

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Directions: Think of the story you want to write. What problem does the main character face? Draw pictures to show how your character's problem gets bigger and worse from the beginning to the end. Use the word bank to help you think of problem ideas.

Beginning

Middle

End

Name: _____

Date: _____

L1

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

WORD BANK

Things That Can Go Wrong:

lost, stolen, broken, trapped, missing, destroyed, ruined, cursed, poisoned, damaged, hidden, forgotten, abandoned, captured, kidnapped, chased, split, torn, shattered, crushed, flooded, burned, frozen

Who Might Cause It:

villain, bully, monster, enemy, thief, stranger, dragon, witch, wizard, ghost, creature, giant, spy, trickster, robot, alien, hunter, criminal, pirate, sorcerer, beast, demon, rival, invader, force of nature, evil king, shadow

How It Makes Character Feel:

scared, worried, angry, frustrated, hopeless, brave, determined, upset, confused, hurt, desperate, terrified, lonely, sad, betrayed, rejected, panicked, courageous, afraid, nervous, heartbroken, devastated, shocked, helpless, motivated

Possible Consequences:

will lose, will fail, will die, will be trapped forever, will never get home, will be alone, will lose friends, will lose powers, everyone will suffer, the world will end, will be stuck, will stay cursed, family will be in danger, village will be destroyed, magic will disappear, will never see home again, kingdom will fall, friends will be hurt, will remain lost, hope will be gone

Name: _____

Date: _____

L2

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Directions: Complete all four steps to plan your problem. Refer to the class example and your other planning worksheets as needed.

STEP 1: BRAINSTORM PROBLEM IDEAS

What problems could your character face? Write two different ideas. Then put a star next to your FAVORITE idea. That's the one you'll develop.

Idea 1: _____

Idea 2: _____

STEP 2: DESCRIBE YOUR CHARACTERS PROBLEM

STEP 3: CONSEQUENCES

What would happen if the problem isn't solved? What is at stake? What is the risk?

STEP 4: PROBLEM DEVELOPMENT (How does the problem grow and get worse?)



Name: _____

Date: _____

L3

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Directions: Complete all the steps to plan your problem. Refer to the class example and your other planning worksheets as needed.

STEP 1: BRAINSTORM PROBLEM IDEAS

What problems could your character face? Write two different ideas. Then put a star next to your FAVORITE idea. That's the one you'll develop.

Idea 1: _____

Idea 2: _____

STEP 2: DESCRIBE YOUR CHARACTERS PROBLEM

Use these questions to help you!

What exactly happened? Who is involved? When did it start?

Where is it happening?

Why does it matter?

STEP 3: CONSEQUENCES

What would happen if the problem isn't solved? What is at stake? What is the risk?

Name: _____

Date: _____

L3

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? Continued

STEP 4: PROBLEM DEVELOPMENT (How does the problem grow and get worse?)



STEP 5: ADD A TWIST

Is there a surprise that will make your problem even more interesting?

- A betrayal (someone the character trusted is working against them)
- A hidden truth revealed (something wasn't what it seemed)
- An internal conflict (character's own fear or flaw makes problem worse)
- A moral dilemma (character must make a difficult choice)
- Other: _____

Describe your twist:

STEP 6: CHARACTER'S EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

How does your character FEEL as the problem escalates?

Beginning feeling: _____

Middle feeling: _____

Near end feeling: _____
