



Pilkey, Dav: You've Inspired A "Writing Wave!"

(Originally a Teacher Mini-Grant Sponsored by Assurant)

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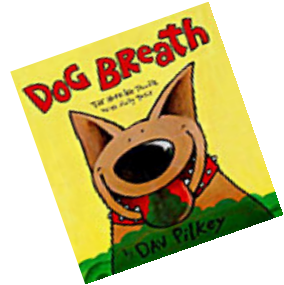
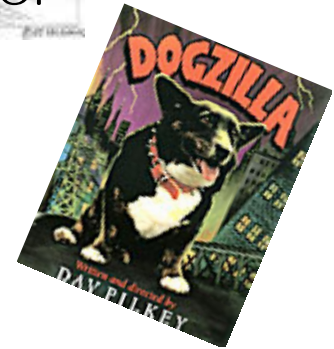
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Goals and Objectives:

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

Reading/Language Arts:

- LA.2.1.5.3 The student will adjust reading rate based on purpose, text difficulty, form, and style
- LA.2.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly
- LA.2.1.7.1 The student will identify a texts features (e.g., title, subheadings, captions, illustrations), use them to make and confirm predictions, and establish a purpose for reading
- LA.2.1.7.2 The student will determines the author's purpose in text and asks clarifying questions (e.g., why, how) if meaning is unclear
- LA.2.1.7.3 The student will summarize information in text, including but not limited to main idea, supporting details, and connections between texts
- LA.2.1.7.4 The student will identify cause-and-effect relationships in text
- LA.2.1.7.5 The student will identify the text structure an author uses (e.g., comparison/contrast, cause/effect, and sequence of events) and explain how it impacts meaning in text
- LA.2.1.7.6 The student will identify themes or topics across a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections
- LA.2.1.7.7 The student will compare and contrast characters and settings in one text
- LA.2.1.7.8 The student will use strategies to repair comprehension of grade-appropriate text when self-monitoring indicates confusion, including but not limited to rereading, checking context clues, predicting, summarizing, questioning, and clarifying by checking other sources
- LA.2.1.4.1 The student will use knowledge of spelling patterns (e.g., vowel diphthongs, difficult word families)
- LA.2.1.4.7 The student will recognize and correctly use regular and irregular plurals
- LA.2.3.1.1 The student will prewrite by generating ideas from multiple sources (e.g., text, brainstorming, webbing, drawing, writers notebook, group discussion, other activities)
- LA.2.3.1.2 The student will prewrite by determining the purpose (e.g., to entertain, to inform, to communicate) and the intended audience
- LA.2.3.1.3 The student will prewrite by making a plan for writing that includes the main idea, the purpose (e.g., to entertain, to inform, to communicate)
- LA.2.4.1.1 The student will write narratives based on real or imagined events that include a main idea, characters, a sequence of events and descriptive details
- LA.2.4.1.2 The student will compose simple stories, poems, riddles, rhymes, or song lyrics

Overview/Course Outline:

Summary of Project: Second-grade students are enamored with the animated children's books of author Dav Pilkey, and excited to emulate his captivating adventure stories with their own original tales and adapted renditions. The students read several of his stories, such as: *Dragon Gets By*, *Kat Kong*, *Dogzilla* and *Captain Underpants*. They explored his web site and showed interest in learning more about Dav Pilkey. They were motivated to reproduce his captivating style of writing and created their own renditions, such as: *Kitten Kong*, *Puppy Zilla*, and *Captain Lava*. The girls created a female version of *Captain Underpants* and produced stories, such as: *Princess Skinny Jeans*, *Princess Sparkle Jeans* and *Queen Kitten Breath*. In addition, the students participated in a read-a-thon, wrote letters to the author and read their stories to younger students.

Projected Timeline:

December – January

1. Read several stories by Dav Pilkey: *Kat Kong*, *Dogzilla*, *Bad Breath*.
2. Read comic story about Dav Pilkey ([http://www.piley, com](http://www.piley.com)).
3. Complete teacher –made comprehension test (Attached)
4. Explore activities and games on Dav Pilkey's web site.
5. Begin Dav Pilkey Read-A-Thon contest.

