

Class 6: Writing a strong middle

Slide 1: Welcome

Teacher Notes

- Welcome students to the class.
- Introduce yourself.
- Explain to them that they will be writing the middle part of their story today.

Sample script: Hello guys, welcome to our sixth class. Today we will begin to write the middle of your stories!

Slide 2: What is the middle?

Teacher Notes

- Present the PPT, or have a student read it.
- Explain to the students that the middle is the longest part of the story.
- Let them know that a great middle is what makes the reader stick!

Sample script: Ok let's get a volunteer to read the slide....

Today I would like you to focus on writing a strong middle. As you know, the middle is the longest part of the story. It is all about the content and the way we write the story! It often discusses the struggle and challenges faced by the characters. Think about your story: what is the problem in your story, and how would you go about writing in depth about it?

Slide 3: What happens in the middle?

Teacher Notes

- Go over the slide.

- Explain to the students how different issues would come up.
- Pair them up to talk about the main struggle in their stories.

Sample Script: Find a partner to brainstorm the problems in your story! What goes wrong, whether the issue gets worse, Choices characters have to make, and how the tension builds. 3min!

Slide 4: Introducing conflict

Teacher Notes

- Go over the slide to explain what a conflict is.
- Give examples if possible.
- Have the students explain their conflicts in detail.

Sample Script: We have just gone over the struggles in your stories. For a story to be heartfelt, we need to go into depth about the problems/struggles. For example, say the main struggle is that John doesn't have enough money to pay for rent. Maybe we want to write about why he doesn't have the money? Did he make a wrong decision at some point? Is the apartment too expensive in the first place? Is there a secret as to why he wanted to stay at such an expensive apartment?

Task: Think once again about the struggles in your story. What exactly do you want to write about?

Slide 5: Types of Conflicts (WorkSheet)

Teacher Notes

- Go over the slide.
- Remind students of different conflicts.
- Handout worksheet

Sample Script: There are different types of conflicts; it doesn't always have to be good guy vs. bad guy. It could be between 2 good guys with different ideas. It could be a struggle within the character. A person vs. a situation could be about theft, crime, family issues, etc. Even Person Vs. Nature, say the protagonist is sailing, and a storm hits..... Fill out your chart, so you don't forget!

Slide 6: Raising the Stakes

Teacher Notes

- Go over the slide.
- Explain to the students how to make the struggles clear to the reader.
- Have the students to write a sentence showing the stakes in the story.

Sample Script: Ok, we now have the struggles; it is time for us to explain the cause of the struggle, or the result of it if we don't succeed. For example, if John doesn't beat the monster, he would be eaten. If Jenny doesn't come up with money for rent, she will be homeless. If Sally doesn't tell John about how she feels, he will disappear from her life.... Write a sentence or two sharing the stakes in your story!

Slide 7: Show. Don't tell

Teacher Notes

- Quickly go over the examples on the slide.
- Ask students to imagine how they feel reading the two sentences.
- Have the student rewrite a sentence they have in their story using Show, Don't tell.

Sample Script: Let's take a look at these 2 examples. When we write, especially about an emotion, it is much better to describe it than to say it. It creates an environment for the reader to feel rather than just to read it.

Let's try writing a sentence you can use in your story! Make the reader feel!

Slide 8: Dialogue in the Middle

Teacher Notes:

- Go over the slide. Remind the students to include dialogue if needed.
- Tell them why dialogue could be useful.
- Have the students try creating a dialogue for their stories.

Sample Script: Ok guys, sometimes it is a good idea to include dialogue (or more than one) in your story, so show conflict, emotions, relationships, and your characters. I would like you to try writing one for your story. Make one up even if you never planned on having it.

Slide 9: Main Class Activity

Teacher Notes:

- Invite students to begin writing their middle.
- Include the things we have discussed today.
- Make sure to focus on the details of the struggles and tension!

Sample Script: Ok everyone, start working on your middle paragraphs! Remember the things we have discussed today. Show, not tell; think about the struggles and the stakes!

Slide 10: Homework

Teacher Notes:

- Go over the homework.
- Make sure to bring it to the next class!

Sample Script: For homework, people, make sure to create a main struggle. Be as descriptive as possible and add dialogue if needed!