



Weird the Beard

CONTINUE THE STORY

OBJECTIVE

To write and illustrate one's own story

SKILLS

Write narratives in which students recount a short sequence of events, including details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, and provide a sense of closure; develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach

MATERIALS

Plain white paper (8 1/2 x 11), stapler, pens, pencils, crayons, markers

PROCEDURE

(Optional introduction: write **PLOT**, **CONFLICT**, **CLIMAX**, and **THEME** on the board and then ask students to define each term. If necessary, explain that **PLOT** is simply what happens in a story from beginning to end. **CONFLICT** is the struggle, i.e. the problem or problems the main character or characters face. **CLIMAX** is the point of highest emotion, the turning point, or when the conflict is resolved. **THEME** is the story's main idea. Discuss the four concepts, relating them to a book the students have recently read, for example, Weird the Beard.)

Remind students how Weird met the razor and was then "transformed" into a moustache. What happens next? Does the transformation change Weird's personality? Does he still tell jokes? (If yes, what joke or jokes? The same or a different one?) Does he still want to make new friends?

Students then choose any two objects and invent a story in which Murry the Moustache encounters them. What happens? Does Murry change? If so, in what way?

Give students four or five pieces of paper to be folded in half lengthwise, and then stapled along the folded edge (three staples is enough, one at each end and one in the middle) to form a "book". They must count the pages they will be writing and illustrating, plan each page (i.e. what illustrations they will draw and what words they will write, and then, using pens, pencils, crayons, markers, etc. they design the cover with Murry the Moustache's picture and their name as writer/illustrator. Then they write and illustrate the story.

An alternative idea is to have students team up. One student writes the story and his or her partner illustrates it.



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