February – March

1. Students write and illustrate their story renditions: *Kitty Kong*, *Puppy Zilla*.
2. Students write and illustrate new plot and story ending for: *Dog Breath* and *Dragon Tales*
3. Laminate book cover.
4. Bind books.
5. Display and check-out from classroom library.
6. Continue Dav Pilkey Read-A-Thon contest.

April – May

1. Students select a story starter for the following: Captain Pajamas; Captain Funny Socks; Kitten Kong, Puppy Zilla, Captain Lava, Princess Pocket Purse; Princess Skinny Jeans, Princess Sparkle Jeans and Queen Kitten Breath (Students may create other titles based on their interests).
2. Students work in teams to write and illustrate the adventures (each will be a chapter in the books).
3. Laminate book cover.
4. Bind books.
5. Display and check-out from classroom library.
6. Write fan letters to Dav Pilkey.
7. Conclude Dav Pilkey Read-A-Thon contest.
8. Read original stories to kindergarten and first grade classes.

Resources:

Before beginning this project, I recommend that the teacher expose the students to several works of Dav Pilkey. After lunch, I read aloud a story or chapter to my students. After I've read several of Dav Pilkey's books, I conduct a poll as to which stories the students enjoyed the most; favorite characters, etc. Engaging and empowering students to make choices for their story renditions promotes their learning.

Dav Pilkey's web site at: www.pilkey.com

The following resources were compiled from his web site):

Questions about Dav

Q How do you pronounce your first name?

A Most people pronounce it "Dave" (rhymes with "rave"), but "Dav" (rhymes with "have") is also correct. Bonus points are given for "Däv" (rhymes with "suave").

Q Are you married? Do you have children?

A Yes and no. In 2005 I married my sweetheart, Sayuri (pronounced "Sy-you-dee"). We don't have any children yet.





What is your favorite book?



I have lots of favorite books. Some of them are: the "George and Martha" books by James Marshall; the "*Stupids*" books and the "*Miss Nelson*" books by Harry Allard and James Marshall; the "*Frog and Toad*" books by Arnold Lobel; *Jake and Honeybunch go to Heaven* by Margot Zemach; *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss; and *The Animal Family* by Randall Jarrell.



How many pets do you have?



I have a cat named Blueberry, and three dogs, Martha Jane, Leia, and Little Dog. I used to have three mice named Rabies, Flash, and Dwayne, but I had to give them away when I moved to Oregon a few years ago.

Q Did you get good grades in school?

A No. I had a pretty tough time in school. I've always had reading problems, and I didn't learn the same way that most of the kids in my class learned (being severely hyperactive didn't help much, either).

I was discouraged a lot, and sometimes I felt like a total failure. But I had a lot of encouragement and support from my parents. They helped me get through the hard times. It's good to know that even if you're not successful in school, you can still be successful in life. (Thomas Edison was *terrible* at school, but he turned out o.k!)

Q What are your hobbies?

A I like reading, watching movies, playing video games, taking naps, and building toy monsters and robots.

Q Why do you spell your first name wrong?

A Back in 1983 I was a waiter at Pizza Hut. One day they were making a name tag for me, but the label-maker was broken. Instead of printing "Dave", it printed "Dav". The name stuck!

Q Do you do author visits?

A No. I have stomach problems that become almost unbearable when I travel, so I avoid speaking engagements whenever possible.

Q If you could be any kind of animal, what would you be?

A A flying monkey.

Questions about Writing Children's Books

Q How do you get the ideas for your books?

A I never try to "think" up a story, stories just *come* to me. I live a very simple life, and often spend several hours each day just daydreaming. It is usually during these times that my ideas come to me.

Q How did you get your start writing and illustrating books?

