Lesson 2: Stellar Solutions

UNIT: Constellation Stories

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret. There are many constellations that show people or animals, but there are objects, too. Like this one is called Orion's Belt, and this one is the Northern Crown. And then, of course, there's also Maui's Hook.

I wanted to find out more about the story behind this hook. One version of the story goes like this:

> Maui had four brothers. They were all really good at fishing. One day, Maui wanted something—he wanted to prove to his brothers that he was a great fisherman too. So that morning Maui asked to go fishing with his brothers. He brought his magical hook, which he cast deep into the water. But then he encountered a problem. He felt his hook get stuck on the bottom of the ocean floor.

Imagine all of the different ways that Maui could solve his problem. Maybe he could call out to an octopus to come along and pull his hook up. Or maybe he could attach the other end of the hook to a hot air balloon. Or maybe Maui could ask his brothers for help.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you think Maui could do to get his hook unstuck?

HOOK 2

I'm not sure how you answered, but you probably came up with an idea for Maui to do something so that he could solve his problem. You probably didn't say that Maui just left his hook stuck and decided to go home.

Coming up with a solution to a problem is a very important part to finishing a story. It needs to solve the problem and give the character a chance to get what they wanted.

Now let's see how the story ended:

> Maui's hook was stuck on the ocean floor, and he couldn't bring it up. But he also felt the pressure from his brothers to catch big fish. He told them to keep paddling the boat and not look back. The brothers kept paddling and Maui focused and used all of his strength to pull the hook up. Not only did he pull his hook up, but also, he ended up pulling up the eight Hawaiian Islands from the ocean floor. Maui used his strength to prove to his brothers that he could get his hook unstuck and catch something big.

You've been working on your constellation story about this star pattern. So far, you've added a character, a setting, something that the character wants, and a problem they encounter on the way. But your story still needs a solution.

Before you start working on your solution, I could really use your help on my constellation story about Cosmo. Here's what I have so far:

- Here's my character: Cosmo Nebulapaws
- The setting: The forest
- Cosmo wants something: To eat the berries on the other side of the river
- But there's a problem: The rocks are too slippery to cross the river

I need to come up with a solution that gives Cosmo a way to solve this problem so that he can get what he wants.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: How would you have Cosmo solve his problem?

HOOK 3

You probably had tons of ideas and that's great. Here's the solution I came up with:

> Cosmo bravely wandered into the dark forest and found a fallen tree trunk. He used it as a bridge to cross the river. Once he made it across, he ate so many berries that his belly was full!

Cosmo solved his problem and got what he wanted. As the writer, I imagine how Cosmo might be feeling and what he might be thinking. And I want to use those ideas to write a sentence that ends my story.

To review, my character started like this. Then he saw something he wanted. Then he encountered a problem. Then he solved his problem. My character went through a lot in my story.

To end my story, I need to think about what I want my reader to remember about Cosmo. Not just that he solved his problem, but that he learned something from his experience.

Maybe he learned about courage or how to overcome a challenge.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: What do you think Cosmo learned from his experience?

HOOK 4

I'm not sure what you came up with, but here's what I think Cosmo learned: When you are brave, you can do amazing things! Writers call this the message of the story. It's something the character learned from their experience and an important lesson that the author wants readers to remember. Now every time I look up in the sky and see this constellation, I can think about Cosmo and how when you're brave, you can do amazing things.

Now it's your turn to come up with a story solution and last sentence containing your story's message.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Get your Story Plan worksheet.

Take turns sharing the parts of your story you filled in last time with a partner.

When you're done, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

Now get your Solution Stars worksheet.

Think of one way your character can solve their problem and get what they want.

Write it here in the "Solution" box under number one.

STEP 5

Take turns sharing your first idea for a solution with your partner.

STEP 6

In a writing community, writers help each other out. Your partner might have an idea for your story that you might like.

So, this time, your partner will think of a solution to your character's problem.

Switch your Story Plan worksheet and Solution Stars worksheets with your partner. Think of a solution for their story and write it on their paper in the "Solution" box under "#2".

When you're both done writing, you can switch back.

STEP 7

Think of one more solution to your story. Write it here in the "Solution" box under "#3".

STEP 8

Read over your three solution ideas and pick your favorite. Color in the star next to your favorite solution, like this.

STEP 9

Now it's time to imagine what your solution looks like by drawing a quick sketch here. I'll give you one minute to draw. Don't worry if you don't finish. You'll have more time later.

When you're done drawing, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 10

Think about what your character learned when they solved their problem—this is the message of your story.

Write the lesson that your character learned in this box. You can use one of these to start your sentence or come up with your own.

STEP 11

Take turns sharing the message of your story with your partner.

STEP 12

It's time to add your starred solution and message to your story plan.

Use your scissors to cut out your picture and the box that says "Message."

Make sure to cut along the dotted lines of the box.

STEP 13

Now cut out the box of the solution you picked for your story.

Remember, this is the "Solution" box where you colored in the star. You may have picked a different box than the one on screen.

When you finish, you should have two items cut out.

STEP 14

Glue your solution box onto your story plan in the area that says "Solution."

STEP 15

Glue your solution drawing and message box onto your story plan here.

WRAP UP

Your plan for your constellation story is complete. It now includes parts for the beginning, middle, and end, which means you're ready to pull it all together and draft your constellation story. In the next lesson, you'll start drafting and come up with a hook. No, not that kind of hook. One that hooks your reader's attention.

Before you go, the paper shown on the screen is a V.I.P.—very important paper. Your teacher will tell you where to put it, so you'll have it for the next lesson. You can recycle what's left of your Solution Stars worksheet.

That's all for now. I'll see you next time.