A decorative border of black scrollwork and flourishes surrounds the central text. The scrollwork consists of thick, flowing lines that curve and swirl, creating an ornate frame for the title.

Leads and Endings Poster Packet

Created/Compiled by Melissa Wing, Genesee Intermediate School District
and Genesee County Literacy Coaches, Fall 2009

Leads

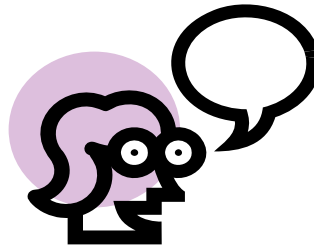


Good leads catch the reader's attention, making the reader want to read more. Good leads also make the writer want to write more.

Question Lead



Talking or Dialogue Lead



Setting Lead



Set-up Lead



Sound Lead



Snapshot or Descriptive Lead



Thought or Feeling Lead



Exclamatory Lead



Suspense Lead



Resources

Calkins (K-2) Revision #4k Session VI Revising Leads	
6 + 1 Traits—Primary Grades	Pages 119-121
Calkins (3-5) Launching #1	Session VII Revising Leads: Learning From Published Writing
Calkins (3-5) Fiction #4	Session VIII Studying Published Leads To Make Leads
6 + 1 Traits—Grades 3 and up	Pages 88-90
*Fletcher D-17	Cut to Your Lead
*Fletcher D-18	Lead with a Question
*Fletcher D-19	Lead with the Big Picture
*Fletcher D-20	Open with a Scene
*Fletcher D-21	Write a Lively Lead
*Fletcher D-22	Write a Waterfall Lead
Atwell—Lessons That Change Writers	Lesson 12 Narrative Leads
Atwell—Lessons That Change Writers	Lesson 36 Leads: Begin Inside
Atwell—Lessons That Change Writers	Lesson 53 Leads for an Essay
Steve Peha www.ttms.org	The Writing Teacher's Strategy Guide—Great Beginnings (pg. 74-90)

*Teaching the Qualities of Writing by Fletcher and Portalupi

http://writingfix.com/picture_book_prompts.htm

http://writingfix.com/PDFs/Writing_Tools/Novel_Openings.pdf

http://writingfix.com/Chapter_Book_Prompts/Watsons_Leads3.htm

WRITING LEADS

A lead in a picture book is usually the first sentence. A lead can be several sentences, paragraphs or even chapters. The lead is what "hooks" the reader in and makes them want to read more. Leads are important to the piece of writing. They set the tone and get the piece moving. A poor lead can easily turn a reader off and cause them to put down the writing. A dynamic lead will excite and entice the reader. This is just a small list of books with fabulous leads to use as models.

- The Art Lesson by Tomie de Paola
 - Tommy knew he wanted to be an artist when he grew up. He drew pictures everywhere he went. It was his favorite thing to do.
- When I was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant
 - When I was young in the mountains, Grandfather came home in the evening covered with the black dust of a coal mine. Only his lips were clean, and he used them to kiss the top of my head.
- Encounter by Jane Yolen
 - The moon was well overhead, and our great fire had burned low. A loud clap of thunder woke me from my dream. All dreams are not true dreams, my mother says. But in my dream that night, three great-winged birds with voices like thunder rode wild waves in our bay. They were not like any birds I had ever seen, for sharp, white teeth filled their mouth.
- The Pumpkin Blanket by Deborah Turney Zagwyn
 - When Clee was born, the Northern Lights shook their folds above her bed, but no one saw them. Clee's family only had eyes for Clee. Later the door blew open, and the wind tossed a blanket inside. Swish! No one heard. Clee's family only had ears for Clee. Her mother called the blanket a gift, but could not remember who had given it.
- Some Birthday by Patricia Polacco
 - My mom and dad were divorced. My brother, Rich and I lived with my mother, except that we spent every summer with Dad and Gramma, my dad's mother. Cousin Billy lived nearby. Dad was a traveling salesman. It was my job to get him up and to make sure his socks matched. He was color-blind, you see.
- A Pig Named Perrier by Elizabeth Spurr
 - Perrier was no ordinary pig. (He was a pedigreed miniature potbellied pig, purchased from a Beverly Hills pet store by Marbella, the rich and famous movie star.)
- Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
 - The Lupine Lady lives in a small house overlooking the sea. In between the rocks around her house grow blue and purple and rose-colored flowers. The Lupine Lady is little and old. But she has not always been that way. I know. She is my great-aunt, and she told me so.

Some Types of Leads

Question Lead

- Draws the reader in with a question that begs to be answered
- Answers the questions sometimes; other times the writer may choose to answer the question gradually throughout the piece
- The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood
 - *Hello, little Mouse. What are you doing?*
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? By Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
 - *How does a dinosaur say good night when Papa comes in to turn off the light?*
- Fancy Nancy: Bonjour, Butterfly by Jane O'Connor
 - *Don't you think butterflies are exquisite? (Exquisite is even fancier than beautiful.)*
- I Stink! By Kate & Jim McMullan
 - Who am I? I've got lights. Ten W I D E tires. No A.C., not me. I've got doubles: steering wheels, gas pedals, brakes. I am totally DUAL OP. Know what I do at night while you're asleep?
- I'm Dirty by Kate & Jim McMullan
 - Who's got a BOOM, a dipper stick, and a BUCKET with a row of chompers?
- The Eleventh Hour by Graeme Base
 - A book is read, a story ends, a telling tale is told. But who can say what mysteries a single page may hold? A maze of hidden codes and clues, a clock at every turn, And only time will tell what other secrets you may learn....
 - *But in the end, although the thief was someone they all knew, They never found out who it was that stole the feast --- Can you?*

Set-up Lead

- Sets up the action for the entire story in a few sentences
- Offers a taste of the who, what, when, where, how, and why
- Sets the stage for the audience

- Miss Alaineus A Vocabulary Disaster by Debra Frasier
 - *None of this would have happened if it wasn't for Forest. Forest is not a thicket of trees. Forest is a boy. A sick boy. A boy sneezing and coughing all over my desk and pencils. I caught Forest's cold and had to stay home from school on Tuesday. Tuesday is vocabulary day at Webster School. Follow my advice: Never get sick on Vocabulary Day.*

- The Bunyans by Audrey Wood
 - *Now I suppose you have heard about the mighty logger Paul Bunyan and his great blue ox named...*

- I'm Dysfunctional, You're Dysfunctional by Wendy Kaminer
 - *This is not a book about my life or yours. It does not hold the secret to success or salvation. It won't strengthen your self esteem. I don't think it will get me on Oprah.*

- Writing Lessons from the Overhead by Lola M. Schaefer
 - *The ancient Greek potters were skilled craftsmen. They created ornate lamps, jars, tiles, vases, and cups with the simplest materials from the earth and a small man-made kiln. Archaeologists today value these pieces of pottery as priceless works of art.*

Setting Lead

- **Details the time and place**
- **Describes the scene using good descriptive language**

- Wild About Books by Judy Sierra
 - It started the summer of 2002, when the Springfield librarian, Molly McGrew, by mistake drove her bookmobile into the zoo.