A When I was 19 years old, I wrote a book called *World War Won* and entered it in Landmark Editions' *National Written and Illustrated by... Awards Contest for Students*. My book won first prize for my age group, and was published.

Q Who are your major influences as an artist?

A The painters who have influenced me most as an artist are Vincent Van Gogh, Henri Rousseau, and Marc Chagall. Of all these artists, I think Marc Chagall is my favorite. I love the way he sees things... there are no straight lines in his world, and no gravity to speak of either. All the laws of physics go out the window! It's very liberating as a painter to have a hero who didn't follow the rules.

Q How long does it take you to make a book?

A It depends on the book. *When Cats Dream* and *The Paperboy* each took 15 minutes to write. *'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving* took almost a whole year (partially due to the fact that the first draft was eaten by a herd of cows). Rhyming books usually take much more time to write than non-rhyming books. Most of my picture books take between 1 and 3 months to illustrate.

Q What comes first, the pictures or the stories?

A Usually the title, then the story, then the pictures.

Q Who is your favorite Author and illustrator?

A I have many favorites. They include James Marshall, Arnold Lobel, and Dr. Seuss. I'm also a big fan of my friends [Audrey and Don Wood](#), and [Pam Muñoz Ryan](#).

Common Questions about Dav's Books

Q In the book *Kat Kong*, the ship is called the "U.S.S. Ignatz". What's an 'Ignatz'?

A Ignatz is the name of the mouse who appeared in a very old comic strip called *Krazy Kat*. The comic was about a nasty, brick-tossing mouse, and the cat who loved him. The picture on the right is of a 1995 U.S. postage stamp commemorating the comic strip. That's Ignatz there in the bottom right corner.



Q What's that thing on the table on the front cover of *The Dumb Bunnies*?

A That thing was a can of SPAM. It was meant to be a joke, but the people who make SPAM didn't think it was funny. They threatened to sue the Dumb Bunnies if it wasn't changed. The first printing of the book was thus changed by slapping a gold sticker over the can of "you know what". Later when the book was reprinted, the offensive word was removed.

If you ever come across a copy of *The Dumb Bunnies* with the word "SPAM" still on the cover, hang on to it. There are only a handful in existence, and they'll be *valuable* some day!



Q How did you make the pictures in *Kat Kong* and *Dogzilla*?

A The pictures in *Kat Kong* and *Dogzilla* were made by combining actual photographs of my pets with painted backgrounds. First, I took lots of pictures of my cat Blueberry, my dog Leia, and my pet mice, then I carefully cut the animals out of the photographs. The cut-outs of the animals were then pasted onto backgrounds which I had painted.

Dav Pilkey

List of Books

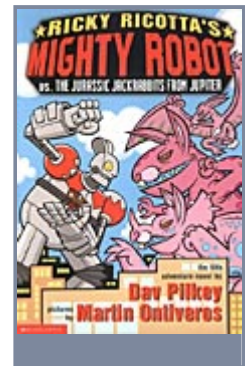
Captain Underpants

- [The Adventures of Captain Underpants: An Epic Novel](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Invasion of the Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy Part 1](#)
- [Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy Part 2](#)
- [The Captain Underpants Extra-Crunchy Book O' Fun](#)
- [The All New Captain Underpants Extra Crunchy Book of Fun 2](#)
- [The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby: The First Graphic Novel](#)



Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot

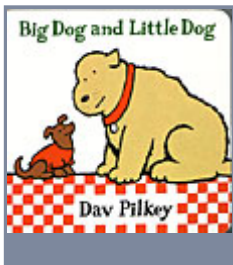
- [Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot](#)
- [Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot Vs. the Mutant Mosquitos from Mercury](#)
- [Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot Vs. the Voodoo Vultures from Venus](#)
- [Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot Vs. the Mecha Monkeys from Mars](#)
- [Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot Vs. the Jurassic Jackrabbits from Jupiter](#)
- [Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot Vs. The Stupid Stinkbugs from Saturn](#)





