

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.

Storyboard Example

To create a 9-square storyboard for *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, we can break down the story into three sections: beginning, middle, and end. Each section will have three squares highlighting key events.

Beginning

1. Square 1: A group of boys is stranded on a deserted island after a plane crash, with no adults to guide them.
2. Square 2: Ralph is elected leader, and he emphasizes the importance of maintaining a signal fire for rescue.
3. Square 3: Tensions arise as Jack becomes obsessed with hunting pigs and begins to challenge Ralph's authority.

Middle/Body Paragraphs

1. Square 4: The boys' fear of a mythical "beast" grows, leading to paranoia and division among the group.
2. Square 5: Jack forms his own tribe, prioritizing hunting and savagery over rescue efforts, drawing many boys away from Ralph.
3. Square 6: Simon discovers that the "beast" is actually a dead parachutist, but he is killed by the frenzied boys before he can reveal the truth.

End

1. Square 7: Piggy is killed, and the conch shell, symbolizing order and civilization, is destroyed, marking the complete descent into chaos.
2. Square 8: Jack's tribe hunts Ralph, intending to kill him as the island descends into savagery.
3. Square 9: A naval officer arrives just in time to rescue the boys, who are confronted with the reality of their actions and loss of innocence.

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

How this works!

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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M
E

Modified Template, Grades 3 and Up

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