- Annie and the Old One by Miska Miles
 - Annie's Navajo world was good –a world of rippling sand, of high copper-red bluffs in the distance, of the low mesa near her own snug hogan. The pumpkins were yellow in the cornfield, and the tassels on the corn were turning brown.

- Strega Nona retold by Tomie dePaola
 - In a town in Calabria, a long time ago, there lived an old lady everyone called Strega Nona, which meant "Grandma Witch."

- Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
 - Gramps says that I am a country girl at heart, and that is true. I have lived most of my thirteen years in Bybanks, Kentucky, which is not much more than a caboodle of houses rooting in a green spot alongside the Ohio River.

- Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio
 - One Monday morning in September, Mrs. Barrington rolled out a big poster with all the presidents' pictures on it. Grace Campbell could not believe her eyes. Where are the GIRLS?
- Bad Dog, Marley! by John Grogan
 - In a little house on Churchill Road lived a very happy family. There was one mommy, one daddy, one freckle-faced girl named Cassie, and one crawly, squirmy boy named Baby Louie. He had a giant, droopy diaper and a thumb that rarely left his mouth. The family had two parakeets, three goldfish, and four pet crickets. But there was one thing the family did not have, and that was a dog.
- The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
 - It was in the summer of the year when the relatives came. They came up from Virginia. They left when their grapes were nearly purple enough to pick, but not quite.
- Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
 - The night Max wore his wolf suit and made mischief of one kind and another his mother called him "WILD THING!" and Max said "I'LL EAT YOU UP!" so he was sent to bed without eating anything.
- My Great-Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston
 - My great-aunt Arizona was born in a log cabin her papa built in the meadow on Henson Creek in the Blue Ridge Mountains. When she was born, the mailman rode across the bridge on his big bay horse with a letter.

Talking or Dialogue Lead

- Starts with a line or two of speaking
- Grabs the reader's attention with a brief conversation and raises story questions making the reader want to read more
- Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
 - "Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table. "Out to the hog house," replied Mrs. Arable. "Some pigs were born last night."
- The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
 - "You must not tell anyone," my mother said, "what I am about to tell you."
- King Bidgood's in the Bath by Audrey Wood
 - "Help! Help!" cried the Page when the sun came up. "King Bidgood's in the bathtub, and he won't get out! Oh, who knows what to do?"
- Over Sea, Under Stone by Susan Cooper
 - "Where is he?" Barney hopped from one foot to the other as he clambered down from the train, peering through the white-faced crowds flooding eagerly to the St. Austel ticket barrier. "Oh, I can't see him. Is he there?"
- Hurricane by David Wiesner (dialogue)
 - "I can't find Hannibal anywhere, Mom," David said. "I thought he'd be home when we got back from the store." "I'm sure Hannibal is all right," Mom answered. "Cats know more about storms than people do. But if it will make you feel better, why don't you and George go look for him while I put the groceries away. Don't go too far from the house, though. Your father will help you look as soon as he's finished securing everything in the yard."

- Weslandia by Paul Fleishman (dialogue)
 - “Of course he’s miserable,” moaned Wesley’s mother. “He sticks out.” “Like a nose,” snapped his father.

Snapshot or Descriptive Lead

- Creates a picture of the setting or a character in the reader’s mind
- Paints an immediate image and creates a world that the reader can step into
- Meanwhile Back at the Ranch by Trinka Hakes Noble
 - Rancher Hicks lived out west. As far as the eye can see there was nothing....not even roaming buffalo. So nothing much ever happened.
- Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth
 - When I look through my window, I see a brick wall. There is trash in the courtyard and a broken bottle that looks like fallen stars.
- Smart-Aleck Kill by Raymond Chandler
 - The doorman of the Kilmarnock was six foot two. He wore a pale blue uniform and white gloves made his hands look enormous. He opened the door of the yellow taxi as gently as an old maid stroking a cat.

Suspense Lead

- Creates curiosity in the reader’s mind and leaves the reader wondering what will happen next
- The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
 - “You must not tell anyone,” my mother said, “what I am about to tell you.”
- How Many Days to America by Eve Bunting
 - It was nice in our village. Till the night in October when the soldiers came.
- The Bear's Toothache by David McPhail
 - One night I heard something outside my window.
- The Library Dragon by Carmen Agra Deedy
 - Sunrise Elementary School had a BIG problem. The new librarian, Miss Lotta Scales, was a real dragon.
- Barefoot Escape on the Underground Railroad by Pamela Duncan Edwards
 - The BAREFOOT didn't see the eyes watching him as he ran onto the overgrown pathway. His breath came in great gasps. In the hours since he had run from the plantation, he had traveled faster and farther than ever in his life. He was fearful of what lay before him. He was terrified of what lay behind.
- Flying Over Brooklyn by Myron Uhlberg
 - When I was little, I lived in Brooklyn. More than anything else, I wanted to fly. I tried every day. I flapped my arms...I ran down hills...I jumped from chairs...Nothing worked, until one day. It happened like this...

Sound Lead

- Uses onomatopoeia to capture the reader's attention
- Invites the reader inside the main character's mind to listen along
- Uses repetition and simile
- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
 - Ba-room, ba-room, barroom, baripity, baritpity, baripity, baripity- Good. His dad had the pickup going. He could get up now.
- The Great Fuzz Frenzy by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel
 - Down it went. Boink! Boink! "Run for your life!" Thump! Thump!

Thought or Feeling Lead

- Draws you into the head or the heart of the character
- Herbie Jones and the Class Gift by Suzy Kline
 - Herbie Jones hated indoor recess. Especially in June.
- Onion John by Joseph Krumboltz
 - Up until I turned twelve years old the kind of friends I had were what you'd expect. They were my own age more or less. Most of them were born here in Serenity along with me. And all of us went to the same school together.
- Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
 - The day she was born was the happiest day in her parents' lives. "She's perfect," said her mother. "Absolutely," said her father. And she was. She was absolutely perfect.
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
 - Chester Raccoon stood at the edge of the forest and cried. "I don't want to go to school," he told his mother. "I want to stay home with you. I want to play with my friends. And play with my toys. And read my books. And swing on my swing. Please may I stay home with you?"
- My Mama Had a Dancing Heart by Libba Moore Gray
 - My mama had a dancing heart and she shared that heart with me.

Exclamatory Lead

- Demands attention with a striking or startling statement
- Tells the reader what is being exclaimed in one or two sentences afterward
- Sets the stage for a piece of new or interesting information (non-fiction)
 - Cheyenne Again by Eve Bunting
 - One day he comes, The Man Who Counts, and says: "A boy, aged ten, He has to go!"
 - The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog! By Mo Willems
 - "Ooooh! A hot dog!"
 - Let's Get a Pup! said Kate by Bob Graham
 - "Let's get a pup!" said Kate.
 - In My Yellow Shirt by Eileen Spinelli
 - For my birthday, Aunt Betty gave me a new yellow shirt. "A yellow shirt! squawked my best friend, Sam. "That's no fun!"
 - So Much by Trish Cooke
 - They weren't doing anything, Mom and the baby, nothing really...Then, DING DONG! "Oooooooooooh!"
 - PSSST! It's Me...the Bogeyman by Barbara Park
 - Psssssst! Yo! Down here...under the bed. It's me, the Bogeyman.

Tips for Good Beginnings

Start with the models. The easiest way to get started writing your own good beginnings is to use the models you already have. It isn't considered cheating to model one's writing after the writing of another. The easiest models to start with are the short ones. Some of the strategies can be accomplished in your own pieces with just a single sentence. You'll notice, too, that some of the strategies can be combined. The models are a great resource for you. They will always give you something to think about when you're stuck. And, as you become more familiar with them, they will be easier to use. You'll probably find that you end up being better at some kinds of beginnings than others. That's just fine. You may also find that you like to change your beginnings in certain ways that are different from the models. The models are a starting point. Where you end up is up to you.

Try several beginnings for each piece. I almost always advise writers to try several different beginnings for each piece that they write. This may seem like a lot of extra work. It is. But it's really worth it. As I've said before, the beginning is the most important part of your piece. And you may not necessarily be in the best position to know which beginning is most effective. What I usually suggest is this: Try three different beginnings. Read them all to your class. Let your audience tell you which one they like best. Even if you already have a favorite, get this feedback from your audience. You don't have to do what they want. But it's always good to take the opinions of other writers into consideration.

Reread, rethink, revise. Once you have a lead that you like, look it over closely. Read it to yourself many times. Look for small ways to make it better. Change a word here or there. Improve the punctuation. Give the beginning of your piece extra care and attention so it comes out just right. And don't forget to share it with others to get their opinions, too.

Variety is the spice of life. After a while, you will find that some beginnings come quite easily to you. The temptation will be to use these types of beginnings over and over on every piece you write. Resist this temptation. In the first place, your readers will really appreciate it if you use many different kinds of beginnings. In the second, each type of beginning that you master makes you a better writer.

Start your own collection. Ultimately, you'll want to move away from using the models I've presented here and start thinking about your own models. What kinds of beginnings do you like? Why do you like them? You can collect them the same way I do. When you read a beginning you like, copy it down. When you hear or read something that another writer in your class has come up with, get a copy of that, too. For each beginning you collect, give it a title that describes how it works. Then write a few words about why you think it's good. One of the best ways to learn to write is to model your writing after the writing of other writers you enjoy.

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A Glossary of Good Beginnings

- 1. Interesting description.** Ashes filled the air when I was around the camp fire. Crackle, crackle it went.
- 2. Sound.** Boom! The trunk slammed. Bang! The car doors slammed as we got out of the van.
- 3. The past in the present.** It is April 10, 1912. The Titanic is going to travel all the way from England to America.
- 4. Exclamation.** “Yeah! We’re going to Disneyland tomorrow! Yeah!” I yelled about as loud as I could.
- 5. A thought.** I’m in big trouble now, I thought to myself.
- 6. A complaint.** It seems like we never go swimming at Fife pool!
- 7. A surprise.** Wow! I was doing my back hand-spring and I landed it!
- 8. A question.** Have you ever been an Editor-in-Chief? Well I’ll tell you, it’s a big job!
- 9. Sound, repetition, and simile.** Screech, screech, screech! The first time we tried to play the recorders it sounded like a lion running his claws down a chalkboard.
- 10. Exclamation, repetition, strong feelings.** Chores! Chores! Chores! Chores are boring! Scrubbing toilets, cleaning sinks, and washing bathtubs take up a lot of my time and are not fun at all.
- 11. Extremely strong feelings.** The very first time I saw asparagus I hated it. I had never even tried it before and I still hated it!
- 12. A series of questions.** Touch of the flu? Egg in her hair? Poor Ramona!
- 13. Scary, exciting, or intense moment.** ...I tried to run, but I couldn’t. The monster seemed like it was growing by the minute! And then, the most horrible thing was about to happen—I screamed and sat bolt upright in bed. I gasped swallowing huge amounts of air.
- 14. Main idea.** I will always love my grandparents’ beach house. The way the waves role over the gooey sand and the way the sand weaves in between your toes. The way we pick up barnacle-covered rocks and watch the sand crabs scurry away. The way we dig for clams and end up knee deep in the never ending sand.
- 15. Something interesting to come.** It all started on an average day. I didn’t think anything unusual was going to happen, but boy was I wrong!
- 16. Conversation.** “We’re moving.” That’s what she told me. I couldn’t believe it! I had just made the basketball team and was making more friends. “What!” I exclaimed.
- 17. Reveal something unusual.** “Company halt” yelled the drill master. My mom stopped and went into position. Her dog tags clinked as she moved.

18. **An unsettling description.** A flash of lightning illuminates the harsh emptiness of the night. In an orphanage children cry mournfully. They are starving.
19. **Unusual image of a character.** Simon Wilken was snacking down on a plum with great gusto.
20. **Anecdote.** On a dark December night in 1776, as he led a barefoot brigade of ragged revolutionaries across the icy Delaware River, George Washington said, “Shift your fat behind, Harry. But slowly or you’ll swamp the darn boat.”
21. **Describe the setting.** The deafening crowd was packed into the Kingdome on the sold-out Buhner Buzz-Cut Night. Hundreds of people were outfitted in brand new buzz-cuts and were enjoying the Mariner game.
22. **Address the audience.** You walk into the dentist’s office. You sit down. You try to read a magazine. But it’s no use. You’re scared and there’s nothing you can do about it.
23. **“Show” feelings.** I sat in my desk, sweat dripping down my face. I shut my eyes tight, then opened them. I looked at my watch, 11:27. Three minutes! Three minutes until I heard a sound, a sound that would set me free for three months of total nothingness.
24. **Comic story.** “Oh my God!” I exclaimed, “What’s John doing out there? Why is he on his hands and knees, Mom?” I looked out the big kitchen window wondering if my eight-year old brother was all right. He was looking distressed. Then he threw up.
25. **Challenge the reader.** Colin Greer, the President of the New World Foundation, a civil rights organization in New York, has something to say about your character.
26. **Focus on something important.** In my old, battered, black wallet I carry many things. A letter from a friend. My lunch ticket. My social security card. Many other tidbits and items as well. There is one thing however, which I prize above all my possessions. It is a photograph.
27. **A list.** The sweat on your brow. A layer of dust on your face. Out in the woods. Somewhere. And on a horse. Of all the places in the world, I feel best on a horse.
28. **A scenario.** Right now I want you to pretend you are in a store. As you walk around, you see that some products are much more inexpensive. Now, look at the labels on these cheaper items. You will probably notice that many of these labels say “Made in China,” or “Made in Honduras.” Have you ever stopped to wonder why products made in these countries are so much more affordable than the things manufactured right here on American soil?
29. **Fantasy or fairy tale-type language.** In yesteryear, when Moby Dick was just a tadpole, and the seas rolled and thundered over the jetties and onto the shore. I searched for my first sand dollar still hidden somewhere in the ever stretching Long Beach Peninsula.
30. **Simple action to complex realization.** I walk up the hill with my friends, then turn into our cul-de-sac, go to the front door, put the key in the lock, turn, and step in. The house breathes a kind of spooky hello as I set my books down and go to the kitchen where the inevitable note is waiting: “Have a snack. Be home soon. I love you.”