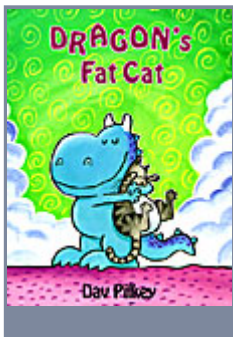
Dumb Bunnies

- [The Dumb Bunnies](#)
- [The Dumb Bunnies' Easter](#)
- [Make Way for Dumb Bunnies](#)
- [The Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo](#)



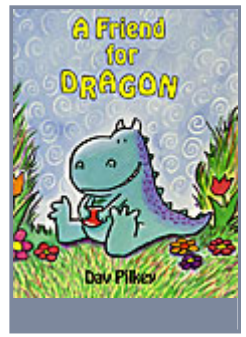
Big Dog & Little Dog

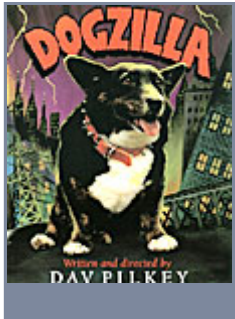
- [The Complete Adventures of Big Dog and Little Dog](#)
- [Big Dog and Little Dog](#)
- [Big Dog and Little Dog Going for a Walk](#)
- [Big Dog and Little Dog Getting in Trouble](#)
- [Big Dog and Little Dog Wearing Sweaters](#)
- [Big Dog and Little Dog Making a Mistake](#)



Dragon

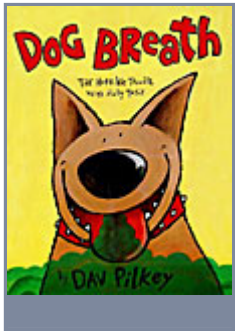
- [A Friend for Dragon](#)
- [Dragon Gets By](#)
- [Dragon's Merry Christmas](#)
- [Dragon's Fat Cat](#)
- [Dragon's Halloween](#)





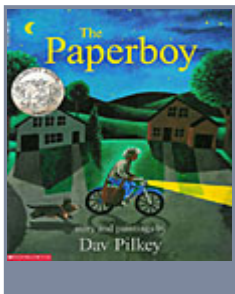
Creature Feature

- [Dogzilla](#)
- [Kat Kong](#)



Other

- [The Hallo-Wiener](#)
- [Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving](#)
- [Dog Breath!: The Horrible Trouble With Hally Tosis](#)
- [God Bless the Gargoyles](#)
- [The Silly Gooses](#)
- [The Paperboy](#)
- [The Moonglow Roll-O-Rama](#)
- [When Cats Dream](#)
- [Julius](#)
- [World War Won](#)



Special Note: At the www.pilkey.com web site there is a printable version of his comic book biography. There are 4 printable parts and the moral of the story. You may wish to print a copy of his comic book biography for each student in your class. The following comprehension test was created by the disseminator and may be adapted for your classroom use. Allow the students to use their copy to answer the comprehension questions.

Name_____ Date_____ #_____

Comprehension Test:

The Almost Completely True Adventures of Dav Pilkey

1. When is Dav Pilkey's birthday? _____
2. How old is Dav Pilkey?_____ Show your math problem.

3. What happened to Dav when he was 4 years old?

4. Did Dav's elementary teacher like it when he acted like a comedian? _____

5. Do you think it was a wise idea for the teacher to make him sit in the hallway? Why or why not? Explain in a complete sentence.

6. Did Dave like to be sent to sit in the hallway?_____

7. His classmates thought that his stories were_____.

8. Who did not think that his stories were funny?_____.

9. Did his high school teachers say encouraging things to Dav? _____

10. What was the plot in Dav's story about when he was in high school? _____

11. Was the story he wrote in high school fiction or non-fiction? _____

12. When did Dav go to college? _____

13. What happened during his Freshman year in college? _____

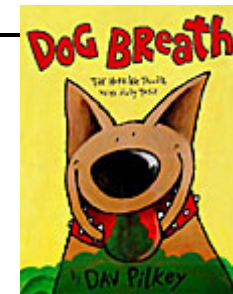
14. Who gave him the idea to write children's books? _____

