

What Happens Next?

LANGUAGE ARTS



Overview

Students continue a story beyond its original ending, practicing inference, prediction, and creative writing while demonstrating comprehension of character and plot.

Steps for Teachers

1. Read a story as a class or assign individual reading
2. Discuss the original ending and what questions remain unanswered
3. Students brainstorm possible continuations that stay true to the characters
4. Students write a script for what happens after the story ends
5. Students create their continuation in Puppet Pals using appropriate characters
6. Students record their sequel, maintaining consistency with the original
7. Compare different students' continuations and discuss why stories can have multiple valid endings

Example

After reading 'The Three Little Pigs,' a student creates a sequel. The wolf, having failed to blow down the brick house, decides to take a construction class. He returns to apologize to the pigs and offers to help build them a community center. The pigs are suspicious at first but eventually agree. The video shows the wolf's redemption and the unlikely friendship that develops.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Character Consistency	Characters behave and speak in ways that match the original story	Characters are mostly consistent with minor deviations	Characters act in ways that contradict the original
Plot Logic	Continuation flows naturally from the original; events make sense	Story continues logically with some gaps	Continuation doesn't connect well to the original
Creativity & Originality	Surprising yet believable direction; shows deep thinking	Shows some original ideas in the continuation	Continuation is predictable or copies other stories
Comprehension Demonstrated	Clearly understands themes, characters, and events of original	Shows understanding of main elements	Misunderstands key elements of the original story