- 31. Startling statement.** A great crime was committed against a people in 1942. This was the signing of Executive Order 9006 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which called for the eviction and internment of all Japanese Americans.
- 32. Thesis.** Education is a key element in developing the skills necessary for a successful life. Too often, students are more involved earning a paycheck than spending time on their academic studies. Students need to realize that their high school classes will prepare them for a brighter future.
- 33. Something outlandish.** I am a dynamic figure, often seen scaling walls and crushing ice. I have been known to remodel train stations on my lunch breaks, making them more efficient in the area of heat retention. I write award winning operas. I manage time efficiently: Occasionally, I tread water for three days in a row.
- 34. Fast action.** I raced inside, slamming the front door behind me. I plopped my backpack on the floor and dashed for the kitchen. Our cat, asleep in the hallway, quickly awoke and scurried out of harms way. I knew I only had a few precious seconds before my brother, coming in through the back door, beat me to the kitchen and nabbed the last of mom's brownies.
- 35. A saying.** It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who said that "A foolish constancy is the hobgoblin of simple minds." He said it almost 200 years ago, but perhaps it bears repeating today to our senators and congressman who act as though our country can continue to spend money it does not have.

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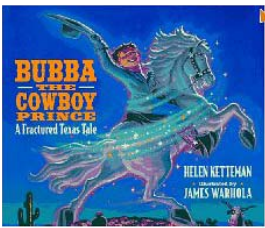
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Endings

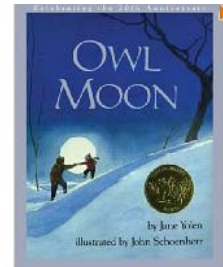
“Don’t write endings, find them,” novelist Thomas Williams used to say. Endings grow from beginnings and reveal themselves through clues within the story, characters or ideas. One way to learn about endings is to observe the different ways authors end a story.

Sometimes authors end their stories with a memory, a feeling, a wish, or a hope. Other times they end their story by referring back to the language of the beginning.



But Bubba just smiled, and he and Miz Lurleen rode off into the sunset. They lived happily ever after, roping, and cowpoking, and gitting them dogies along.

When you go owling you don’t need words or warm or anything but hope. That’s what Pa says. The kind of hope that flies on silent wings under a shining Owl Moon.



Some Types of Endings



Feeling



Wish, Hope, Dream



Question



Lesson Learned

A good ending should:

- **Feel finished**
- **Give the reader something to think about or do**
- **Meet the reader’s expectations (Steve Peha)**

Resources

Calkins (K-2) Small Moments	Session XIII Writing Close-In Endings
Calkins (K-2) Revision	Session X Revising Endings
6 + 1 Traits—Primary Grades	Pages 125-128
Calkins (3-5) Launching #1	Session IX Revising Endings: Learning From Published Writing
Calkins (3-5) Narrative #2	Session XII Ending Stories
Calkins (3-5) Fiction #4	Session X Writing Powerful Endings
6 + 1 Traits—Grades 3 and up	Pages 96-99
*Fletcher D-23	Come up with the Right Ending
*Fletcher D-24	End with a Question
*Fletcher D-25	End with a Feeling
*Fletcher D-26	End with you Strongest Line
Atwell—Lessons That Change Writers	Lesson 26 Stories That End “The End”
Atwell—Lessons That Change Writers	Lesson 37 Conclusions: End Strongly
Craft Lessons by Ralph Fletcher & JoAnn Portalupi	
Steve Peha www.ttms.org	The Writing Teacher’s Strategy Guide—Happy Endings (pg. 90-103)

*Teaching the Qualities of Writing by Fletcher and Portalupi

Endings ideas:

<http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/writing/sixtrait/organization/conclusions.html>

<http://www.wiredinstructor.net/Orglesson.html> (this one has leads and endings examples)

<http://www.effectiveteachingsolutions.com/writingworkshopnd.htm>

WRITING CONCLUSIONS

THE END. Don't think of a conclusion as just "the end" of a story. A good conclusion leaves the reader dreaming about the story and hungering for more of the same. A good conclusion ties up all of the loose ends and satisfies the reader like a good meal. Sometimes a conclusion surprises or jolts the reader, but either way, the reader leaves the book with lingering thoughts.

- The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting (surprise ending)
 - “So, Anna? What do you think? Was it a good surprise?” I run to her and she puts her cheek against mine. “The best ever,” I say.
- The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg (mysterious)
 - Every autumn since the stranger’s visit, the same thing happens at the Bailey farm. The trees that surround it stay green for a week after the trees to the north have turned. Then overnight they change their color to the brightest of any tree around. And etched in frost on the farmhouse windows are words that say simply, “See you next fall.”
- The Ghost-Eye Tree by Bill Martin Jr. (circular)
 - Beginning: One dark and windy autumn night when the sun had long gone down, Mama asked my sister and me to take the road to the end of the town to get a bucket of milk. Oooo...I dreaded to go... I dreaded the tree.... *Why does Mama always choose me when the night is so dark and the mind runs free?*
 - Ending: But... since that dread night at the halfway tree when Ghost-Eye tried to frighten me, by some lucky chance I’m never around... when Mama wants milk... from the end of the town....
- The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
 - And when they were finally home in Virginia, they crawled into their silent, soft beds and dreamed about the next summer.

Endings

Advice

If you're thinking about going skydiving, take my advice: stop thinking.

Sad But True

(It has to end that way)

Wilbur never forgot Charlotte. Although he loved her children and grandchildren dearly, none of the new spiders ever quite took her place in her heart.

Surprise

(Not an accident but is planned with many clues)

"Ronald," said Elizabeth, "your clothes are really pretty and your hair is very neat. You look like a real prince, but you are a bum."
They didn't get married after all.

Circular

(Ends at the same place it begins)

Boom! The trunk slammed. Bang! The car door slammed as we got out of the van...We put the blanket in the trunk. Boom! It slammed again and we drove away as I thought how much fun I had.

Lesson Learned

I learned that I shouldn't lie because it gets me into worse trouble. In the future I'm not going to lie. If I have a problem, I'm going to tell someone about it, and ask for help.

Question

I guess what still bothers me is how confused I am about what happened. If I was ever in that same situation again, would I act the same way, or would I do something different?

Wish Hope Dream

I hope someday that I can be a good parent just like my mom. But until then, I'll just work on being a good kid.

Thoughts or Feelings

When it's time to go, none of us wants to leave. As I say my good-byes, I think of all the fun we had, and what fun we will have next time.

Types of Endings/Resources/Mentor Texts

Circular Endings: The end matches the beginning. Many of the same words are used to make the beginning and ending match with some small change to the ending which shows that the text has progressed. (Wonderous Words by Katie Wood Ray)

Resource Texts:

- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
 - Beginning: If you give a mouse a cookie, he's going to ask for a glass of milk. When you give him the milk,
 - Ending: And chances are if he asks for a glass of milk...he's going to want a cookie to go with it.
- If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Joffe Numeroff
 - Beginning: If you give a pig a pancake, she'll want some syrup to go with it.
 - Ending: And chances are, if she asks you for some syrup, she'll want a pancake to go with it.
- If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Joffe Numeroff
 - Beginning: If you take a mouse to school, he'll ask you for your lunchbox.
 - Ending: And chances are, if he asks you for your lunchbox, you'll have to take him back to school.
- If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Joffe Numeroff
 - Beginning: If you give a moose a muffin, he'll want some jam to go with it.
 - Ending: And chances are, if you give him the jam, he'll want a muffin to go with it.
- If You Give a Cat a Cupcake by Laura Joffe Numeroff
 - Beginning: If you give a cat a cupcake, he'll ask for some sprinkles to go with it
 - Ending: And chances are, if you give him some sprinkles, he'll want a cupcake to go with them.
- The Paperboy by Dave Pilkey
 - Beginning: The mornings of the paperboy are still dark and they are always cold even in the summer. And on these cold mornings the paperboy's bed is still warm and it is always hard to get out—even for his dog...
 - Ending: And while all of the world is waking up, the paperboy is going back to sleep and his dog is sleeping, too. Their work is done.....and now is the time for dreaming.
- Thank you, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
 - Beginning: The grandpa held the jar of honey so that all the family could see, then dipped a ladle into it and drizzled honey on the cover of a small book.
 - Ending: Then she held the book, honey and all, close to her chest. She could feel tears roll down her cheeks, but they weren't tears of sadness—she was happy, so very happy.
- Through Grandpa's Eyes by Patricia MacLachan

- Beginning: Of all the houses that I know, I like my grandpa's best. My friend Peter has a new glass house with pebble-path gardens that go nowhere. And Maggie lives next door in an old wooden house with rooms behind rooms, all with carved doors and brass doorknobs. They are fine houses. But Grandpa's house is my favorite. Because I see it through Grandpa's eyes.
- Ending: She says it sternly. But Grandpa is right. Her voice smiles to me. I know. Because I'm looking through Grandpa's eyes.
- Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes
 - Beginning: Chester had his own way of doing things....
 - Ending: Chester and Wilson and Lilly, Lilly and Wilson, and Chester, That's the way it was...And then Victor moved into the neighborhood...
- Imogene's Antlers by David Small
 - Beginning: On Thursday, when Imogene work up, she fund she had grown antlers.
 - Ending: On Friday, when Imogene woke up, the antlers had disappeared. When she came down to breakfast, the family was overjoyed to see her back to normal...until she came into the room.
- The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
 - Beginning: It was in the summer of the year when the relatives came. They came up from Virginia. They left when their grapes were nearly purple enough to pick, but not quite.
 - Ending: And when they were finally home in Virginia, they crawled into their silent, soft beds and dreamed about the next summer.
- The Great Fuzz Frenzy by Janet Stevens
 - Beginning: Down it went. BOINK! BOINK! "Watch out below!" RUMBLE! RUMBLE! "Help! Help!" "HEEEELLP!"
 - Ending: The prairie dogs raced down, down, down the long tunnel.
- My Mama Had a Dancing Heart by Libba Moore Gray
- Beginning and Ending are the same: My mama had a dancing heart and she shared that heart with me.
- On Call Back Mountain by Eve Bunting
 - Beginning: Our farm is at the bottom of Call Back Mountain, on the very edge of the wilderness. And as soon as fire season begins, my brother and I start watching for Bosco Burak to come along the trail. Way up on Call Back is a fire tower. Bosco has been lookout in that tower every summer since before forever. He's our friend. Each June, when he and his mules Aida and Traviate pack in, they spend the first night with us. The next morning, they climb the fifteen-mile trail to the tower. "There he is!" I yell. Bosco waves. "Howdy, Joe! Howdy, Ben!" It's been so long since we've seen him that Ben and I are a bit shy. We pet the ladies, which is what Bosco calls his mules. Then Bosco tells us to stand against the larch tree so he can measure us. "Two inches," he says, squinting at lat year's marker. Ben and I nudge each other and grin. We want to be tall, like Bosco. He has the longest, skinniest legs in the whole world. Cherry pickers, he calls them."See any wolves yet?" Bosco asks Dad. Dad hulls the last gooseberry for the gooseberry pie. "Not a one,"

he says. Bosco smiles. "They'll be back. The coyotes are back. Any creature that loves the wilderness will always come back."

- Ending: "Cherry pickers," I whisper. "What?" "Nothing." I take Ben's hand. "Remember what Bosco said?" Any creature that loves the wilderness will always come back?" Ben nods. "I remember." Somewhere in the near darkness a wolf howls.... "Woooo." Ben's fingers hold tight to mine. "Bosco would be pleased about the wolf," he whispers. "Yes," I say. "Bosco would be pleased."
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
- "My Grandpa" See Appendix I (student sample) Craft Lessons by Ralph Fletcher & JoAnn Portalupi
- "Poem" by Langston Hughes

Surprise Endings:

Resource Texts:

- The Sweetest Fig by Chris Van Allsburg (surprise)
 - When he woke up he next morning, Bibot was confused. He was not in his bed. He was beneath it. Suddenly a face appeared in front of him—him own face! "Time for your walk," it said. "Come to Marcel." A hand reached out and grabbed him. Bilbot tried to yell, but all he could do was bark. (Marcel the dog ate the fig and his dream came true. He became the man and Bilbot became the dog.)
- Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch
 - All day we fished and fished, and I caught a big fish...Just like Mommy!
- The Paperbag Princess by Robert Munsch
 - "Ronald," said Elizabeth, "your clothes are really pretty and your hair is very neat. You look like a real prince, but you are a bum." They didn't get married after all.
- Charlie Anderson by Barbara Abercrombie
 - Just like Elizabeth and Sarah, Charlie has two houses, two beds, two families who love him. He's a lucky cat. (Charlie stays all day at the one house and then sleeps at another one at night.)
- White Dynamite and Curly Kid by Bill Martin, Jr. & John Archambault
 - My head's still ridin' too, Dad. It's takin' an awful poundin'. Well, ya' better get used to it, Lucky...if you're gonna be a bull rider. (Lucky is revealed in the picture as being a girl.)

Feeling Endings

Resource Texts:

- The Divide by Michael Bedard
- Fireflies! by Julie Brinckloe
 - I held the jar, dark and empty, in my hands. The moonlight and the fireflies swam in my tears, but I could feel myself smiling.
- Night Tree by Eve Bunting
 - Maybe a fox has come, stepping high on its thin, sharp paws, and they're all there together, singing their own Christmas songs on Christmas Day around our tree.
- Widget by Lyn Rossiter McFarland
 - "I didn't know you had a dog," said a neighbor. "Oh, yes," said Mrs. Diggs. "It's nice to have a dog. Right, girls?" Oh, yes, the girls agreed.

- Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen
 - "Your doll is the most beautiful, Molly," Emma said. Emma sat next to me. "Your doll is the most beautiful one of all." I nodded. "Yes," I said. "I know." I decided if Miss Stickley actually invited her, it was all right for Mama to come to school. I decided something else too. I decided it takes all kinds of Pilgrims to make a Thanksgiving.
- The Wall by Eve Bunting
 - "Grandpa won't know who I am," I tell Dad. "I think he will," Dad says. I move closer to him. "It's sad here." He puts his hands on my shoulder. "I know. But it's a place of honor. I'm proud that your grandfather's name is on this wall." "I am, too." I am. But I'd rather have my grandpa here, taking me to the river, telling me to button my jacket because it's cold. I'd rather have him here.
- Poppleton by Cynthia Rylant
 - (Neighbors) Then Poppleton soaked himself with the hose. They laughed and laughed. Poppleton and Cherry Sue were best friends from then on.
 - (The Library) At the end of the day, Poppleton finished the story. He thanked the librarian and packed up his things in his duffel. Then he slowly walked home, all dreamy from so much adventure. Monday was Poppleton's favorite day of all.
- Koala Lou by Mem Fox
 - When the first stars of evening appeared in the sky, Koala Lou crept home through the dark and up into the gum tree. Her mother was waiting for her. Before she could say a word, her mother had flung her arms around her neck and said, "Koala Lou, I DO love you! I always have, and I always will." And she hugged her for a very long time.
- Resource Text: "My Pet Dog" See Appendix J (Student Sample) Craft Lessons by Ralph Fletcher & JoAnn Portalupi

Hope/Wish/Dream Endings

Resource Texts:

- Best Little Wingman by Janet Allen
- Jeremiah Learns to Read by Jo Ellen Bogart
- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
 - Lilly ran and skipped and hopped and flew all the way home, she was so happy. And she really did want to be a teacher when she grew up—That is, when she didn't want to be a dancer, or a surgeon or an ambulance driver or a diva or a pilot or a hairdresser or a scuba diver...
- A Letter to Amy by Ezra Jack Keats
 - But Peter made his own wish, and blew out all the candles at once.

Lesson Learned Endings

Resource Texts:

- Shortcut by Donald Crews
 - We walked home without a word. We didn't tell Bigmama. We didn't tell Mama. We didn't tell anyone. We didn't talk about what had happened for a very long time. And we didn't take the shortcut again.
- Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
 - They perched in silence for a long time. "How can we be so different and feel so much alike?" mused Flitter. "And how can we feel so different and be so much alike?" wonder Pip. "I think this is quite a mystery," Flip chirped. "I agree," said Stellaluna. "But we're friends. And that's a fact."
- Tulip Sees America by Cynthia Rylant
 - You are on a cliff and the water is below you and as far as you can see, and you think the earth has dropped away from you and you'd better know how to swim. Tulip could not stop running. Tulip is an ocean dog. There is no ocean like Oregon's. And this is where we stayed.
- Alejandro's Gift by Richard E. Albert

Sad But True

Resource Texts:

- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson
- Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
 - "I'm sure the red fern has grown and has completely covered the two little mounds. I know it is still there, hiding its secret beneath those long, red leaves, but it wouldn't be hidden from me for part of my life is buried there, too. Yes, I know it is still there, for in my heart I believe the legend of the sacred red fern.
- A Taste of Blackberries by Doris Buchanan Smith
 - Joy burst within me and I blinked the stinging out of my eyes. I knew she understood everything I wanted to tell her. "I will," I said. "Every day." I smiled, then laughed. I snatched up my basket of berries and ran home. I plopped them on the kitchen table and ran out again. "I'm going up the street to play," I called behind me. In my relief I felt that Jamie, too, was glad the main sadness was over. I wondered how fast angels, or whatever he was now, could move. "Race you," I called to him and I ran up the hill.
- The Tenth Good Thing About Barney by Judith Viorst
 - Barney is in the ground and he's helping grow flowers. You know, I said, that's a pretty nice job for a cat. (Barney the cat died.)
- Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya
 - "Later, when the bodies of the elephants were examined, nothing was found in their washtub-like stomachs—not even one drop of water." With tears in his eyes, the zoo keeper finished his story. "These three elephants—John, Tonky, and Wanly—are now resting peacefully under this monument." He was still patting the tombstone tenderly as the cherry blossoms fell on the grave, like snowflakes.

Advice

Resource Texts:

- Fables by Arnold Lobell (This book has short stories with advise endings at the end of each one. Below are just a few selections.)
 - It is always difficult to pose as something that one is not.
 - When the need is strong, there are those who will believe anything.
 - Wishes, on their way to coming true, will not be rushed.
 - A first failure may prepare the way for later success.
 - Too much of anything often leaves one with a feeling of regret.
- Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young
 - The Mouse Moral: Knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.

- The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me by Roland Dahl
 - "I've got to leave you now," I said. "I must go and look after my customers in the shop." "We must go, too," said the Giraffe. "We have one hundred windows to clean before dark." I said good bye to the Duke, and then one by one I said goodbye to the three best friends I had ever had. Suddenly, we all became very quite and melancholy, and the Monkey looked as though he was about to cry as he sang me a little song of farewell: *"We have tears in our eyes as we wave our goodbyes, we so loved being with you, we three. So do please now and then come and see us again, the Giraffe and the Pelly and me. All you do is to look at a page in this book because that's where we always will be. No book ever ends when it's full of your friends the Giraffe and the Pelly and me."*
- The Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco
 - "From that day on, Mary Ellen never again complained about her reading. She found it to be every bit as exciting as a wild chase through the Michigan countryside, and as sweet as the honey from a bee tree."

Question

Resource Texts:

- How Many Days to America? by Eve Bunting
 - We joined hands and closed our eyes while my father gave thanks that we were free, and safe and here. "Can we stay, Papa?" my little sister asked. "Yes, small one," my father said. "We can stay."
- Elephants Swim by Linda Capus Riley
- The Library Dragon by Carmen Agra Deedy
 - But then every librarian needs to be a little bit of a dragon ----- or else,
WHO WOULD GUARD THE BOOKS?
- In the Woods-Who's Been There? By Lindsay Barrett George
 - "I wonder who's been here?" William asks. But Cammy knows....
- What Did I Find? By Brian and Rebecca Wildsmith,
- What in the World? By Eve Merriman
 - What in the world goes
stalking and balking
running and sunning
thumping and dumping
lugging and hugging
swinging and singing
wriggling and giggling
sliding and hiding
throwing and knowing and
growing and growing
much too big for
last year's clothes?
Who knows?
- Farm Morning by David McPhail, which also goes with Social Studies
 - "There...feeding's done. But wait, haven't we forgotten someone?" "Two someones---you and me! What would I do without you?"

