

What Happens Next?

LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

Overview

Students write and illustrate the next chapter of a story the class has read, practising prediction, inference and consistency of character.

Steps for Teachers

1. Read a story together and stop at a deliberate cliffhanger, or use the real ending as the starting point
2. Discuss as a class what each character wants and what obstacles remain
3. Students predict three things that could happen next and pick the most interesting one
4. Students plan four to eight pages that carry the story forward
5. Students write the new chapter, keeping each character's voice consistent with the original
6. Students choose actors and backgrounds that match the world of the original story
7. Students swap tablets with a partner and check whether the continuation feels believable

Example

After reading 'The Three Little Pigs,' a student's book opens on the wolf knocking at the brick house a second time – this time with a bag of tools and an apology. The pigs debate whether to trust him across five pages, and the last page leaves the door half open.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Prediction & Inference	Continuation is grounded in clues from the original story	Continuation is plausible but only loosely connected to the original	Continuation ignores the original story's setup
Character Consistency	Characters behave and speak as they did in the original	Characters are mostly consistent with a few surprises	Characters act out of keeping with the original
Storytelling	Clear beginning, middle and end; each page turn moves the story forward	Story is organized but some pages stall or repeat	Story is disorganized or hard to follow
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent