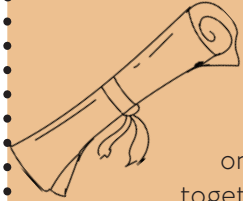




3rd Grade Short Story Builder

Notes for Parents/Guardians/Teachers:



Puppy Kisses Short Story Builder is a literacy project that empowers students to write their own stories about school life. Stories are based on one or more of the six Puppy Kisses characters, who all attend school together. Each puppy has a distinct personality, allowing students to identify with them in a fun and imaginative way.

We believe writing should be both fun and educational, which is why our Short Story Builder teaches **Common Core Writing Standards** through lovable characters and inspirational school stories.

This guide can be used as a space to explore who they are as writers in a step by step manner.

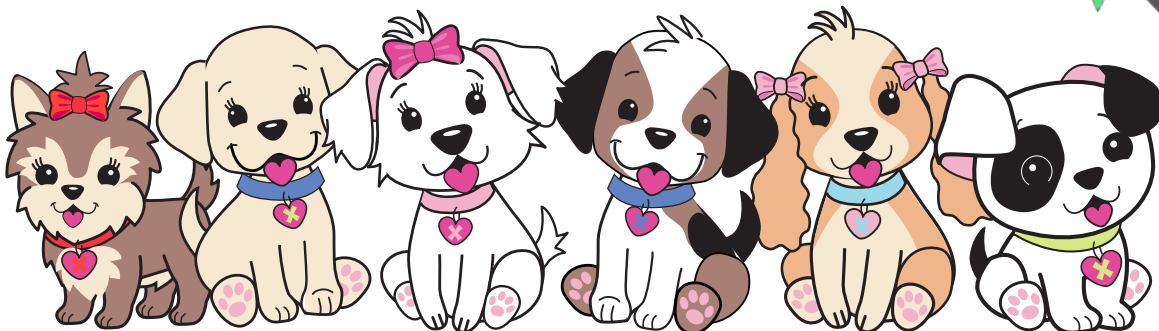
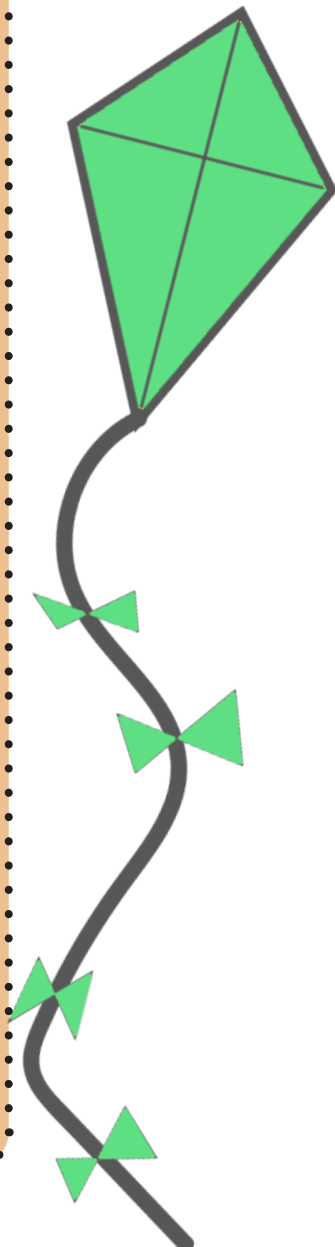
We also encourage students to publish their original stories to share with other children. This helps them gain confidence in their writing as well as feel rewarded for their time and effort.

This short story-writing guide will focus on helping your child reach these goals. However, it is important to remember that every child learns at his or her own pace. If needed, you can repeat a guide more than once.

The Common Core Writing Standards for Third Graders:

- a) The ability to write in detail about events or narratives with two or more sequences
- b) The ability to introduce a narrator and characters
- c) The usage of details regarding thoughts, actions, and feelings
- d) The usage of dialogue to develop events
- e) The ability to respond to questions about the story
- f) The ability to revise (add, remove, or change details)

You should work with your student on this story guide, reading each instruction aloud to them or explaining certain points if needed. Collaboration is a critical part of writing development.