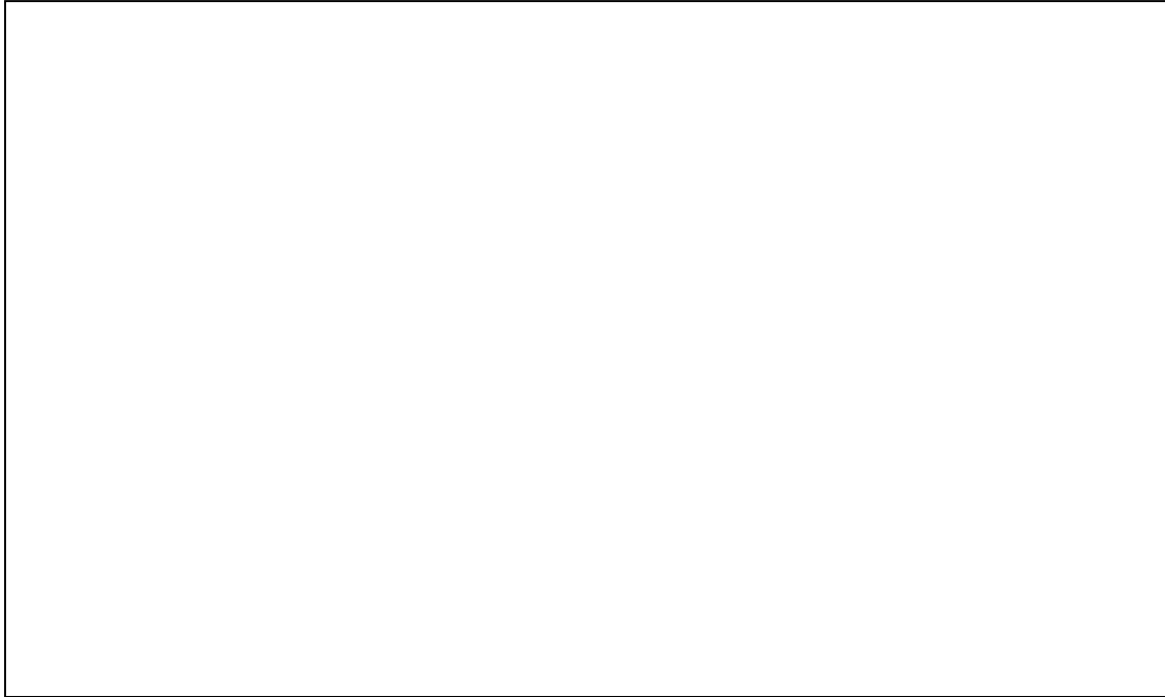
15. Who was the audience that Dav was talking to? _____

16. What is your favorite book written by Dav Pilkey and why?
Explain in a complete sentence. _____

Name _____ Date _____ # _____

My New Ending for Dog Breath





The Tosis family decided to keep Hally and they _____

The Adventures of _____

Written and Illustrated by _____

Main Character

Name: _____

Hero or heroine? _____

Special powers: _____

Special powers: _____

Title: _____

Character(s)