Endings Mini-lessons

Connection: I have come to your class to teach you about ways to end your story to keep your reader thinking about your story a long time after they have finished reading it.

Teach: I am going to read a story from my writer's notebook to you. Then I am going to show you two ways I changed the ending.

Active Engagement: Show 2 new endings on chart paper (SEE PG. 128 in 6+1 Traits of Writing for Grades K-2)

- ❖ *A Quote:* "I'll never unbuckle myself again Mom," cried Brady
- ❖ *A Question:* Will you remember to stay buckled up in a car at all times?
- ❖ *A Laugh:* Brady will never forget the day he almost lost his head!
- ❖ *A Smart Thought:* Keeping yourself buckled up is the best way to ride in a car.
- ❖ *A Sign of What is to Come:* Brady will never unbuckle himself in the car again.

Ask kids to figure out why the ending is titled like so. Turn and talk. Share

Link: Today and everyday when you are writing or revising, think about how your story ends. Try to end with a way that will keep your readers thinking about your story long after they have finished reading it. Try not to end like this: "I hope you liked my story" or "The End". Pick a story from your writer's notebook and try to rewrite the ending using these two kinds.

Mid-workshop Teaching Point: Allow students to work for a few minutes, clarify problems and read aloud a few good examples to keep them going.

Share: Volunteers can share ONE new ending.

Repeat this lesson 1 more time using the other 3 endings.

Good Endings

Students will:

- Identify the characteristics of good endings in personal narrative picture books.
- Rewrite weak story endings by using the characteristics of good endings.
- Revise the ending of a draft of their own personal narrative.

Materials/resources

1. Make Your Choice Transparency (below)
2. Six pieces of chart paper with one of the following poor endings written on the top of each:
 - “We had a lot of fun.”
 - “Then we went home.”
 - “It was a fun time.”
 - “We drove home.”
 - “Finally we left.”
 - “I fell asleep on the way home.”
3. Copy of *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant
4. Other books with good endings (see supplementary resources)
5. Great Endings sheet
6. Vis-à-Vis markers

Activities

Modeling/Minilesson

1. Pass out paper or have students get out their journals. Tell students that you want them to take notes during the lesson. Discuss with students the importance of a good ending to a story.
2. Point out that good endings may let the reader know how the writer feels and should wrap up the main idea of the story.
3. Discuss the ending of the book *The Relatives Came*. Sometimes authors end their stories with a memory, a feeling, a wish, or a hope. Other times they end the story by referring back to the language of the beginning.
4. Show the Making Choices transparency on the overhead. Discuss the story endings. Have students select the endings they like best and explain their reasons. Remind students to write down the good endings on their note sheet so they can file them in their writing notebooks.

Guided Practice

5. Place students in six small groups.
6. Pass out the chart paper with poor endings, one to each group. Have students work in small groups and think of better endings, keeping in mind that they need to refer back to the main idea of the story. Monitor and give assistance with group work.
7. Have students share their endings with the class and discuss the characteristics of good endings (e.g., closure to the story, reflection of main idea).

Independent Practice

8. Have students select a draft from their writing folders. Have them write at least 2 endings that use the characteristics of good endings and share their endings with a partner. Ask them to add one of the new endings to their draft.

Transfer

9. Have students examine the characteristics of good endings for different genres, such as imaginative narrative, informational, persuasive, instructions, etc.

Assessment

1. Can students choose the best ending for a story?
2. Can students write a good ending for a narrative about a common event?
3. Can students write a good ending for their own personal narrative?

Supplemental information

Attachments: Great Endings sheet

Books with Good Beginnings/Good Endings:

The Gentle Giant Octopus by Karen Wallace
Bat at Night by Nicola Davies
Look Out Jack! The Giant is Back! by Tom Birdeye
A Storm on the Desert by Carolyn Lesser
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate Dicamillo
My Great Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston
Bubba, The Cowboy Prince by Helen Ketteman
Stop That Dog! The Great Gracie Chase by Cynthia Rylant
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
Click Clack Moo by Doreen Cronin, Betsy Lewin (Illustrator)

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/3613>

Make Your Choice!

(Give a thumbs up or down on these endings.)
Remember that the word "As"
is one way to start the closing sentence.

1. A story about a trip to Carowinds:
 - A. Then I went home.
 - B. As I traveled home, I thought about my exciting day at my favorite place, Carowinds.

2. A story about an embarrassing moment:
 - A. I was very, very embarrassed.
 - B. As long as I live I'll never forget the most embarrassing moment of my entire life.

3. A story about a magic carpet ride:
 - A. I had fun.
 - B. That's all folks!
 - C. As I snuggled under my covers that night, I fell asleep thinking about my ride on the magic carpet.

4. A story about a fun day at school:
 - A. It was the funniest day of my life.
 - B. When I got home, I opened my birthday presents that my mom and dad gave me.
 - C. I'm already looking forward to the next time we have a fun day at school. I hope I don't have to wait too long!

Types of Endings

The ending of a story, how a story ends: for example circular ending, emotional statement, or a surprise ending. (The Revision Toolbox, Georgia Heard)

Feeling



I love my new house but I miss my old friends.

Wish, Hope, Dream



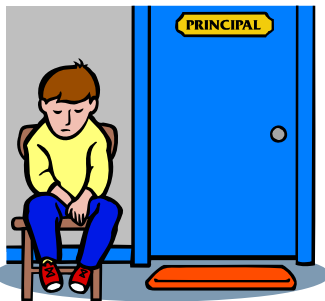
I hope that someday that I will be a good parent just like my mom. But until then, I will work on being a good kid.

Question



I wonder if I will ever have this much fun again?

Lesson Learned



I learned that I shouldn't lie because it gets me into worse trouble

Name _____

Types Endings

Write your ending

Feeling



Wish, Hope, Dream



Name _____

Types Endings

Write your ending

Feeling



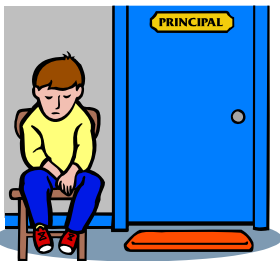
Wish, Hope, Dream



Question



Lesson Learned



Endings (2-5)

Advice

Sad But True

Surprise

Circular

Lesson Learned

Question

Wish Hope Dream

Thoughts or Feelings

Endings- Non-fiction

1. End with some advice.
2. End with your big feeling.
3. End with something you want your readers to remember.
4. End with something you want your readers to do.
5. End by thinking about the future.
6. End with something you've learned.
7. End with a recommendation.
8. End with your main idea.
9. End with the effect on you or others.
10. End with a question.

