

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Map Out Your Story

Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Character(s)**

**Traits**

**Prop**

**Setting**

**When**

**Where**

**Plot**

**Problem**

**Solution**

# Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

## Story Twists™

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- 10 Story Twists™
- 88 Stickers
- This Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of **Story Twists™**, a set of innovative, engaging story builders.

### Meeting Standards

The Really Good Stuff® **Story Twists™** align with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts below. For alignment with other state standards, please refer to our website's Standards Match.

### Text Types and Purpose

**W.1.3** Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

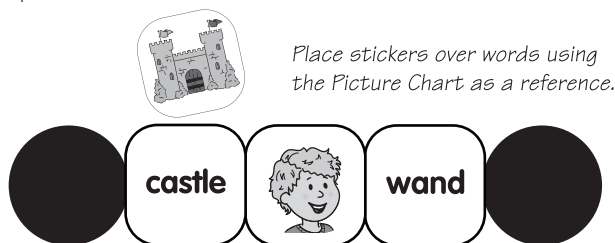
### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

**SL.2.4** Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.

### Managing the Story Twists™

- Visit our website [www.reallygoodstuff.com](http://www.reallygoodstuff.com) to download Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guides.
- **For increased engagement, place the stickers over the setting, character and prop words written on the cubes. Use the Picture Chart as a reference as only a selection of words have sticker counterparts.**
- Make a copy of the **Picture Chart** and post it at the literacy center for student reference.

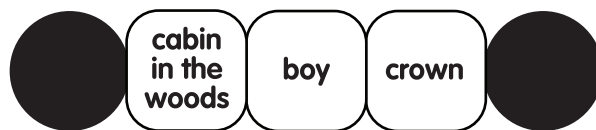
Using the **Story Twists™**, students practice both oral storytelling and creative writing. All the stories you can make using the **Story Twists™** have three parts that can be manipulated—setting, character, and prop. Depending on which cube you twist, that part of the story will change. Students keep what they like and twist what they want to change.



### Introducing the Story Twists™

Model this activity before students practice independently. The **Story Twists™** set the scene for creative storytelling and writing. Once stickers are placed over the corresponding words, some of the cubes will have images and others will have words. Focus on different story parts by keeping two parts in place and changing one. Encourage students to use their imagination and think outside the box.

Select a **Story Twist**, twist each cube a couple of times, and announce the setting, character, and prop. Focus on the function of the first cube—the setting. For example, “In the castle, there’s a boy with a wand.” Talk about what type of story could evolve from a castle setting: fantasy, adventure, mystery, and so on. Now twist the first cube to reveal a different setting—cabin in the woods. Talk about what that setting evokes and what story could emerge from it. Take notes during the brainstorm, recording sensory details related to the settings that could be used to build a story.



Next, change the focus to the function of the second cube—the main character. Using the preceding example, ask students to describe the boy, such as his age, personality traits, physical traits, and reason for being in the cabin. Twist the middle cube to reveal new characters—“two kids”—and talk about how they could change the story line.



Finally, change the focus to the last cube—the prop. Discuss the function of a prop: how the character/s could use it and how it could determine the genre or drive the plot. For example, finding a crown in a cabin could uncover a mystery in which a stolen crown is found, or a fantasy in which the crown could give the characters special powers. Twist the last cube to reveal a different prop—a ladder. Discuss how a different prop changes the story line. Discuss possible functions of a ladder versus a crown.

Continue twisting the cubes until you arrive at a story line that everyone likes. Use the **Story Twist Reproducible** to take notes and develop each part of the story.

### Small Group or Whole Class Activity

















































Post the **Picture Chart** for student reference. Have groups of two to three students work together to build a story. After deciding on a story line, have student groups develop each part on the **Story Twist Reproducible** and then write the story. Have student groups take turns presenting their stories to the class.

### Picture Chart





























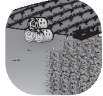










Post the **Picture Chart** on the next page at your literacy center for student reference. Explain that names can be assigned to characters.

All instructional guides can be found online.

## Picture Chart

Settings	Characters	Props
castle 	pirate 	fish hook 
old house 	boy 	mask 
pirate ship 	two kids 	candle 
cabin in the woods 	girl 	flipper 
tent 	alien 	ticket 
pool 	boy 	hose 
lake 	fairy 	shovel 
swamp 	monster 	cell phone 
canoe 	lifeguard 	cape 
bus 	cop 	microphone 
airplane 	firefighter 	ticket 
train 	kid 	ring 
beach 	unicorn 	axe 
downtown 	chicken 	crystal ball 
cinema 	frog 	wand 
yard 	monkey 	dollar bill 

## Picture Chart

Settings	Characters	Props
classroom 	girl 	watch 
skate park 	man 	piggy bank 
theater 	dragon 	rattle 
sandbox 	monster 	big hat 
zoo 	a cook 	a magic clock 
animal shelter 	Dad 	a ladder 
park 	a baby 	a crown 
grocery store 	a dog 	an owl 
seaside 	a boy and a dog 	
jungle 	an old woman 	
cornfield 	two teenagers 	
big city 	an old man 	
mountains 	dragon 	
forest 	chicken 	
desert 	monkey 	
island 	a duck 