2nd Character's Name: _____

3rd Character's Name: _____

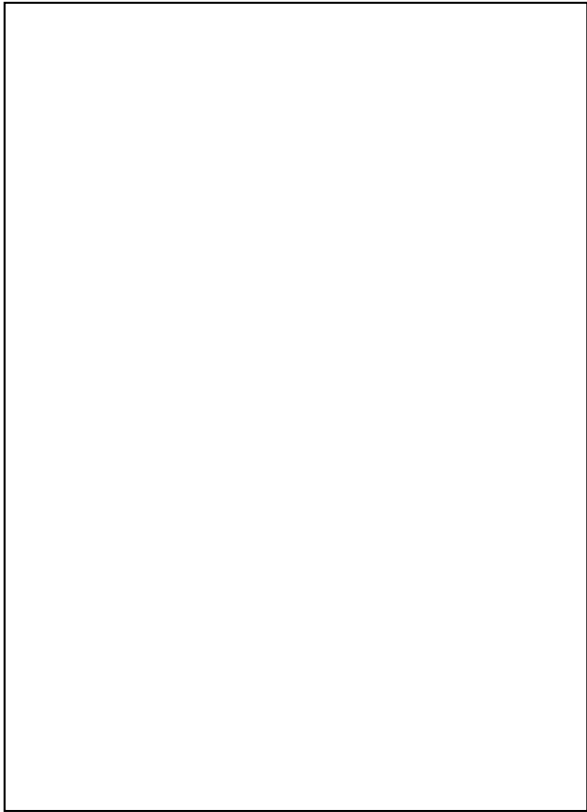
Villain

Name: _____

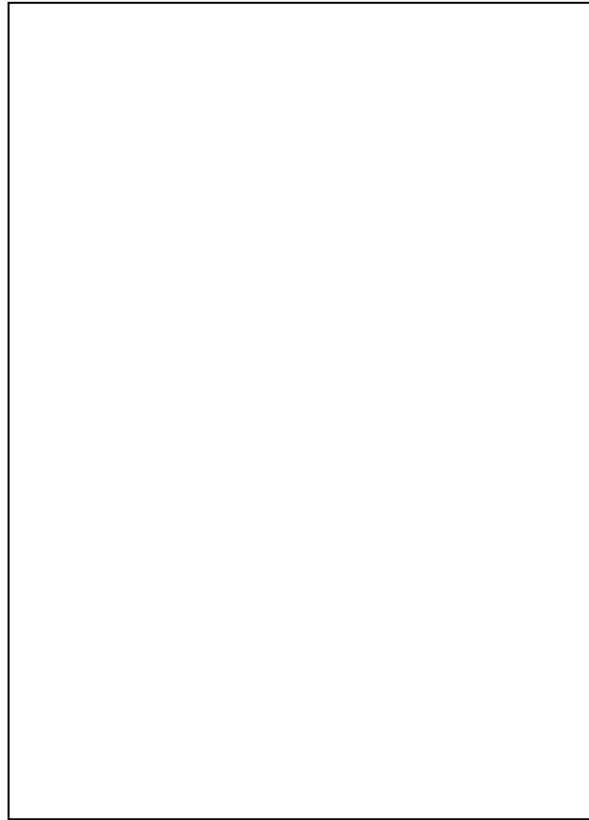
Where does the villain live: _____

_____ by _____

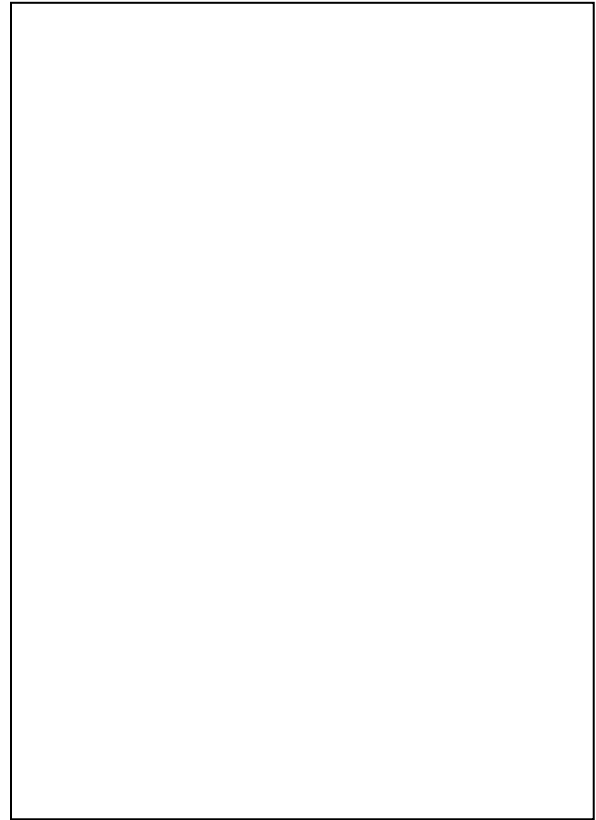
Beginning



Middle



End



1st Event

A large rectangular box containing two empty speech bubble outlines at the top. Below the box are four horizontal lines for writing.