Note to Students:

Do you want to write your own story about the Puppy Kisses gang? You only need a few sentences to write a great story. Just follow these easy steps!

It's Time to Build! Meet the Puppy Pack:

Cora is smart and caring. She loves planning fun things for her friends to do together. Making friends and going to school are her favorite things to do.



Cora



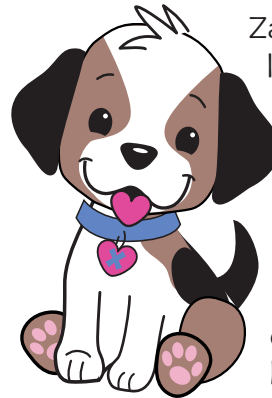
Scarlett

Scarlett has a big brain! She loves learning about science and dreams of becoming a doctor. Her favorite place is the library, and she's never too busy to help a friend with their homework.



Jacob

Curious by nature, Jacob has a great nose for investigating. He wants to be a detective when he grows up. For now, he loves photography and takes photos for the school newspaper.



Zach

Zach is a competitor. He loves playing all kinds of games. When he grows up, he wants to design video games. His friends know they can find him on the playground or in the computer lab. Zach can be a bit of a show-off, but he loves helping his friends.



Tess

Tess has a creative eye, and she wants to be a designer. In and out of school she can be found sketching; she loves to share her drawings with her friends.



Emily

Nothing makes shy Emily happier than to settle down with a book. Her love of reading has made her want to be either a writer or a professor — or both! She loves hanging out in the library with Scarlett or in the theater or music room.

Step 1:

Choose a main character.

You can choose between Cora, Scarlett, Jacob, Tess, Zach, or Emily.

You can learn more about the puppy pack here:

Puppy-Kisses.com/puppypack/



Cora



Scarlett



Jacob



Zach



Tess



Emily

Who will YOUR story be about?

EXAMPLE:

Scarlett

Write your main character's name here

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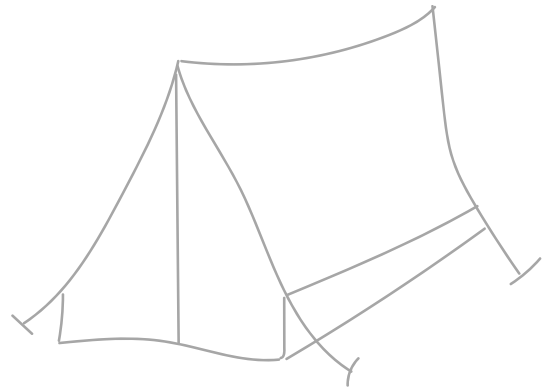
Step 2:

Introduce the main character.

Add some details about how they look. Use **adjectives** like yellow, brown, black, or white. What are adjectives? Adjectives are **descriptive words**.

EXAMPLE: Scarlett is a brown puppy who wears a red bow.

Make a list of **ADJECTIVES** (descriptive words) that describe your main character





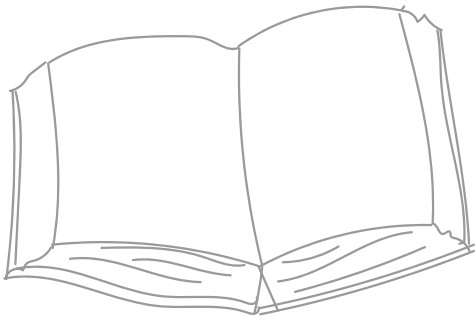
Step 3: What does your main character like to do?

Write about what your character likes to do. Use **verbs** like play, run, jump, learn, read, create, or sketch. What are verbs? Verbs are **action words**.



EXAMPLE:

Scarlett likes to read books in the library.



