



STORY WRITING: START FROM THE END

Let's learn how writing a story starting with the ending can help when you're stuck for ideas!

Having a clear idea of how your story is going to end is like having the final piece of a puzzle.

If we start with the ending in mind, it's like having a roadmap that guides us to a really fulfilling conclusion.

*Print the activity pages at the end of this document and enjoy the rest on screen!

What you'll need:

- Paper
- Pens/pencils
- Story endings: Use the ones in this document or even make up your own!



STARTING A STORY WITH THE ENDING IS LIKE KNOWING THE END OF A TREASURE MAP BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE ADVENTURE!

- **Know Where You're Going:** Just like having a map, starting with the ending gives your story a clear direction.
- **Secret Clues:** Starting with the ending lets you hide secret clues and hints throughout your story, like breadcrumbs leading to a hidden treasure.
- **Meet the Heroes:** You can introduce your characters right from the start and show how they grow and change by the time you reach the ending.
- **Rollercoaster paths:** It's a fun challenge that lets you be creative and come up with twists and turns.

Remember, the ending can evolve as we write, so it's okay if it changes along the way. The important thing is having a destination in mind as we start our storytelling journey. Let's practice!

PART ONE: STORY ENDINGS (15-20 MINUTES)

- Get into groups of 2 or 3 people. Designate a "scribe" for your group (The person who will do the writing). This activity can also be done individually.
- Choose one of the following story endings, or create your own:
 - a) *After days of battle, the town is in ruins, but peace has finally been found.*
 - b) *The phone rings, it's Dad. After some hesitation, he chooses to answer.*
 - c) *Despite all the training, they didn't win the race. But, they did win the game of friendship.*
 - d) *After taking off the mask of her mysterious lover, she realizes he's not who she thought he was.*
 - e) *As the sun is setting over the horizon, she throws the ring into the ocean.*
- Brainstorm in your group:

What's a possible beginning to your chosen ending?

What about the middle of the story?

Finally, write a paragraph adding more detail to your chosen ending. By this stage, everything you've written should create a three-paragraph story with a beginning, middle and end.

**PART TWO: SHARE AND DISCUSS
(20 MINUTES)**

- Once everyone has finished writing, take turns sharing our stories with the group. Get ready for some epic tales!
- After each story has been shared, ask the following questions and take some notes!

1. WHICH ENDING PROMPT DID YOU CHOOSE, AND WHY DID IT INTRIGUE YOU?

2. HOW DID YOU APPROACH CRAFTING THE BEGINNING OF THE FILM TO LEAD UP TO YOUR CHOSEN ENDING?

3. WHAT ELEMENTS DID YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR BEGINNING TO SET UP THE CLIMAX OF THE STORY?

4. HOW DID STARTING FROM THE END IMPACT YOUR STORYTELLING PROCESS? DID IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU USUALLY APPROACH WRITING?

You can keep this trick in your back pocket next time you're struggling with writing your stories!