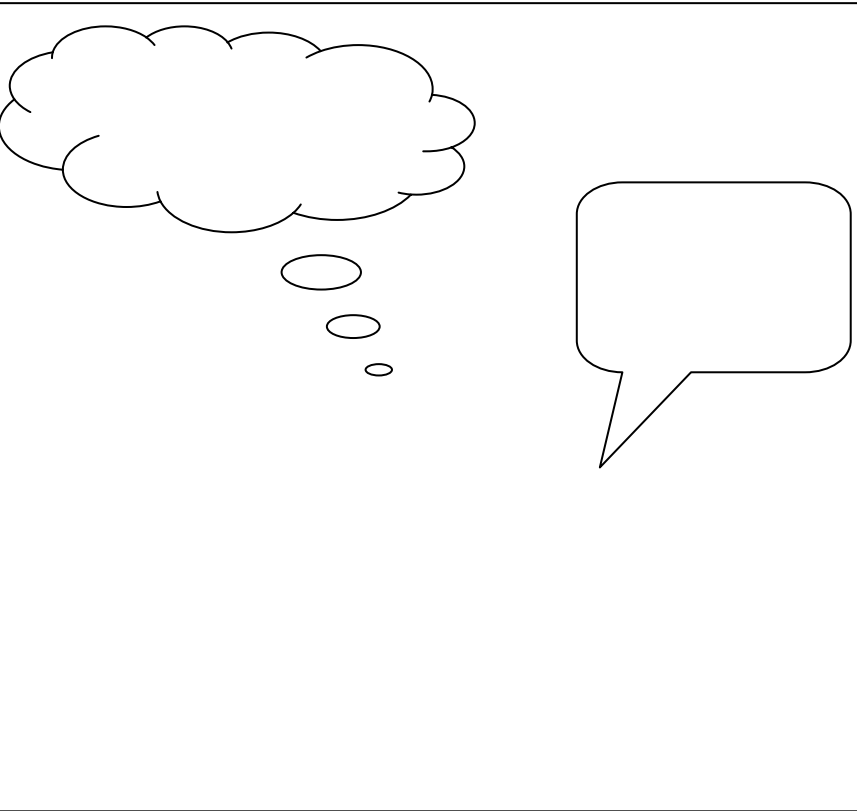
2nd Event

A large rectangular box containing two empty speech bubble outlines at the top. Below the box are four horizontal lines for writing.

