

Lesson 2: Plan Your Story

UNIT: Funny Memories

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

My friends and I love to tell each other funny stories. Recently, my friend sent me a text that something funny happened that he wanted to share.

It said, "Anne, I have a funny story for you!" Then he sent this picture.

What? I'm not really sure what's going on here. I have some questions for my friend to help me understand what happened. You might have some questions too.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What questions would you ask to find out more about what happened?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but I would probably ask, "Who did your hair like that?" And "Where were you?" And maybe "What happened?"

My friend told me more about this story. As it turns out, my friend's daughter wanted to do his hair. When she was all done, it looked like this—it looked like a bunch of palm

trees. When they were done playing, the room was a mess, but they still had a lot of fun.

Now I understand the story. When my friend sent me this picture, he knew everything that had happened. But with only the picture, it was tough to know the whole story.

You're working on writing about a funny memory too, for the Funny Memories Writing Festival. You brainstormed lots of story ideas. I brainstormed lots of ideas too, and I picked my favorite funny story.

I remember a time I laughed, and it's the time my cat played the piano. But hang on—this isn't really a story yet. If someone read that, they would probably be confused and have a lot of questions. In order for this story to make sense, I need to think about what happened before this funny moment and what happened afterwards. A plan is a great way to think about all the parts that make a great story. Take a look at the time my cat played the piano.

My funny moment is when my cat played the piano. Now I can think about what happened before and after. I'll start with what happened before.

Well, I was getting ready for bed in my bedroom; then my funny moment happened. I heard some funny piano sounds. I went downstairs and saw my cat was walking on the piano keys.

Then what happened after? Well, first, I laughed. Then I put the cover over the piano and reminded myself: always put the cover on the piano before I go to bed.

Thinking about my story in three parts can help me make a plan for how my story will go. For each section, I can write a few details about each part. Now I have a plan. When I write my story, I can start by writing what happened before the event, the event itself, and after the event.

In your class, there are probably tons of different story ideas. There might be story ideas about a classroom pet or a food fight or something else.

Today, you'll make a plan for your funny memory. You'll write what happened before the funny moment, the main event, and after. Then in later lessons, you'll draft your funny memory and turn it into a story.

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 Brainstorming worksheet.

Read the ideas that you circled in the last lesson.

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

STEP 4

Get your planning worksheet. This is where you plan what happened before your funny moment—the main event—and after. Your story idea is the main event of your story.

Copy your idea into the "event" section of your plan.

Since this is a plan, you don't need to write in complete sentences; you'll have a chance to make changes later on.

STEP 5

Find the "before" section of your planning worksheet. Think back to your memory: where were you when it happened?

Write where your funny memory happened on the line.

STEP 6

Think about who was there with you. Maybe there was one person or maybe many or maybe an animal was there too.

Write who was there with you in your funny memory on the lines.

STEP 7

Next, think about what was happening before the funny thing happened. Maybe you were eating lunch, or you were talking about class with your friends, or you were riding a bike, or something else.

Write what was happening right before the event on the lines. If you want, you can add more than one thing.

STEP 8

In my plan, the funny thing that happened was "My cat played the piano!" But there are a few more details I can add.

When my cat started to play the piano, I was upstairs. I heard someone playing the piano, but I didn't know who it was. Then I walked downstairs, and I saw it was my cat.

Find the "event" section of your plan. If you want to add more details to your funny moment, you can add them now.

STEP 9

Find the "after" section of your planning worksheet.

What happened right after the funny thing happened? Maybe there was a big mess or everyone laughed or maybe someone said something.

Write what happened right after the funny moment here. If you want, you can write more than one thing.

STEP 10

Think about why this memory has stuck with you. Maybe ever since then, you remembered this moment as the funniest thing ever, or maybe you decided to never do that again. For me, ever since then, I always remember to put the cover on the piano at night.

Find the "Ever since then" section of the plan. Complete the sentence with what sticks with you from your funny memory.

STEP 11

Nice job, writers!

You made a plan with lots of details for your story. In a moment, you'll share your story plan with your partner. Remember to share all the details you planned from the "before" section, the "event," and "after."

Take turns sharing your plan out loud with your partner. If you want, you can add more details to your plan.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers!

You now have a plan with details about what happened before your event, the event itself, and what happened afterwards.

With all these story parts, you already answered the questions that other people will have about your story. As you write the story, your plan is all set up so you can include a beginning, a middle, and an end of your story.

In the next lesson, you'll start drafting your beginning or what happened before your event. Then in later lessons, you'll draft each of your parts to write your funny memory story.

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