

Story Map

THE PRINTABLE SHELF

Plan the people, place, problem, and story arc before drafting.

WHO IS IN THE STORY?

WHERE AND WHEN?

WHAT GOES WRONG?

BEGINNING — SET THINGS IN MOTION

MIDDLE — ATTEMPTS, OBSTACLES, CHANGES

END — RESOLUTION AND WHAT CHANGES

Story Map — Guided

GUIDED VERSION

Name: _____ Date: _____

CHARACTERS

Who matters? Add traits or roles.

SETTING

Where and when does it happen?

PROBLEM / CONFLICT

What challenge or goal drives the story?

KEY EVENTS

List only events that change the situation.

RESOLUTION

How is the conflict resolved or changed?

Story Map — Completed Example

Original mini-story: "The Garden Gate" · A story map records the events that change the situation, not every small action.

CHARACTERS

Maya, her younger brother Leo, and their neighbor Mrs. Chen.

SETTING

A shared apartment courtyard garden on a windy Saturday morning.

PROBLEM

The garden gate will not latch, and wind keeps swinging it open near the seedlings.

KEY EVENTS

1

Maya first ties the gate with string, but the knot slips loose in the wind.

2

Leo notices the latch is misaligned rather than broken.

3

They loosen one screw, shift the latch plate, and test the gate several times.

RESOLUTION

The latch clicks into place. The gate stays closed and the seedlings are protected from foot traffic.

WHAT CHANGED?

Maya stops treating the symptom and learns to inspect the real cause of a problem before choosing a fix.