Every storyteller needs to understand beginning, middle, and end. The same goes for young readers. Help your students grasp the concept of story sections with this hands-on sequencing lesson.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will be able to divide a story into its beginning, middle, and end.

**Materials and Preparation**

- Grade-appropriate reading book, e.g. *Dex: The Heart of a Hero* by Caralyn Buehner or *The Flying Orchestra* by Clare McFadden
- White paper
- Crayons
- Circle templates (any circular, traceable object around a foot in diameter)
- Scissors

**Key Terms:**

- beginning
- middle
- end
Lesson

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Have the students gather around you, then hold up your book.
- Read the title of the book. Be sure to point out the author and illustrator. Define what each one does.
- Walk students through the first half of the book. Discuss the pictures, and let them make predictions about the text.
- Read the book aloud.
- Tell the students to think about what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (15 minutes)

- Have students go back to their seats.
- Pass out the white paper and circle templates.
- Model the process of preparing the template.
- Use a black crayon to trace the template onto the paper.
- Fold the paper both ways and trace the intersecting lines.
- Cut out the circle.
- Write "Title" at the top of one of the circle's sectors. Turn your paper clockwise to the next sector and write "Beginning." The third sector should be labeled "Middle," and the last section should be labeled "End."
- Have students repeat your model.
- Circulate the room and give assistance as needed.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (15 minutes)

- Remind the students of the book you read to them and some of its story elements.
- Turn the wheel to the Title section, and write down the title of the book.
- Turn the wheel to the Beginning sector. Ask students about what happened in the story, then bring them back to what happened at the beginning. Together, condense their answers to a sentence.
- Write the sentence in your wheel, then read it together.
- Repeat this process for the Middle section.
Independent Working Time *(15 minutes)*

- Let the students know they will complete the final section of the story wheel by themselves.
- Go back and review the story wheel. Start with Title, then Beginning, then Middle. Read the sentence in each section.
- Discuss with them what happened at the end of the story.
- Let them write their sentences independently.
- Once each student writes her sentences, tell her to read it to herself by pointing to each word.
- Ask students to rewrite their sentences if they don't seem to make sense.

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**Extend**

**Differentiation**

- **Enrichment:** Advanced students can complete another wheel. Instead of Title for the first sector, they can use one of the following: Main Idea, Setting, Author's Purpose.
- **Support:** Gather struggling students at a table. Help them come up with a sentence during the first half of Independent Working Time.
Review

Assessment (10 minutes)

- As you circulate the room, read each student’s sentence.
- Check to make sure that their sentences match events that occur at the end of the story.
- Use this time to assess how well students comprehend the lesson content.

Review and Closing (10 minutes)

- Go back to your story wheel and write a sentence that tells what happened at the End.
- Identify each section of the wheel once again, then read all of the sentences aloud.