,my frozen body longed for heat and comfort."I wasn't so sure about this."When I say go,make a run for it."Marco hissed"GO" I darted to the place my brother told me to go trailing after him.I was always slower than my brothers.I glanced around my new hiding place it was dusty, with cobwebs and old newspaper"I definantly do not like this."I thought. In dismay."Beyond thafence is the whole world,and it's just waiting for us."My wise brother thought.

elaborati detail

Suspense

feelin

Main Event

extended ending - decision

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