

SAMPLE PAGES
from
The Competitive Edge

Passing the
EOG 4 in WRITING

by
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*Select pages from
Chapters 9 and 10
are enclosed.*

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WRITING THE BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND ENDING OF A STORY

THE HEARTS OF A STORY

For good story writing, you must have all the “hearts.”



First, you must choose a good title. The title should always tell the reader what the story is about.



Second, you must choose a setting for your story. A setting tells when and where a story takes place.



Third, you must choose characters for your story. Characters are the people or animals that are in the story.



Fourth, you must choose a plot or main idea. The plot contains an unexpected event or problem that a character must solve.

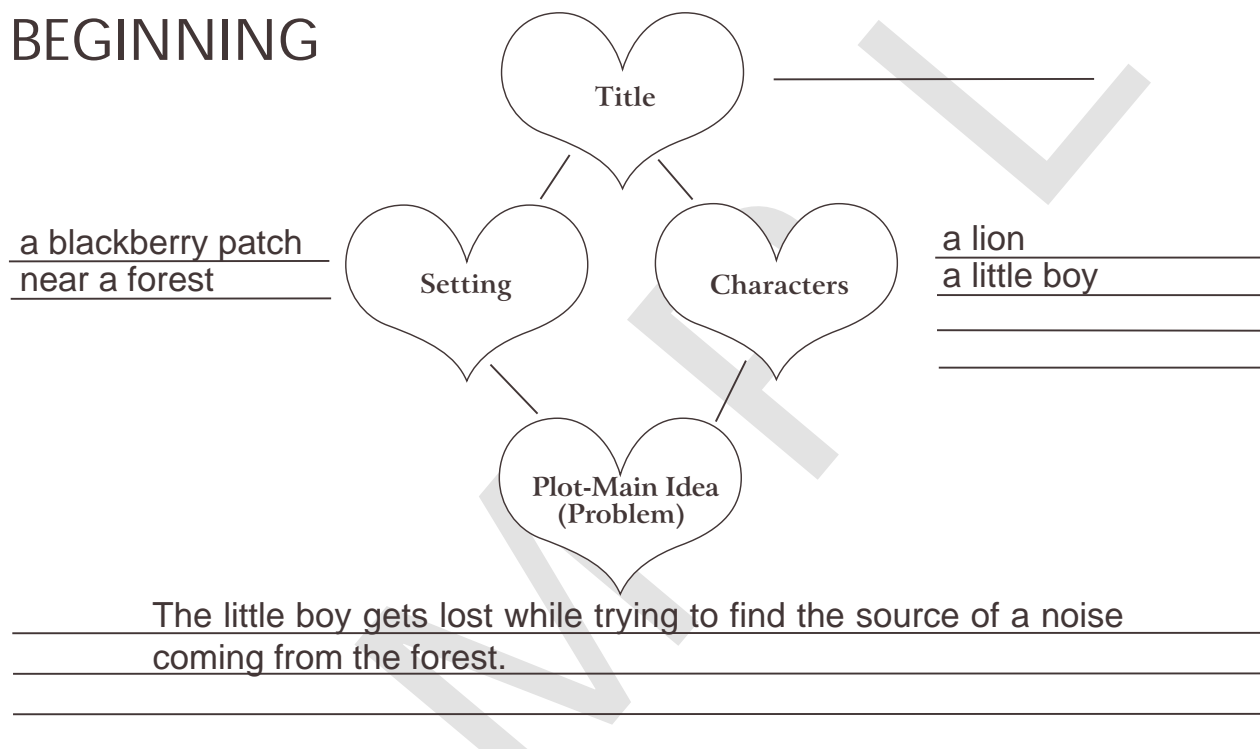
BEGINNING YOUR STORY

Every story must have a beginning. The beginning of the story introduces the characters, describes the setting, and tells the plot or main idea.

EXAMPLE

Use the following information to write a good beginning of a story. You must choose a title.

BEGINNING



LOST IN THE FOREST

One sunny day, a four-year-old boy decided to pick some luscious blackberries near the forest down the road. He went running and skipping down the road until he reached the edge of the huge forest. There he found a bounty of delicious blackberries.

