
Weather/Language Arts Learning Center

Background:

Story starters are frequently needed to help spark children's imagination when writing. This learning center can also be used as a lesson and follow-up activity.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this center students will:

- Have completed 3 first draft stories about weather

Standards:

Science: unifying concepts & processes; science as inquiry
Language Arts: communication; creative writing

Vocabulary:

characters setting story line

Materials:

Story Starters

Procedure:

- A Story Starter is an idea that helps to jump start the imagination and get creative juices flowing. It will help students start writing a story. Print out the Story Starters pages. Laminate them if possible. Cut the story starters into strips. Create 3 envelopes; one for the beginning starters, one for the middle starters and one for the end of story ideas.
 - Review with the class the parts of a story. Typically stories have 3 parts: the beginning, middle and end. The beginning of the story introduces characters, provides the setting, and may begin to discuss a problem.
 - The middle of the story provides more in-depth information about the problem. It may include people talking about the problem.
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- The end of the story provides the conclusion. This is the place where the problem is being solved and often a lesson being learned.
 - The story starters provide students with a sentence or two to spark thoughts. The student must then build the remaining two parts of the story, expanding on the starter.
 - Centers offer teachers the opportunity to have students working on different activities at the same time. This often provides more one-on-one attention to each child.

Extensions:

- Students will write their own story starters. Divide the starters and have students complete a story.
- Distribute the same story starter. Each student will now write a story from the starter. How do they differ?

References / Resources:

http://www.mathgoodies.com/lessons/toc_vol7.shtm

<http://www.literacyessentials.com/Stufftodo/Starters/StoryStarters-01.htm>

Beginning of story-

I was cold. So cold that I could see my breath. I was looking at the full moon as its bright light cast upon the fallen snow. All of a sudden, a thick brown cloud moved in and blocked the moon light. Mr. Fretta, my neighbor, came running out of his house.

"It's here," he screamed. They said that brown clouds would arrive before the horrific storm!"

The more I asked him, the more I found out. The truth is...

Beginning of story-

"It's pouring outside," Troy's mom said from our back door.

"It's alright mom. It feels good to cool down. I'll come inside a minute," Troy responded as he continued to shoot baskets.

"Three! Two! One!" he counted as he prepared for his shot. He threw it in time, but before it reached the net something strange happened. Troy was forced to the ground by some sort of explosion. He stood up to realize that his ball was struck by lightning.

He walked over and picked it up. It was glowing. It was then that Troy realized he had something magical.

Middle of Story-

CRASH! Down came all of our boxes that I neatly placed on the shelf.

When my family and I watched the news the day before, they said it would be a cloudy day, but this was ridiculous.

There were all kinds of things spread across our front yard. There were two strange bikes, many toys, lots of fallen branches and even a baby pool.

Just when we thought the worst was over, it started happening again.

This time we knew what we should do to stay safe.

Middle of Story-

I was resting in my room with the fan on high and my window was open. I was sweating so much I was on my second shirt of the day. It had been like this the entire summer.

Then, from outside came this strange light. It was like someone was setting off fireworks.

All of a sudden it was like it was winter. The beads of sweat were now making me chilly and the water from our sprinkler was frozen!

Soon the police came around and explained what was happening. They told me....

End of Story- *End of Story-*

"But when we left for our beach house a few months ago, the pool was filled with water. Now, two months later it is gone?" Jill said sounding confused.

"The sun evaporated the water during your vacation," said Mr. Komply.

"I never knew that could happen. I guess we should call the police to tell them what really happened. I called them yesterday and yelled that someone stole our water," she now remembered.

"I guess sometimes science is more powerful than any person. Isn't that right Jill?" Mr. Komply said with a smile.

End of Story- *End of Story-*

Weeks later, the largest flood ever in The United States started to disappear. As the water level dropped, there were many things hidden under the water. We saw cars, toys and many things that belonged inside houses, like desks and plates.

"I can't believe what the last five days have been like," I told my mom.

"Even I can't believe how heavy the rain was. Can you imagine if it was winter and all this was snow? We would have had a few feet covering the entire neighborhood," added mom.

Weather Writing Center

Directions: Each paper in this center has a part of a story on it. You may choose the beginning, middle or end of a story. After you have chosen a slip, read it. Your job is now to write the other two missing parts of the story.

For example: If you choose a middle part of a story, you must think of the beginning (what happened before the middle part. You must also think and write about the ending of the story.
