

Story Pyramid

Story pyramids help students identify important story elements and summarize fiction texts. They are written in the shape of a triangle, or pyramid. The most commonly used formats allow students to only use a certain number of words per line.

The form of a typical pyramid is:

1 word naming a main character

2 words describing the main character

3 words describing the setting (time & place)

4 words describing the problem (or the first thing that happened)

5 words describing an important event (can list sequentially)

6 words describing another important event

7 words describing another important event

8 words describing the ending or solution

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Here's an example using the elementary level book *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens.

Bear
lazy, gullible
seasons, field, homes
Hare's family has nothing
Hare cooks up a plan
Hare plants crops that trick Bear
Bear is tricked over and over again
Hare provides for his family, Bear works harder

(from: Richek, M. A., Caldwell, J. S., Jennings, J. H., Lerner, J. W. (1996). *Reading problems: Assessment and Teaching Strategies*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.)