Lesson 2: Imagine the Adventure

UNIT: Where's Chester?

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

When I write a book, I sometimes work with an artist who creates pictures that go with the story.

Before the book is finished, they send me drafts, or *sketches*, of the artwork. Sketches are quick drawings that allow artists to test different ideas before they make final versions.

A painter might sketch the same landscape in different ways. A sculptor might sketch their statue from different angles. And an illustrator might draw lots of quick sketches to explore how the art can support the story.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Why do you think illustrators and artists draw sketches before they create the final version?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said that sketching lets them make mistakes without worrying about messing up. Or that maybe they want to use the sketches to see how everything works

together before making their final creation. You might have said something else and that's great.

Sketches help artists plan what they want to make before they go and make it. What goes where, what's most important, and in what order things should appear.

Writers do the exact same thing, just with words and ideas. Instead of a sketch, writers make a story plan. They take all their ideas and make a plan for what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of their story.

They decide which parts are most important and how it all fits together to tell their story. A plan is not a complete story yet. It's just notes and ideas and they don't need to be in full sentences.

So far, you've been working alongside Natalie as she creates her new book series, *Where's Chester? Adventures of an Escaping Hamster.*

Today, you're going to create a plan for your writing. You'll review and then choose which location you want to use for your story.

You'll plan what happens throughout the adventure, start writing the beginning of your story by creating a lead, and then later on you'll use your plan to write a draft of your story.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In the last lesson, you brainstormed story ideas for two different settings or locations.

Today, you'll choose which location you want to use for your story and then plan what happens for the beginning, middle, and ending.

Get your Story Ideas worksheet.

Read what you wrote for both locations. Decide—which of your story ideas do you like the best? Put a star next to the location you like the best.

STEP 3

Get your Story Plan Worksheet.

We know that in the beginning of the story, Chester starts out in his classroom where he escapes. In the "Beginning" section of your Story Plan worksheet, write "Classroom" for where it takes place.

STEP 4

The school location that you chose on your Story Ideas worksheet tells you where the rest of your story takes place. On your Story Plan worksheet, write where the middle and ending of your story takes place.

STEP 5

The story ideas you have are a great start! You'll add more details to them later to help build your full story.

To get started, copy your story ideas for the place you picked onto your Story Plan worksheet.

STEP 6

When Natalie was checking her Story Plan, she realized that she was missing an important piece of her story.

In the beginning of her story, she hadn't described how Chester got from his classroom to the location where the rest of her story takes place.

Natalie started to imagine how Chester made his way out of his classroom and into the music room.

She imagined Chester tiptoeing across the classroom floor, dodging broken pencils, candy wrappers, snack bags. She imagined him squeezing under the door and then sneaking into the music room. She then added these details to her Story Plan.

- Crosses the classroom floor.
- Broken pencils, candy wrappers, snack bags.
- Squeezes under the door into the music room.

Imagine how Chester made his way out of the classroom in your story.

In the "Beginning" section of your Story Plan, add some notes about how Chester gets out of the classroom into the next location in your story.

STEP 7

Read the "Middle" and "End" sections of your Story Plan. Are there enough details in the story?

You could add more details about what Chester does, when he does it, and where it happens. Or you could add what happens at the end of your story or something else.

Read the "Middle" and "End" sections and add details to each section.

STEP 8

Writers also add details like what their character is thinking or feeling throughout the story.

Take a look at your Story Plan. Pick at least two parts in your story and add notes about what Chester is thinking or feeling during that part of the story.

STEP 9

Before Natalie finishes her plan, she adds one more part: the lead.

The lead is the very beginning of your story. It's the first few sentences that grab your reader's attention, making them want to keep reading.

For her Chester story, Natalie chose to write this:

- Chester pushed on his cage door for the hundredth time, But today, something amazing happened. It swung open!

You could start your story with a lead describing how Chester is feeling, what he hears, or like Natalie's lead, what Chester is doing.

Think about your story and then write a one to two sentence lead. You'll be able to make changes to it later when you write your draft.

Your teacher will tell you how long you have to write your lead.

STEP 10

Nice job! You now have a complete Story Plan and a lead for your Chester adventure.

Read your Story Plan one last time from start to finish. Follow along with your finger while you move through your story.

If you see a part you want to change or add, write those in as you go.

WRAP UP

Great job planning your story and writing your lead!

You've made sure that all your story ideas flow together, added lots of story details, and planned Chester's thoughts and feelings throughout the story. You've also written a strong lead that hooks your readers. All of this planning will really pay off when you sit down to draft your full story.

So far in Natalie's writing process, you've identified the main characters and setting, you've brainstormed story ideas, you've planned your story and wrote a lead. In the next lesson, you'll use your story plan and lead to draft your complete "Where's Chester" story.

Then later, you'll revise, edit, and share it as part of Natalie's brand new story series.

Make sure you put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe. I'll see you next time.