

Writing a Short Story

Stage 1: Planning

- Just get your thoughts out.
- Your words don't need to be spelled correctly.
- Your sentences don't need to make perfect sense.
- They don't even need punctuation on the end!
- As long as you can read what you wrote, your handwriting doesn't need to be perfect.

Conflict:

- find baby seal stuck between rocks
- Tide has gone out & can't get out on its own
- Barking/crying for help
- No other seals around
- Afraid it might bite if try to get it

Characters:

Mom

Older sister Susie

Younger sister Leah

Resolution:

Get chunks of fish

Call animal control

Seal taken out of rocks

Gets medical treatment for injured fin

Situation:

At the beach

Sunny day

vacation

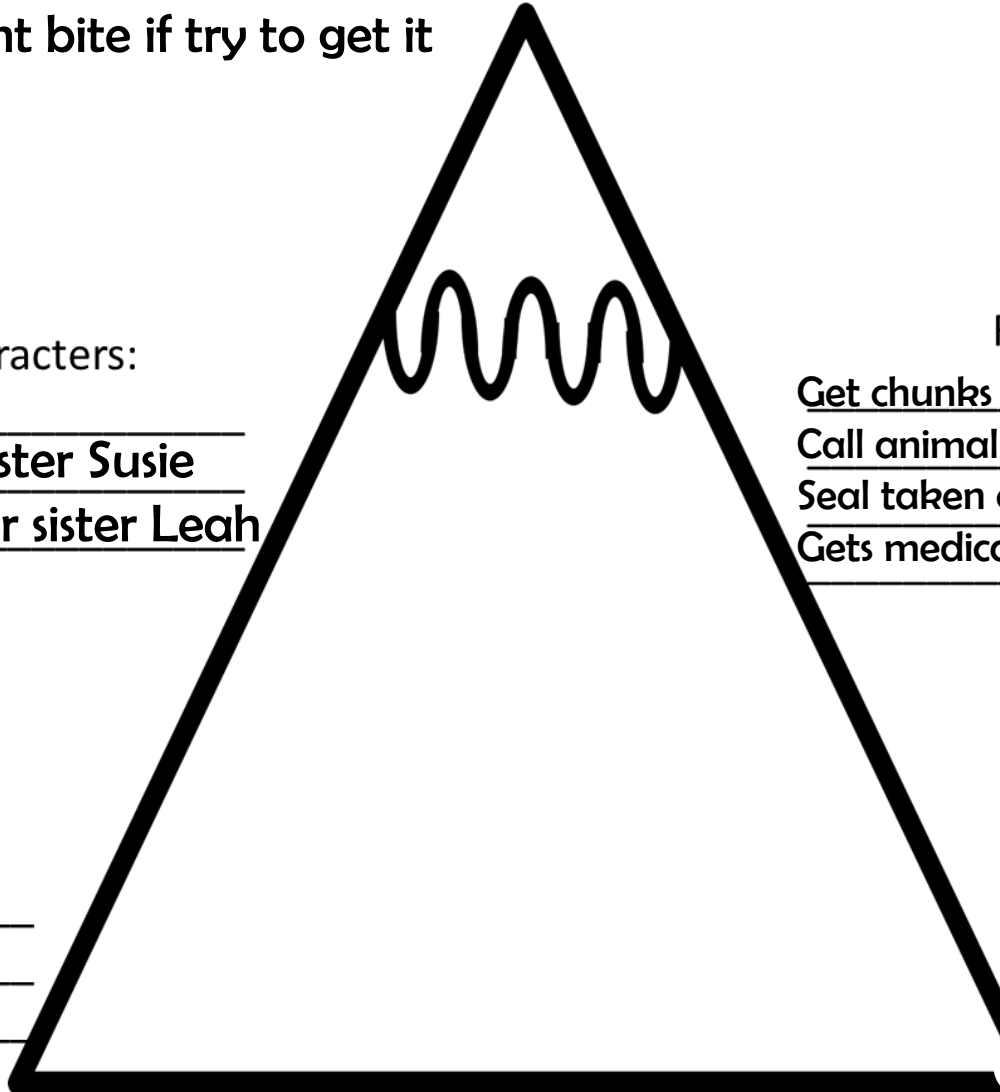
Conclusion:

Feel good for helping seal

Get to visit seal at zoo

Can't tell which is which

pretend can & feel happy



Stage 2: First Draft

➤ First Paragraph:

- ☐ Describe situation & setting

- ☐ Describe characters

➤ Second Paragraph:

- ☐ Describe conflict

- ☐ Each line in planning chart becomes 1-2 sentences

➤ Third Paragraph:

- ☐ Describe resolution

- ☐ Each line in planning chart becomes 1-2 sentences

➤ Fourth Paragraph:

- ☐ Give satisfying conclusion

- ☐ Each line in planning chart becomes 1-2 sentences

Paragraph 1: Situation & Characters

It was a byootiful day at the beach. The sun was shining brightly But of course what else would you expect on summer vacation, right?