As he was putting those blackberries into the silver bucket, his ears picked up an unusual sound coming from the bushes nearby. The sound reminded him of the ferocious roars of the lions he had seen performing in the circus last fall.

Curious, he walked into the dark, scary forest trying to find the location of the roars. The roars seemed to be moving deeper into the forest, and the boy continued to follow the sounds. Suddenly, he realized that he was in a section of the forest he had never seen before. He was terrified when he realized that he was lost.

THE MIDDLE OF YOUR STORY

After you have created the beginning of your story, you must then continue with the middle of your story. In the middle of the story, the plot becomes more important. You must order, or sequence, the events of the plot in a way that builds interest, excitement, or suspense.

Once the problem has been recognized in the beginning of the story, you must come up with ways to solve the problem in the middle of your story.

Give lots of details. Have the characters doing things, talking, and showing their feelings.

TRANSITION WORDS

Transition words can help you move from the beginning to the middle and then to the ending of your story.

Listed below are some transitions words that you might want to use.

as a result	first
after	in conclusion
above	in addition
as soon	in fact
also	immediately
although	last
before	later
beyond	now
besides	second
below	tomorrow
finally	therefore
for this reason	yesterday

EXAMPLE

Referring back to the example on page 108, let's continue the story, "Lost in the Forest," and give it a middle.

Remember, this middle must provide a way to solve this boy's problem of being lost. How might this problem be solved?

MIDDLE



- Stay in the forest and wait for someone to find him.
- Continue walking and hope to find his way out.
- Scream and yell so that someone would hear him and come rescue him.

Let's see how we can use these possible solutions to the problem in the middle of our story.

LOST IN THE FOREST continued

How could he have become lost? His mother had always told him never to go into the forest alone.

He sat down and began to think over his situation. Should he yell for help? No, he was too far away from a house for anyone to hear his cries for help. Should he try to find his way out of the forest? He thought that would be the best route, but then he remembered what his mother had said. "If you ever get lost, stop and wait for help."

The little boy decided to sit with his back to a large pine tree. Surely someone would miss him and come searching for him. Suddenly, he heard the lion's roar once again. Had he made the right decision to stay in one place?

Now the middle of the story is complete. The little boy has thought about his options and made the decision to stay near a pine tree.

Notice that the writer has built up the suspense by having the lion roar at the end of the last paragraph.

ENDING OF THE STORY

Now it is time to end the story. The ending should solve all the problems the characters have faced in the story and include an explanation for any unexpected events that happened in the story.

Let's continue the story "Lost in the Forest" and add an ending.

END



Two men who were searching for the lion find the lost boy.

LOST IN THE FOREST continued

In the distance, the little boy could hear the pine needles rustling. His knees began to shake as he pictured a ferocious lion coming his way.

Two men suddenly appeared from nowhere pulling a small frightened lion on a leash. The little boy ran toward them, happy to see anyone who might help him.

The men questioned the boy to find out how he became lost in the woods. After telling the men he had followed the roars of the lion, the men explained that the lion cub had escaped from his cage on a nearby train. They had been looking for him for hours.

The men let the little boy hold the leash of the lion cub while they walked back to the road. The little boy thanked them for letting him hold the leash, picked up his forgotten berry bucket, and walked home with a smile on his face. "What a story I have to tell my mother," he thought.

The story is now complete. The problem of the boy being lost is now solved. We have closure, an end, to the boy's adventure.

