

PLOT TWIST!

Objective

Players contribute to the creation of a narrative story with a beginning, middle and end.

Players

3-4 players

Game Play

- 1) Players draw 5 STORY BUILDER cards each. As they use a card during play, they draw a new one from the deck. They should have 5 cards in their hand at all times.
- 2) The youngest player draws a STORY STARTER card to begin. Place it in the first space on the STORY MAP. The game has begun!
- 3) Players examine the cards in their hands and choose one to suggest as the next stage in the story. They place their choices on the table all together at the same time.
- 4) Each person has 15 seconds to elaborate on his or her choice. The choice may be silly but it should fit logically into the story.
- 5) After the last person to explain, the group votes on which suggestion should be the next stage in the story. Every player who receives a vote receives a point. The player who receives the most votes places their suggested STORY BUILDER card on the next space on the STORY MAP. If there is a tie vote, then the last player to place a STORY BUILDER card breaks the tie. Blank cards are wild and can be invented by the person who plays them.
- 6) Play continues until the STORY MAP is complete.

Scoring

1 vote = 1 point

The player with the most points at the end of the story is deemed the AUTHOR and winner of the game.

Adaptations

-The STORY BUILDER cards could be replaced with sticky notes. Each player would have to write the next sentence that they are suggesting for the story.

-A STORY MAP with fewer event spots could be used for struggling students.

- A STORY MAP with an increased number event spots could be used for students who need more challenge.

-A random element generator like Rory's Story Cubes or WritingExcercises.co.uk could be substituted to support students who have difficulty comprehending the STORY BUILDER cards.

Story Starter Cards

<p>"Once upon a time, in a deep dark wood, in a teeny tiny cottage with a straw roof, lived a big rat. His name was Claude." --from Tomie dePaola, children's book author</p>	<p>"Deep, deep down in the ocean as I was minding my own business..." -- from Lily Wong, professor, Southeast Asia Union College</p>
<p>"Way back in the hills where even the ants didn't go, I remember..." --from Jerry Tello, author and education consultant</p>	<p>"In my old grandmother's trunk there was a..." -- from Rebeca Barrera, president, National Latino Children's Institute</p>
<p>"There once was a rabbit who loved to dance." --Laura Sims, storyteller, author, and educator</p>	<p>"My grandmother used to tell me home is where the heart is. I did not understand what she meant by that until one stormy night when..." --from Deborah Eaton, president, National Association for Family Child Care</p>
<p>"Long ago, in a faraway place, there was a land filled with wonder. In this fantastic place there was a little girl. She was very special, for she had a magic..." --from Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Nancy Wang, members of Eth-Noh-Tec, an Asian storytelling troupe</p>	<p>"It started out just like any other school day. I finished the last soggy pieces of cereal from my bowl full of milk. (I always pour too much!) But as I grabbed my coat and ran out the door, I couldn't believe my eyes!" --from Marian Wright Edelman, president Children's Defense Fund</p>
<p>When _____ ignored the "Enter At Your Own Risk" sign on Mr. Sedgewick's property line, she had no idea what the consequences would be. -- elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Since I was the last one to see _____ before he disappeared, I knew the police would have to question me. -- elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>Although _____ always suspected that something was living under her bed, she never had proof until the night of her eighth birthday. -- elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Since the instructions in the briefcase were clear, _____ slid the sealed envelope under the red door. -- elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>

<p>When he opened the tiny letter postmarked December 18, 2025, _____ finally understood the meaning of his recurring dream.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Although _____ couldn't explain it, she knew there was something disturbing about Mr. Finney's apple orchard.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>Although the two men appeared to be public entertainers, the fact that they avoided having their picture taken aroused my suspicious nature.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Since _____ was known for his crazy antics, his mother was not surprised when she found him pinned to the clothesline in the back yard.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>When _____ found the bottle near the shoreline, he felt compelled to read the note which had been tucked inside it.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>When I spotted _____ wandering through my backyard, I realized he was no ordinary turtle.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>When the tree house appeared in his back yard, _____ decided to find out if there was anyone inside.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>When _____ saw the smoke rising from the tiny reptile's head, he placed the creature in a box and headed for the lab.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>Although the genie lamp had brought her nothing but trouble, _____ knew she had to make one more wish.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Although _____ had only fifteen minutes of oxygen left in his tank, he refused to return to the ship.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>Although everything about Lily Devereaux seemed normal, she was actually the farthest thing from it.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>When _____ placed his hand on the doorknob, a tingling sensation spread throughout his body.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>When _____ found the opening in the garden wall that was not there yesterday, she knew exactly what she had to do.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Although _____ did not believe in ghosts, it was hard to dismiss the occasional appearance and disappearance of the girl in the white chiffon dress.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>

<p>When conformity became trendy in the little town of Oxford, all the residents sold their cars and bought identical scooters.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>When _____ and _____ attached the helium balloons to our house, nobody was prepared for the adventure that followed.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>Although the cars were partially submerged in water, the drivers showed no signs of distress.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	<p>Since _____ knew the amusement park had been closed for several months, the sound of carnival music and the sudden appearance of neon lights unnerved her.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>
<p>When _____ heard a voice whispering, " _____," she knew she was not alone.</p> <p>--elaseminars.com/... #writingprompts</p>	

Story Builder Cards

(pictograms created by [Da-Yama from TopeconHeroes](#))

	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	



	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

	
	
	
	
	

