

Name _____

ANALYZE THIS ENDING! (1)

Read this story ending.

- Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
- Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
- Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
- Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

Susie curled up in my lap and started to purr. As I stroked her soft fur, a wave of relief washed over me. I remembered my fear when I discovered she was missing and how vividly I’d imagined the worst — Susie lost forever or hit by a car. She might even have been preyed upon by a fox or coyote. Instead, she was safe and warm. From now on, I decided, she would stay indoors even on the sunniest of days!

THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

Name _____

ANALYZE THIS ENDING! (2)

Read this story ending.

- Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
- Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
- Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
- Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

It was late when Evan and his family returned home from his sister’s dance recital. Before he headed up the stairs to bed, he took a minute to congratulate Lily once again. She’d danced so gracefully on the stage tonight and he was ashamed to remember that he’d once complained that ballet was boring to watch. He vowed to show up at every one of her performances from now on and, as she took her bow, he’d clap for her just like she did for him at his soccer games. If he was really lucky, maybe he could talk her into teaching him a few dance moves of his own.

THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! (1)

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a boy who lives on a farm but dreams of exploring the big city. Disobeying his parents, he takes the train into the city by himself and gets lost.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

For now, I was happy just to be home. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.



Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! (2)

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a girl named Julia who is worried about going to sleep-away camp because she is afraid of the dark. She spends a night in a tent in her yard with her best friend who helps Julia overcome her fear.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

I'd learned that nothing's that scary when you've got a loyal friend by your side. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character's memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.

Name _____

EXTEND THIS ENDING! - MAKE-IT-YOUR-OWN

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Write a story summary:

Now write a boring story ending.

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.



Name _____

Read this modern-day retelling of the story of The Three Little Pigs. The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying. Instead of the usual, “and they lived happily ever after” ending, write an extended ending. Include the third pig’s memories and feelings about the main event, and any decisions, wishes or hopes she has as a result.

The Three Little Pigs

In a sunny clearing near a deep, dark forest lived a family of pigs, a mom and dad and their three little pigs. Like children, the young ones grew up way too fast!

“It’s time for you pigs to build homes of your own,” their dad told them.

“You’re not piglets anymore,” their mom added.

“Yay!” The first little pig was excited to build herself a home of her own. “My house will be surrounded by a moat of mud where I’ll wallow my days away.”

“My house will be surrounded by apple trees,” said the second little pig. “And I’ll feast on apples every single day!”

“My house will be made of recycled wood and locally sourced stones, and warmed by the power of the sun,” said the third little pig. “But most of all, it will be strong enough to weather the huffs and puffs of the winter wind at a time of climate change.”

The first little pig got to work. She nearly drained a nearby lake to build her mucky moat, leaving gasping fish struggling to survive in a shallow puddle.

In order to plant her apple orchard, the second little pig chopped down many trees in an old-growth forest and the birds had to find someplace else to build their nests.

The third little pig searched for just the right place to build her house and finally found it — a grassy meadow near a babbling brook on the edge of the forest. She dug stones out of the earth and used them to build a sturdy foundation for her home. She collected boards of recycled wood and nailed them together to form walls and a strong roof. She dug clay out of

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the riverbank and molded it into the cracks between the boards to keep the wind out of her cozy shelter. She made windows on the south side of the cottage where the sun could shine in and provide light and warmth.

It was a lot of work! Her shoulders and hooves ached at the end of the day and she felt a tinge of envy when she saw her sisters taking it easy day after day.

“Join me,” the first little pig said. “The mud is extra oozy today.”

“No, thank you,” said the third little pig. “I have work to do.”

“Come have an apple,” said the second little pig. “They’re sweet and crunchy.”

The third little pig took a quick break and ate an apple with her sister, but she got back to work as soon as she swallowed the last bite.

When her warm, cozy cottage was finally complete, the third little pig felt so proud of herself. She sipped water from her brook where fish splashed around contentedly. She listened to the songs of birds in the nearby forest.

It wasn’t long before the first little pig came to visit, arriving at her sister’s house desperately thirsty. “Water,” she panted. “Water!”

Because she’d nearly drained the lake, there was no fresh water for her to drink at her house.

On the same day, the second little pig stopped in for a visit, complaining that her apples were tasty, but she missed hearing the melodies of songbirds.

The third little pig shrugged. “What did you think was going to happen when you chopped down the trees they lived in?”

So the two unhappy pigs moved in with their smarter sister, who taught them the importance of not being a hog in nature. **THE END**

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (1) - ENDINGS

Read this story **ending**. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

After that “Haunted Hayride”, I slept with the lights blazing all night. THE END.

Revise this by writing an **extended story ending**.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of the “Haunted Hayride.”
- A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
- The “I” character’s feelings about the experience.
- A decision that the “I” character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the “I” character feels.

Name _____

BEFORE AND AFTER REVISION ACTIVITY (2) - ENDINGS

Read this story **ending**. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

I guess you could say that I learned my lesson. THE END.