CHAPTER 10

HEARTS OF THE STORY WRITING A COMPLETE STORY

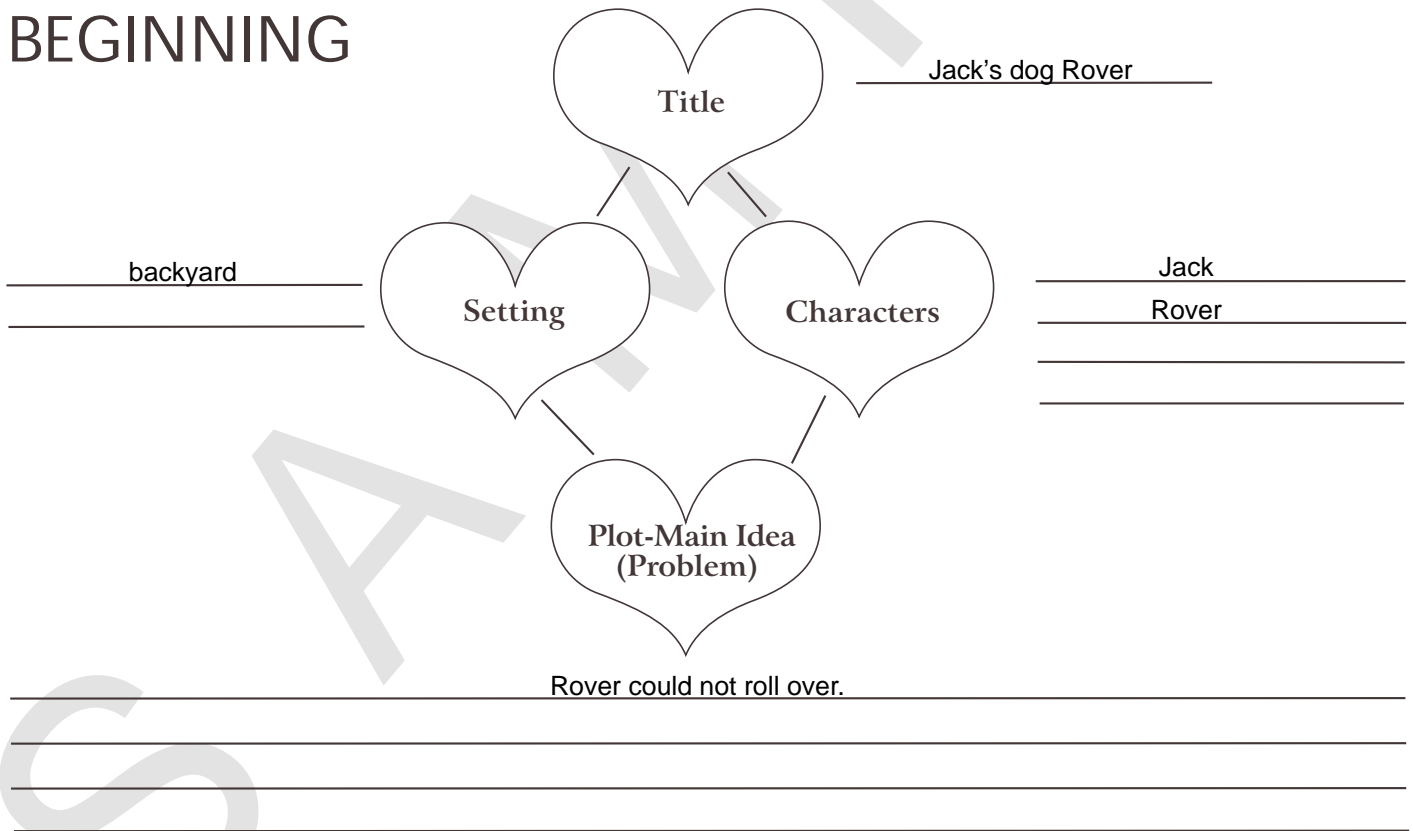
In this chapter, you will use what you learned in Chapter 9 to write a complete story.

You will use a “hearts of the story” diagram to help you determine the information you need to write your story.

EXAMPLE

Write a story about a boy and his dog. Start by completing a “Hearts of the Story” diagram.

BEGINNING



MIDDLE



Send Rover to school.

Let Jack's parents teach Rover.

Try to teach Rover himself.

END



Jack teaches Rover to roll over.

JACK'S DOG ROVER

(Beginning)

Jack has a big, golden retriever dog named Rover. He lives in the backyard of Jack's two story house. Jack loves playing ball with him every afternoon after school. There's just one small problem with Rover. He cannot roll over!

(Middle)

Jack read in the newspaper that there are special schools that dogs can attend to learn all kinds of fabulous tricks. He was sure that a school could teach Rover to roll over, but it might be expensive.

Maybe Jack's parents could teach Rover to roll over, but his parents would probably say that they did not have time. They would also say that Rover was Jack's dog and that he should do the training himself. Maybe he should give it a try.