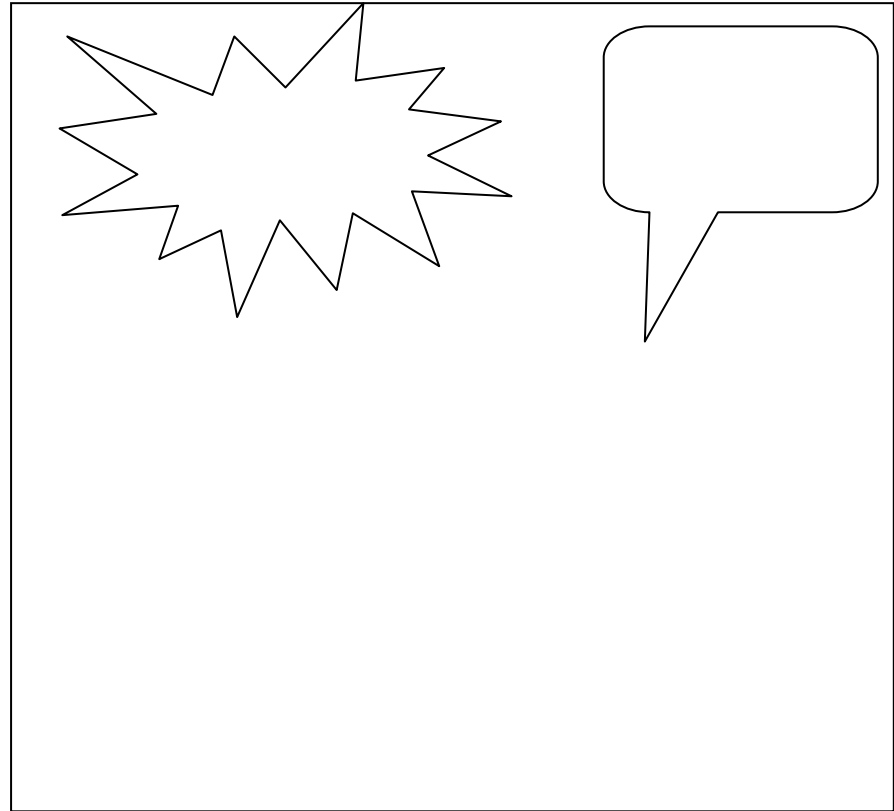
3rd Event

A large rectangular box containing two empty speech bubble outlines at the top. Below the box are four horizontal lines for writing.

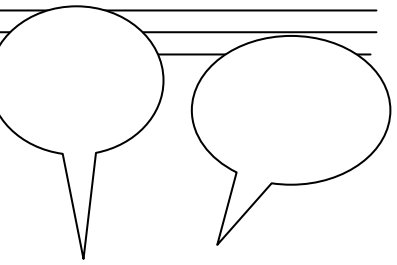
Problem



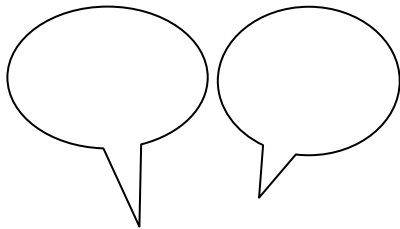
Resolution



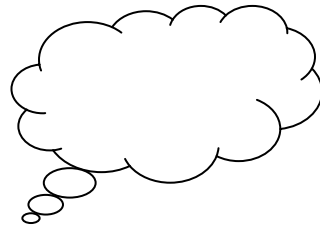
1st Event



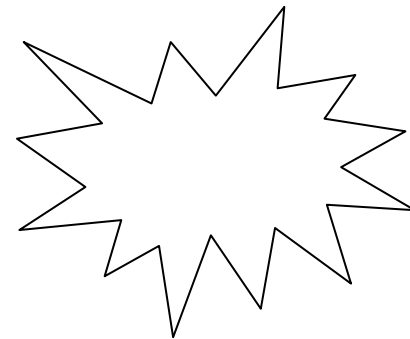
2nd Event



Problem





Solution




The End!

Author's Story Board

There is a story because... (What is the trigger, the event that starts your story, the problem?)		
The ingredients	The name	Descriptive words and phrases that I can use in my story
The characters are... (Up to 4) 		
The place that I am going to describe is...		

<p>The story will open with...</p> <p>(Choose only 1)</p> 	<p>...action involving...</p> <p>(which character/s?)</p>	
	<p>...a conversation between...(who?)</p> <p>talking about...(what?)</p>	
	<p>...a description of...</p>	

<p>In the middle of the story, the characters try to solve the problem</p>	<p>1st idea...</p>	
		<p>...but that doesn't work so...</p>

<p>by...</p> <p>(Try up to 4 ways of solving the problem)</p> 	2 nd idea...	
		...but that doesn't work so...
	3 rd idea...	
		...but that doesn't work so...
	4 th idea...	
		...but that doesn't work so...
<p>Finally, the problem is solved when...</p> <p>(The resolution)</p>		
<p>But just when they thought it was all over...</p>		

(The "Twist in the tale")	
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