Revise this by writing an **extended story ending**.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of an experience.
- A hope or wish that resulted from that experience.
- The “I” character’s feelings about the experience.
- A decision that the “I” character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the “I” character feels.

Name _____

The Great and Powerful Gator

Okay, I'll admit it: I was pouting. Sitting with my face pressed against the glass of the car window, I was not speaking to anybody in my family — not my mom, not my dad and certainly not my little brother, Tim. It was his fault we were wasting a whole day of our vacation going to a Gator Farm.

We could have been swimming in the pool at the hotel or hunting for pretty shells on the beach. How awesome would it have been to go snorkeling around the coral reef and see colorful, tropical fish swimming in a beautiful underwater garden of sea grasses? Who wouldn't want to take a speedy ride on a jet-ski or paddle a kayak through the calm waters of an inlet where dolphins frolicked?

Any one of these activities would've thrilled me. Instead, we were taking a long drive in the hot sun just to get an up-close look at what might be the ugliest creature on earth — the Alligator. I was not a fan of any reptile, but disliked alligators most of all. With long snouts, sharp teeth and lumpy skin, these creepy reptiles looked to me like second-rate dinosaurs. My brother Tim disagreed. He was fascinated with these hideous, jaw-snapping relics of days gone by. Riding beside me in the car and so excited he could barely stay seated, Tim yammered on and on about alligators. My parents listened politely. I put on headphones to drown out his chatter.

Our visit to the Gator Farm started with an airboat ride. Propelled by a huge and super-powerful fan, the boat whisked us off to the middle of a lake where live alligators surrounded us. While my brother and many of the other passengers snapped pictures of the swimming swamp monsters, I watched the beautiful pink wading birds who stood on their strong, slender legs nearer to shore.

Next, it was onto the Gator Theatre and a show starring trained alligators. People thrilled to the sight of a guy who called himself a “gator wrangler” kissing the creatures on the nose! The daring gator wrangler also stuck his hand into the wide-open jaws of one alligator and threw himself

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onto the back of another! While he was performing his fearless stunts, he talked non-stop about alligators, telling us about how they can climb trees and may have the ability to use tools. To my brother's delight, I started to feel a grudging respect for them.

“Don't you think they're cool, Kayla? Aren't you glad we came?”

I could only answer yes. Tim had been right all along about alligators. They were fascinating and the more I learned about them, the less ugly and scary they seemed. I guess, if you try, you can find something admirable about every living creature. I'm going to keep that in mind the next time Tim drags me into a pet store to look at the lizards.

On the ride home, my mom said, “Today was Tim's special day and tomorrow is yours, Kayla. What do you want to do?”

Her question made me feel ashamed of the way I'd behaved earlier — pouting because I didn't want to go to the Gator Farm. I felt determined to make it up to my family by choosing an activity everybody would really enjoy. But what? Snorkeling? Beach-combing? Kayaking? All sounded great to me! I weighed every option carefully and finally came to a decision that evening. Tomorrow was going to be an unforgettable day!

Name _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS TASK: ENDINGS THE GREAT AND POWERFUL GATOR

You've read the story The Great and Powerful Gator. The main point-of-view character changes from the beginning of the story to the end. Write an essay to explain how the main character changed and identify the theme of the story. Be sure to provide evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Your teacher will walk you through the following STEPS:

1. As a class, read, annotate, analyze, and summarize the story.
2. Fill in the following:
 - Who is the main **point of view character**? _____

 - What is the **setting**? _____

 - What is the main character's **motivation**? (What does she/he **want**?) _____

 - What is the **conflict**? (Who or what stands in the way of the main character's motivation?) _____
 - Fill in the summarizing framework that outlines the **plot**.

This story is about _____ .
The problem/adventure/experience _____ .
The problem was solved, experience or adventure concluded when _____ .

- What is the **theme**? _____
3. Consider the task:
 - How does the main character grow or change from the beginning to the end of the story?
 - What is the theme of the story?
 - How do you know this is the theme?
 4. Your teacher will MODEL this process with you. You may use the sentence starters to help you cite examples in the source text.

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SENTENCE STARTERS:

- At the start of the story _____.
- As the story progresses _____.
- The theme is clearly _____.
- Throughout the story the main character _____.
- In each paragraph _____.
- Further evidence of this is _____.
- For example, in paragraph _____.
- The author writes _____.
- The theme is evident when _____.
- The author illustrates this _____.
- The reader understands this when _____.
- At the end of the story _____.
- Certainly, _____.

Name _____

NARRATIVE EXTENSION TASK: ENDINGS

You've read the story The Great and Powerful Gator which ends with Kayla making a decision about the following day. Imagine Kayla decides to go snorkeling. Write an extended ending for that adventure.

REMEMBER: Use the productive questions to fully elaborate your Extended Ending:

- **MEMORY:** What did you remember most?
- **FEELING:** How did you feel about the experience?
- **HOPE/WISH:** What did you hope or wish for?
- **DECISION:** What did you decide?
- **DEFINING ACTION:** What did you DO?

Write your new **EXTENDED ENDING!**