(Ending)

Jack decided it was the time to have a "rolling over" lesson with Rover. He had Rover lie down and then Jack starting rolling him over. Everytime he rolled him over, he would say "roll over." Then he would give him a treat.

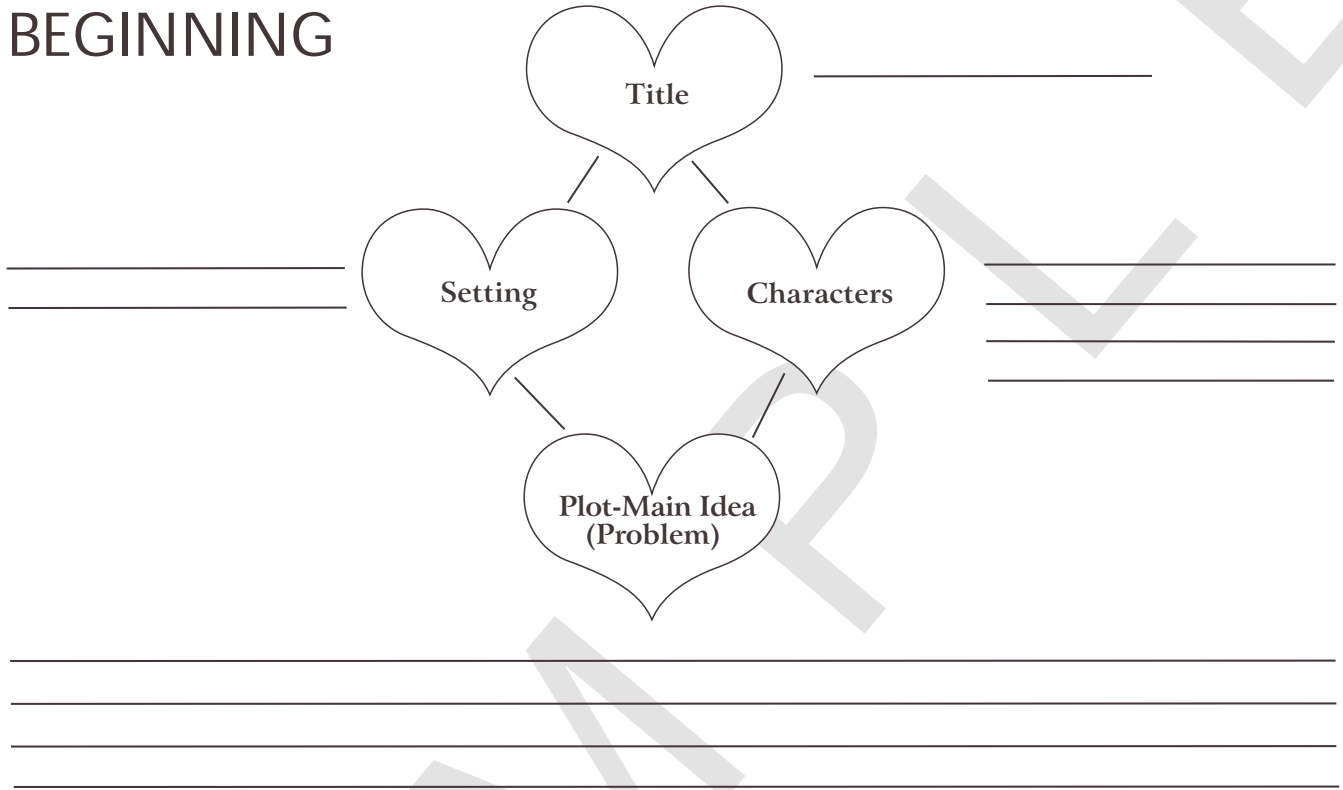
The dog caught on right away. After about 30 minutes he was a real pro. Now everytime Jack says "roll over," Rover keeps rolling until Jack gives him a treat.

PRACTICE

You will be writing 5 stories. For each story, fill in a “Hearts of the Story” diagram first. Then use this information to write your stories.

1. Write a story about John moving from North Carolina to Florida.

BEGINNING



MIDDLE



END

