

Increasing the Rigor of Storyboarding

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We usually think of a three-panel storyboard as a tool used in primary classrooms to teach about the structure of narrative stories (beginning, middle, and end). However, storyboards can be used by older students and with informational texts (biographies, procedures, historical events, or any other text with a chronological/sequential text structure). All that is needed are the modifications suggested below. Teachers should note that the number of squares used is totally discretionary.

An Example of a Storyboard Modification

Instead of three panels, a 9-square storyboard can be used as modeled for **Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt** by Deborah Hopkinson, we can break down the story into three sections: beginning, middle, and end. Each section will consist of three squares that highlight key events in the narrative.

Storyboard Example

Beginning

1. **Square 1:** Clara is separated from her mother and sent to a plantation, where she is initially tasked with field work.
2. **Square 2:** Clara's sewing skills are discovered, and she is moved to work as a seamstress in the Big House.
3. **Square 3:** Clara dreams of reuniting with her mother and escaping to freedom.

Middle/Body Paragraphs

1. **Square 4:** Clara overhears conversations about runaway slaves and the Underground Railroad while working in the Big House.
2. **Square 5:** She begins collecting scraps of fabric and information to create a quilt that serves as a map to freedom.
3. **Square 6:** Clara completes the quilt, which outlines an escape route, and prepares for her journey to freedom.

End

1. **Square 7:** Clara sets out on her journey to freedom, using the quilt map as her guide.
2. **Square 8:** Along the way, Clara faces challenges but remains determined to reach her goal.
3. **Square 9:** Clara successfully reunites with her mother and finds safety, fulfilling her dream of freedom.

This storyboard format helps organize the narrative into a clear chronological sequence, making it easier to understand and analyze the story's progression from beginning to end.



To create a 10-square storyboard for **Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type** by Doreen Cronin, we can break the story into three sections: beginning, middle, and end. The middle section will have four squares to provide more detail.

Storyboard Example

Beginning

Square 1: Farmer Brown hears strange typing noises coming from the barn.

Square 2: He discovers that the cows have found an old typewriter and are typing messages.

Square 3: The cows send a note to Farmer Brown, requesting electric blankets to keep warm at night.

Middle/Body Paragraphs

Square 4: Farmer Brown is bewildered by the cows' demands and refuses to provide the blankets.

Square 5: In response, the cows go on strike, refusing to give milk until their demands are met. Square 6:

The hens join the strike, refusing to lay eggs without electric blankets.

Square 7: Farmer Brown becomes increasingly frustrated and writes a letter back to the cows, demanding they return to work.

End

Square 8: The cows propose a compromise: they will return the typewriter if they receive electric blankets.

Square 9: Farmer Brown agrees to the deal and provides the electric blankets to the animals.

Square 10: After the deal is made, the ducks take over the typewriter and start typing their own demands, hinting at new challenges for Farmer Brown.

This expanded storyboard format allows for a more detailed exploration of the story's events and character motivations, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the narrative structure.

How this works!

RATIONALE for Making the Storyboard Adjustments

Using a 9-square storyboard instead of just 3 squares for beginning, middle, and end offers several academic, learning, and cognitive benefits:

Enhanced Detail and Depth

Deeper Understanding: A 9-square storyboard allows students to explore more details and nuances within each section of a narrative. This encourages a deeper understanding of the story's progression and the relationships between events.

Complex Concept Breakdown: By expanding the number of panels, students can break down complex concepts into smaller, more manageable parts, facilitating comprehension and retention.

Improved Cognitive Engagement

Chunking Information: The additional squares help students organize information into logical sequences, which aids in moving information from short-term to long-term memory.

Metacognitive Skills: More squares provide opportunities for students to reflect on their thinking and learning processes, enhancing metacognitive skills.

Creative and Critical Thinking

Creative Expression: With more panels, students have greater freedom to express creativity in how they depict each part of the story. This fosters imagination and critical thinking skills.

Problem-Solving: Students can explore multiple pathways or solutions within a narrative, encouraging problem-solving and decision-making abilities.

Collaborative Learning

Teamwork Opportunities: A larger storyboard can be divided among groups, promoting collaboration and communication as students work together to complete the narrative.

Enhanced Engagement and Motivation

Active Participation: The visual and interactive nature of a detailed storyboard keeps students engaged and motivated to participate actively in their learning journey.

Overall, using a 9-square storyboard provides a richer educational experience by allowing for more detailed exploration of content, fostering higher-order thinking skills, and enhancing student engagement.



Primary Template , K -2

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E

Modified Template, Grades 3 and Up

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