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# Journal Writing

Allowing students to talk and write about their stories will help cement concepts and objectives. At the beginning of the unit, distribute or make notebooks for students to use. At a specified time of the day, have students respond to a topic in their journals. Listed below are journal topics. You and your students may also have other ideas to add to the list. Feel free to modify topics as needed.

1. The thing I like about my story is . . .
2. The part I haven't figured out yet in my story is . . .
3. The new thing I have learned while writing this story is . . .
4. The thing I wish I could change about my main character is . . .
5. The hardest thing about writing this story is . . .
6. I think a good writer . . .
7. The things I like to write stories about are . . .
8. Some of the things that make me a good writer are . . .
9. Some of the things I need to work on in my writing are . . .
10. The things I don't like writing about are . . .
11. The best story I've ever written is . . .
12. The type of story I most like to write is . . .
13. The type of story I most like to read is . . .
14. Something I learned about myself and writing is . . .
15. If I wrote a letter to an author, I would ask . . .
16. Kids need to write more stories because . . .
17. I think my writing is important when . . .
18. The thing I learned the most about when writing this story was . . .
19. I wish I could write a story about . . .

# Story Map II

**Directions:** Use this map to record the different parts of your story.

The diagram is a hierarchical flowchart for a story map. At the top is a wide rectangular box labeled "Title of Story". Four vertical lines descend from the bottom of this box to the top of four ovals. From left to right, the ovals are labeled "Setting", "Characters", "Plot", and "Theme". Below the "Setting" oval, a vertical line connects to a rectangular box labeled "Where", which is further connected to another box labeled "When". Below the "Characters" oval, a vertical line connects to a large rectangular box divided into two sections: "Main Character" at the top and "Other Characters" at the bottom. Below the "Plot" oval, a vertical line connects to a rectangular box labeled "Conflict". Below the "Theme" oval, a vertical line connects to a rectangular box labeled "Moral/Message". A vertical line descends from the bottom of the "Conflict" box to the top of a large rectangular box labeled "Events in the Story". Finally, a vertical line descends from the bottom of the "Events in the Story" box to the top of a wide rectangular box at the bottom labeled "Resolution".