

The Story Map

Objectives

- to identify the setting, characters, the problem, and the solution in a story
- to understand the story sequence of beginning, middle, and end

Materials

- ARTHUR book or video
- The Story Map activity sheet
- pencils
- drawing materials (optional)

Directions

- 1 Read or watch an ARTHUR story together.
- 2 Model how to prepare The Story Map on the chalkboard or chart paper.
- 3 With the class, discuss the story's beginning, middle, and end by answering the following questions:
 - **Beginning** (characters and setting)
Who are the main characters in the story?
Where and when does the story take place?
 - **Middle** (problem)
What is Arthur's problem?
How does he try to solve it?
 - **End** (solution and theme)
How is the problem solved?
What does Arthur find out about himself?
- 4 Have students independently or in pairs fill out The Story Map for another ARTHUR story.

Activity Options

- Have younger students draw and/or dictate their answers.
- Use The Story Map as a video viewing guide. While viewing, pause for a class discussion about the story elements.

Story-Writing Idea

Students can use a story map to plan their own ARTHUR stories to write or tell. (See pages 14–24 for other story-writing activities.)

student activity sheet

The Story Map

Name: Molly Blackwell

Title: Arthur and the Real Mr. Ratburn

Beginning Who are the main characters?
Arthur, Buster, Mr. Ratburn, Francine, Prunella

Where does the story take place?
at school, at the Sugar Bowl, at the library, at the carnival

When does the story happen?
at the beginning of the third grade

Middle What is the problem?
Arthur and Buster hear scary stories about Mr. Ratburn and think he's a monster. They hear him say he wants boys' heads and they think Mr. Ratburn is out to get them.

How are the characters trying to solve it?
by following Mr. Ratburn around town and trying to find out what he does with boys' heads

End How is the problem finally solved?
Arthur and Buster follow Mr. Ratburn to the carnival and see him doing a play with puppets for kids. They realize that the boys' heads he wants are puppet heads, and that Mr. Ratburn is a nice guy who does a lot for kids.

What did the main character find out about herself/himself?
Arthur and Buster find out that they shouldn't listen to the stories people tell them about other people.





The Story Map

Name: _____

Title: _____

Beginning

Who are the main characters?

Where does the story take place?

When does the story happen?

Middle

What is the problem?

How are the characters trying to solve it?

End

How is the problem finally solved?

What did the main character find out about herself/himself?
