

Lesson 4: Stretch It Out

UNIT: Funny Memories

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Anne.

My friend loves to play with her dog. Her dog's favorite toy is a frisbee. Sometimes she catches it; other times, not so much. Sometimes it looks pretty silly when she misses. Let's watch that again in slow motion.

My friend likes to tell me about the silly things that happen with her dog, but it could be hard to describe when it all happened so fast. By slowing it down, I can help her describe what happened here. You can help too. Let's take a look at just the first part of the video.

Okay, it looks like the frisbee was in the air, and the dog ran towards the frisbee.

Okay, what's the next part? Let's watch it again.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: How would you describe what's happening in this part of the video?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but I wrote, "the dog jumped towards the frisbee."

Okay, here's the next part.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: How would you describe what's happening in this part of the video?

HOOK 3

I don't know what you said, but I wrote, "The dog missed. The frisbee bounced off the dog." And then, "The dog landed safely."

Wow, it turns out this video that went by so fast was actually lots of things happening quickly! By writing each part out on a timeline like this, I can see all the parts of what happened. I can use this timeline to write about what happened with this dog. I'll use transition phrases like first, next, then, and after that to help connect each part of the timeline. Check it out.

First, the frisbee was in the air, and the dog ran towards the frisbee. Next, the dog jumped towards the frisbee. Then the dog missed, and the frisbee bounced off the dog. After that, the dog landed safely on the ground.

Wow, the timeline really helped me write everything that happened in this event! It took a very quick moment and told it bit by bit, just like watching the video in slow motion.

You're working on writing a funny memory for the Funny Memories Writing Festival. So far, you've written a beginning for your story. Your beginning includes the things that happened before the event. Today, you'll draft the main event—your funny moment. Your event may have been something that happened slowly or very quickly. Either way, you can use a timeline to help you plan out everything that happened and tell your event bit by bit.

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 Plan worksheet. Read what you planned for the event in your story.

When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

STEP 4

Get your Timeline worksheet. Find where you wrote what your event is on your Plan.

Copy what you wrote into the "event" box on your timeline worksheet.

STEP 5

This is a timeline where you can plan everything that happened in order during your main event. Today, we're only going to put the event on the timeline. We'll write about what happened after—later on.

On your plan, you already wrote a few details about what happened during your event. For each detail, think about where it might go on your event timeline. Did it happen towards the start of the event, or the middle, or closer to the end?

After you decide where your details go, copy each one onto your timeline. Mark the spot of each detail with a line like this. Leave some space between each detail so you can add more to your timeline.

STEP 6

Imagine your event happening in slow motion. Remember each thing that happened, bit by bit. If your event begins with you sitting at your desk and then you got a book from the shelf, you probably stood up from your chair and walked to the bookshelf and then got the book.

On your timeline, add more details of each action that happened, bit by bit. You can add things to your timeline in between the details you already wrote.

If you're running out of space, you can use the space above and below your timeline like this.

STEP 7

Think about what you saw or heard during your event. If you remember seeing or hearing something that isn't on your timeline, you can add it now.

STEP 8

Think about what you were feeling in the moment. Were you surprised or excited or something else?

If you remember feeling something during the event, you can add it to your timeline.

STEP 9

Nice job, writers! Your timeline is now full of things that happened in your event bit by bit.

You already wrote the beginning of your story. When you write your main event, it will be the middle of your story.

Let's get ready to draft.

Get your Middle worksheet and your Timeline worksheet. You can put your plan to the side for now.

STEP 10

Before writers begin to write, it can help to try sharing parts of your story out loud. When you share your event out loud, you might notice parts that are missing or don't make sense.

Take turns sharing all the parts of your timeline out loud with your partner. If any parts are missing or don't make sense, you can make changes.

STEP 11

It's time to write the middle of your story. Find your "Transition Phrase" bank on your timeline worksheet. You can use these words and phrases to connect each part of your timeline.

Pick a transition phrase to begin your event. Write your phrase starting at the lightning bolt. Then complete the sentence with the first detail from your timeline.

STEP 12

Now you can continue adding each of the details in your timeline. You can make them each into sentences using the "Transition Phrases" below.

Continue writing until you have included all the details from your timeline in your writing.

You can always make changes later on.

STEP 13

Take turns sharing your middle out loud with your partner. If you want, you can make changes.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers!

You took a small moment and turned it into a thrilling middle of your story.

Using a timeline is a great strategy that you can use anytime you write a story.

Timelines help writers plan lots of details for their writing and help them tell their story in order.

In the next lesson, you'll draft the ending of your story.

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