A Glossary of Happy Endings

- 1. Advice.** (A) If you cannot swallow and your throat is puffy, then you have strep. You should get lots of rest. And a shot because the shot will make you better faster than the medicine. (B) If you're thinking about going skydiving, take my advice: stop thinking.
- 2. Big feeling.** (A) Oh Yeah! Here is something really funny. My hair still smells like smoke. I love campfires. (B) Finally the parade was done. We put the blanket in the trunk. Boom! It slammed again and we drove away as I thought how much fun I had. (C) When it's time to go, none of us wants to leave. As I say my good-byes, I think of all the fun we had, and what fun we will have next time.
- 3. Remember.** (A) Remember even though the Mariners are losing doesn't mean they're a bad team. (B) So always remember to keep an extra key somewhere. You never know when you might need it.
- 4. Do.** (A) There were 300 families with no homes because of the fire. They couldn't put out the fire because they had no sprinklers. (B) Down with the dolls! Get rid of every store that carries them! Let the revolution for a Barbie-free America begin! (C) If you care about the lives of your children and the quality of your community, then vote for tomorrow's school levy. It's the best way to guarantee a bright future for everyone. (D) Make a commitment to getting in shape today. Turn off the television, put down whatever it is you're reading (unless it's this essay, of course), start living a healthy life today. You'll be glad you did.
- 5. Future.** (A) Last year was definitely the hardest, craziest year of my life. And I loved it! Things are going great. I never knew the incredible feeling of accomplishing things that in the past seemed impossible-not only with school, but with my entire life. Every day is another chance to do something great. And now I have the confidence and motivation to conquer anything that is put forth in front of me. I feel I owe this to many things and to many people, but most of all I owe it to myself. Now I think about the consequences of everything I do and say. And this helps me make better decisions, decisions that help me build a better future. The future! For the first time I'm looking forward to it. (B) Everybody's always talking about adults being good role models for kids, but maybe we should be models for them. Maybe we could teach them a few things about how to have a good time and enjoy life. It's worth a try. I'd hate to think that the way growing up seems to me now is the way it's going to be when I get there.
- 6. Lesson.** (A) I learned that I shouldn't lie because it gets me into worse trouble. In the future I'm not going to lie. If I have a problem, I'm going to tell someone about it, and ask for help. (B) From the wars in Korea and Vietnam, our country learned painful but valuable lessons that will guide our foreign policy well into the next century and beyond.
- 7. Recommendation.** (A) I recommend this book for readers who like adventures and interesting stories. (B) Even after all the bad things that happened, it was still a fun trip. If you go there, I can't guarantee you won't have all the problems we did. But I can recommend this vacation to any family who wants a real challenge. (C) Even though the food was pretty good and it wasn't too expensive, I'm afraid I can't recommend this restaurant to everyone. It was very noisy and the service was slow. I don't think it would be a good choice for families with small children.

- 8. Main idea.** (A) Chores aren't the worst but they're definitely not the best! (B) An actor acts. A hero helps. The actor becomes famous and the hero does not. And that's just it: Heroes don't care about the credit, they just care.
- 9. Main idea and implications.** (A) Henry Ford's revolutionary thinking affected the lives of many Americans. The Ford Motor Company became one of the largest industrial companies in the world, and a household name. Opportunity to be mobile in a Ford automobile gave the open road to the ordinary American. Businesses boomed in the hard times of the Depression because the auto gave the opportunity for work to many: The American dream of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness was more possible in the auto. Americans today still have a love affair with cars thanks to Henry Ford and his revolutionary thinking.
- 10. Effect.** (A) While all this happened, another close neighbor had witnessed the incident and called 911. It was decided afterward that the dog had contracted rabies and he was soon put to sleep. I was given a series of shots and a few stitches only, and after a couple of years, my leg healed, but the scars remain on both the inside and out. (B) The internment of the Japanese Americans was one of the lowest points in United States history. We did it out of revenge and out of hate. The fear that we felt after the attack at Pearl Harbor was well founded, but the internment was not the way to overcome it. The internment hurt so many people so deeply and really accomplished nothing in the short run. In the long run, it brought nothing but shame upon us.
- 11. Question.** (A) As this miracle season comes to a close, the one thing on every fan's mind is this: "Can they do it again next year?" (B) Will the human race ever see the irony in destroying the planet that is their only home? How much more evidence do we need before we take global warming seriously? (C) I guess what still bothers me is how confused I am about what happened. If I was ever in that same situation again, would I act the same way, or would I do something different?
- 12. Sequel.** (A) As soon as I walked in the dining room I smelled trouble. I looked down at my plate and saw what I smelled! Brussels sprouts! I gave a loud tragic moan and knew there was going to be another story written by Alex Carter. But for now, I would feed my Brussels sprouts to the fish. (B) And so ends another after school adventure, or misadventure, I should say. Stay tuned for the further misadventures of a kid with not enough homework to keep him out of trouble and way too many wild ideas.
- 13. Reflective evaluation.** (A) So I guess that I lived happily ever after except that I couldn't walk for the rest of the trip. Maybe that campground wasn't so cool after all. (B) From that point on my life has been good. Except for the chores. I think my mom got the better end of the deal on that one. (C) BRRRIINNNGGG! The bell rang! I pulled on my backpack, tore out of the room, sprinted down the stairs, sped down the hallway, and bounded out the door. I dashed home and grabbed a snack. I popped a video into the VCR, turned on the TV, and relaxed. Ahhhhhh! What a glorious day! (D) My whole world seems to be more on track now that she's gone. My self-confidence, my general attitude has improved immensely. I do miss her sometimes. How could I not after three years of friendship? All I can think is that I was a good friend to her. Our relationship didn't survive, but we'll always have the laughs...and the tears.

- 14. Wish, hope, dream.** (A) Now, I'm looking at John, over the mess on the kitchen table, wondering if he's all right, because he's only eight years old, and that was a lot of throwing up to do. Then he gets to go out and play with his friend, just like he wanted. I feel a little cheated. Would I have gotten to go back out if that was me? I really wish he could have the experience of a younger sibling, just so he would know how I feel. (B) I hope someday that I can be a good parent just like my mom. But until then, I'll just work on being a good kid. (C) Even now, years later, I still dream of what my life might have been like. (D) I think that Jay Buhner is a true hero. The Seattle Mariners would be lacking an excellent right fielder without him. I hope he stays in Seattle for the rest of his baseball career.
- 15. Tribute.** (A) I salute you, Lieutenant John Olson. May your bravery and courage be passed on so that someone else may look up to you and yours, and honor them as I do. (B) John was the best kid I ever knew. There when I need him, gone when he knew I needed to be alone. And I feel darn privileged of having the extreme honor of being his blood-brother. I just wish we could have carted him along when we moved here to Canby. God bless his soul. I'm never going to forget him.
- 16. Wrap-around.** (A) Boom! The trunk slammed. Bang! The car door slammed as we got out of the van... We put the blanket in the trunk. Boom! It slammed again and we drove away as I thought how much fun I had.

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Genesee Intermediate School District

2413 West Maple Avenue
Flint, Michigan 48507-3493
(810) 591-4400
TTY (810) 591-4545

Lawrence P. Ford, President
Jerry G. Ragsdale, Vice President
Dale A. Green, Secretary
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To order bound copies of this document contact:
Melissa Wing, K-2 Early Literacy and Math Coordinator, Office of Education and Learning by phone (810) 591-4322 or email
mwing@geneseeisd.org