There was a family at the beach. Susie, the older sister that liked surfing, Leah, the younger sister that liked digging in the sand, and their mom.

Paragraph 2: Conflict

Leah heard a barking sound coming from the big rocks. they didn't see any dogs. So they ran over to the rocks to find out what it is. A baby seel was stuck between the big rocks. They figured when the tide went out it must have got stuck their. Leah said there's no other seels around, so maybe its lost. Susie wanted to take it out but mom said no it might bite them. Baby seels make a barkin sound like a dog when they cry.

Paragraph 3: Resolution

Mom went to call animal control. They said don't touch the seel. Well come as fast as we can. When animal control came, they took the seel out of the rocks. It had a injured fin. They gave it medical treatment. While they waited for animal control they fed the baby seel chunks of fresh fish.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

They went home and feeled good about helping the seel. They got to visit the seel at the zoo. They looked to see which seel was which. They couldnt tell. Susie said lets just say its that one. Yeah they agreed. They called it flipper.

Step 3: Revision

Partners ask writers questions about things that don't make sense to you.

Write down the answers.

Use a red pencil to:

- ☐ add missing information
- ☐ cross out unnecessary information
- ☐ move sentences to different lines with arrows

Paragraph 1: Situation & Characters

It was a byootiful day at the beach. The sun was shining brightly ~~But~~
~~of course what else would you expect on summer vacation, right?~~



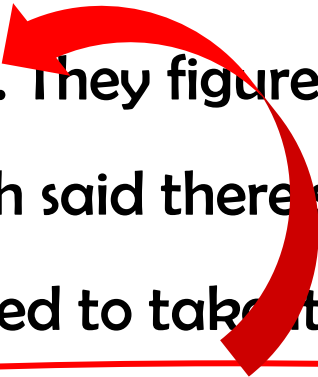
There was a family at the beach. Susie, the older sister ~~that liked~~
~~surfing~~, Leah, the younger sister ~~that liked digging in the sand~~, and
their mom. **It was spring break and they were walking on the beach**
alone.

Q: Were there other people there?

A: Now that I think about it, there weren't. This must have been in
spring, not summer.

Paragraph 2: Conflict

Leah heard a barking sound coming from the big rocks. they didn't see any dogs. So they ran over to the rocks to find out what it is. A baby seel was stuck between the big rocks. They figured when the tide went out it must have got stuck their. Leah said there's no other seels around, so maybe its lost. Susie wanted to take it out but mom said no it might bite them. Baby seels make a barkin sound like a dog when they cry.



Paragraph 3: Resolution

Mom went to call animal control. They said don't touch the seel. Well come as fast as we can. When animal control came, they took the seel out of the rocks. It had a injured fin. They gave it medical treatment.

While they waited for animal control they went to the seafood restaurant close by. They told the owner what happened, and he gave them chunks of fresh fish for free to feed to the baby seel.

Q: Where did they get the fresh fish to give him?

A: They went to a seafood restaurant nearby and told the owner what happened.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

They went home and feeled good about helping the seel. They got to visit the seel at the zoo. They looked to see which seel was which. They couldnt tell. Susie said lets just say its that one. Yeah they agreed. They called it flipper.

Q: How much time passed?

A: About three or four months.

They kept calling the zoo to find out when they could visit him. After about three or four months, they heard he was feeling better and they could say hi.

Step 4: Proofreading

Use a red pencil to:

- ☐ mark letters to capitalize (all important words in title)
- ☐ add missing punctuation
- ☐ mark letters that should be lowercase
- ☐ mark paragraphs that need to be indented
- ☐ write the correct spelling of circled words ***on the line below them***

Paragraph 1: Situation & Characters

It was a beautiful day at the beach. The sun was shining brightly. There was a family at the beach. Susie, the older sister, Leah, the younger sister, and their mom. It was spring break and they were walking on the beach alone.

Paragraph 2: Conflict

Leah heard a barking sound coming from the big rocks. they didn't see any dogs. So they ran over to the rocks to find out what it is. A baby seel was stuck between the big rocks. Baby seels make a barkin sound like a dog when they cry. They figured when the tide went out it must have got stuck their. Leah said there's no other seels around, so maybe its lost. Susie wanted to take it out but mom said no it might bite them.

Paragraph 3: Resolution

Mom went to call animal control. They said don't touch the seal. Well come as fast as we can. While they waited for animal control they went to the seafood restaurant close by. They told the owner what happened, and he gave them chunks of fresh fish for free to feed to the baby seal. When animal control came, they took the seal out of the rocks. It had a injured fin. They gave it medical treatment.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

They went home and felt good about helping the seal. They kept calling the zoo to find out when they could visit him. After about three or four months, they heard he was feeling better and they could say hi. They got to visit the seal at the zoo. They looked to see which seal was which. They couldn't tell. Susie said let's just say it's that one. Yeah they agreed. They called it flipper.