

**Question Prompts to Support Students' Writing for  
"Write the Narrative" Challenge  
Created by Pia, J. (2015)**

Print and cut along dotted lines, hole punch each and distribute to students. Students do not have to "answer" the questions; rather, these are to help with memory recall and idea generation.

**Exposition**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to introduce the main character and the setting. What does he look like? Where is he? What is happening? What is the initial problem that is introduced during this stage of the narrative? What unique word choices can you use to describe this? How will you hook your audience from the first sentence?

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**Initial Incident**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to describe what is dripping inside the apartment building and what it drips on. What does it turn out to be, and whose apartment is it coming from? What might the protagonist of our story say or think in response to this? How does he convince himself to leave his desk?

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**Rising Action (I)**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Describe the lady—you get be the ones who introduce her in our class story, so load on the details! What does she look like? How does she carry herself (posture, walking gestures)? How does the lady try to get rid of the rat in her kitchen?

What does the detective think when the lady's plan to get rid of the rat fails?

Where does the lady toss the rat? What would that smell like? What does she need to do about her soup?

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**Rising Action (II)**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to describe how our protagonist gets into the lady's apartment. What are the challenges that he faces? How does the weather feel? Is the apartment warm? Smelly? You decide! What action words and descriptive words can you use to describe the smells and thoughts that the detective is experiencing?

### **Rising Action (III)**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to describe how the woman goes about re-making her soup. What ingredients does she use? What action words can you use to describe her cooking? And, most importantly, what sounds can be heard from her cooking?

Where is the detective while all of this is happening? What does he assume is happening based on the sounds that he hears? What might he say or think in response?

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### **Climax**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to confront the conflict in the story and write the most exciting part of the narrative! Our protagonist is gathering up his courage to confront what he thinks is The Butcher in the kitchen. How would he talk himself into doing this? What weapon does he draw while he stands outside the kitchen door? What exciting action words can you use to describe his dramatic entrance into the kitchen? How does the gun and the gunshot sound? How could you describe the flying bullet? Describe the lady's reaction.

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### **Falling Action**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to describe the direct consequence of the events that occurred in the climax. Where are the characters now, and what are they doing? What might the soup taste like? Do the characters say anything to each other (remember, you can choose to add dialogue)? What does the detective begin to do, and how does the lady react?

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### **Resolution**

**Group Members:**

**Character names:**

Your task is to describe the ending of the story. What final thoughts might the detective have or say in response to all that has happened that evening? How could you describe the sights, smells, and sounds around the apartment building as the police arrive? How will you finish our story with a memorable final sentence?