

Lesson A. Study Skills and Prewriting: Choose Your Topic and Brainstorm for Possible Hindrances/Problems

↔ A-1. You have been given a list of topics from which to choose for your story. The first step in writing a story is to choose the topic you will be writing about. Read the sample *The Revenge of the Legos* story given below and think about what you would like to happen in your "toys revolt story."

The Revenge of the Legos

Kyle happily ran downstairs and over to the basement corner. It was filled with every kind of LEGO imaginable. First, there were the bricks in green, purple, orange, and any other color you could imagine. Then, there were axes, Star Wars figures, trees, and even a dragon. Kyle had mixed all of them together over time. Now, he sat down in a space in the middle and began building.

After building a fortress, he began to fill it with mini-figures. He picked up one with Luke Skywalker's head and Darth Vader's body. He gave it a lightsaber and was about to place it on top of a wall. Suddenly, he felt several sharp pains on his finger. Startled, he looked down at his hand and saw something flashing. It was Luke Vader hacking with his lightsaber!

Not believing his eyes, Kyle dropped the figure. The guy hit the ground, and Kyle heard a moan. Then, the figure turned over and stared up at him. He asked why Kyle was trying to kill him. Kyle replied that he was not trying to do that. Luke Vader told him he was a liar, and Kyle asked why.

Luke Vader started into a long rant. He wondered why Kyle was giving him Darth Vader's body. He asked why Kyle always dropped him or threw him or stepped on him. He demanded to know where his X-wing was. Finally, he announced that others stood with him on this. "Smaug!" he shouted, looking past Kyle.

A moment later, Kyle heard something whizz by his ear. It then landed on the floor. Kyle immediately realized it was Smaug the dragon. Smaug stared up at him, snarling. He growled to Kyle that he was glad he was getting what he deserved. He told the boy that he was tired of getting his head stabbed by spears or banged against walls.

Terrified, Kyle searched for and found Luke Skywalker's body. He swapped it out for the Darth Vader one. Then, he collected all the X-wing's pieces, built it, and put Luke in it. Then, he began collecting LEGO pieces and building all his sets. He also put all the mini-figures back together correctly. He realized that it was fun to keep his sets together instead of throwing them in one huge pile.

<> A-2. Now that you have read the sample story, choose the characters for your story and write them on the lines provided.

This story will be one of responsibility vs. irresponsibility. The toys in your story will revolt, in large part, because you (or your main character) did not take care of them properly, took them for granted, etc. You will want to point out aspects of their disgruntledness for not being taken care of throughout your story--and then at the very end give a "moral of your story."

Your story this time will not be a Twice-Told Tale exactly. A sample is provided for you to glean ideas from, but you will want to branch out more in this story--think of more original ideas, devise your paragraphs more on your own, etc.

<> A-3. On the lines provided below, write who will revolt against whom in your story.

In my story, _____ will be the main character.
The types of toys that will revolt _____
_____ .

<> A-4. Brainstorm (and list) problems and hindrances that your main character might encounter from his toys the Brainstorming Box provided. Follow these tips:

1. Now that you know what character you will be writing about, and you have read the model story, you will want to brainstorm to think of conflicts, obstacles, or problems that your character may encounter.
2. You will want to plan ahead as to how the "revolting" will take place. For example, will the appliances or electronics "speak" to your character or will a little bubble float around the room explaining the problems?
3. Do not worry about whether you will use them all, or if some seem silly or unrealistic. You will have a chance to delete or further develop your ideas later.

Sample Paragraph Topics

My Paragraph One: Kyle goes downstairs to play LEGOS

My Paragraph Two: Luke vader attacks him

My Paragraph Three: Luke vader yells at him and calls him a liar

My Paragraph Four: Luke vader complains and says he has other people

My Paragraph Five: Smaug arrives and complains

My Paragraph Six: Kyle makes things right and fixes problems

My Paragraph One: _____

My Paragraph Two: _____

My Paragraph Three: _____

My Paragraph Four: _____

My Paragraph Five: _____

My Paragraph Six: _____

Extension--My Paragraph Seven: _____

Extension--My Paragraph Eight: _____

Optional--My Paragraph Nine _____

Optional--My Paragraph Ten _____

<> B-2. Follow these steps to outline your story:

1. Once you have all of your paragraph topics designed, fill in the lines beneath with notes to indicate what you want to include in each paragraph. You should do this sentence by sentence unless you have your teacher's permission to do it by listing several key points for each paragraph.
2. If, while you are taking sentence notes, you think of more paragraph topics or see that a paragraph will need divided in two paragraphs, just mark this. Your outlining space is for you! You may add, subtract, or divide however you desire.
3. You may write down too much information and omit some of it later when you are writing, if needed, but do not write down too little information.
4. You may or may not use all of the sentence lines, according to the number of sentences assigned to you.
5. Remember, you will not be writing a separate Opening or Closing Paragraph. Your outline will include all of your setting, as well as your closing--just weave all of this into your story like the model story did.
6. Consider how you will summarize the lessons learned. (See the Closing Paragraph of the sample.)

Note: You will just take your notes on outlining lines, much like you do for a Sentence-by-Sentence Outline over given material (as opposed to outlining cards). Since you will likely not have sources, you do not need for your notes to be so portable, so note cards will not be used for personal essays.

I. Paragraph One of Body

Topic of Paragraph 1 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

II. Paragraph Two of Body

Topic of Paragraph 2 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

III. Paragraph Three of Body

Topic of Paragraph 3 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

IV. Paragraph Four of Body

Topic of Paragraph 4 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

V. Paragraph Five of Body

Topic of Paragraph 5 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

VI. Paragraph Six of Body

Topic of Paragraph 6 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

VII. Extension--Paragraph Seven of Body

Topic of Paragraph 7 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3 _____

Sentence 4 _____

Sentence 5 _____

Sentence 6 _____

Sentence 7 _____

Sentence 8 _____

VIII. Extension--Paragraph Eight of Body

Topic of Paragraph 8 _____

Sentence 1 _____

Sentence 2 _____

Sentence 3

Sentence 4

Sentence 5

Sentence 6

Sentence 7

Sentence 8

Lesson C. Composition: Write Rough Draft of Story

<> C. Follow these steps to write your story:

- (1) **Read your first line of notes** and consider what you want your sentence to say.
- (2) **Practice saying your sentence aloud** to get it just the way you want it.
- (3) **Write your first sentence** in your notebook, or key your story on the computer.
- (4) Be sure to **double space** your story to make inputting the Checklist Challenge revisions easier.
- (5) **Indent** the beginning of each paragraph five spaces.
- (6) **Repeat** these steps for each line of notes, writing on every other line.
- (7) If needed, reread the sample story to help you get more ideas.