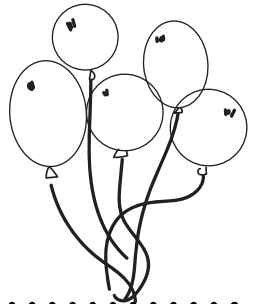
- *Make a list of verbs that describe your main character's personality traits:*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

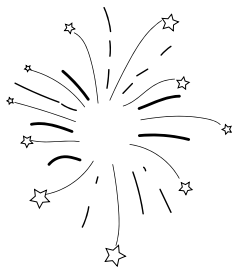


Step 4:

For this story, we are going to use our imaginations. Think of something magical or mysterious that could happen to your main character. Make sure to specify the time using **temporal words and phrases** like **one day, first, one morning, or before**. What is a temporal word? These are words that tell us the order (or sequence) that events occur in.

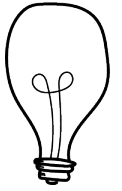


EXAMPLE: One day, Scarlett is reading a book when she falls inside of it!



*Write down 1-2 magical or mysterious things that could happen to your main character. Use **TEMPORAL** words to introduce each idea.*

Step 5:



Write about how this magical or mysterious thing makes your character feel. Use **emotion words** like happy, surprised, amazed, shocked, excited, silly, or funny.

EXAMPLE: She stands up and realizes that she is in a fairytale world. **Scarlett is surprised.**

*Use the 1-2 things from step 4 and add emotion words that describe how the character **FEELS**.*





Step 6:

Write about the first thing your character does. Make sure to **describe the world** around them.

List 2-3 things your character does. Describe the world around them as they do it.

EXAMPLE:

She walks down a golden path. The path leads to a school building that looks like a tall castle.





Step 7: *Introduce a new character!*



EXAMPLE:

At the castle, Scarlett runs into one of her friends, a puppy named Tess. Tess is tan. Scarlett is happy to see a familiar face.

This could be a member of the Puppy Pack or a character you invent. **Describe** the new character's appearance **using adjectives** like yellow, brown, black, or white.

Introduce a supporting character here. Be sure to use at least 4 adjectives to describe their appearance.

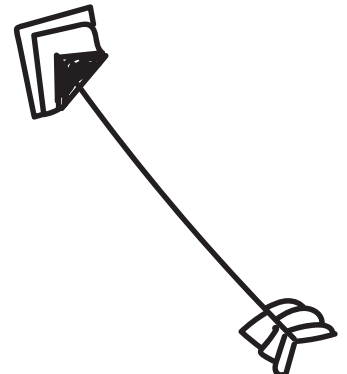


Step 8:

EXAMPLE: Scarlett says,
"Can you help me, please? I am lost."

Write about a problem that the main character discusses with the new character. Be sure to use **quotation marks** at the beginning and end of speech (" "). Also, use **dialogue tags** like says, whispers, replies, asks, or shouts. What are dialogue tags? Dialogue tags are **phrases that tell us a character is going to talk or has finished talking.**

Write a problem that the main character discusses with the new character from step 7. Remember to use dialogue tags and quotation marks.





EXAMPLE:

"Yes, I can help you,"
replies Tess.

Step 9:

Write the new character's response. Once more, use **quotation marks** (" ") at the beginning and end of speech. Also, use **dialogue tags** like says, replies, asks, shouts, or whispers.

Write the new character's response to the main character's problem in step 8. Remember to use dialogue tags and quotation marks.



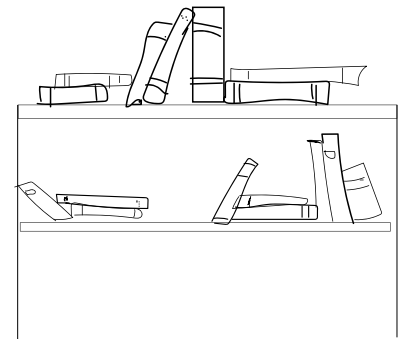
Step 10:

Write about what the two characters do next.

EXAMPLE:

Tess leads Scarlett to a magic library filled with many books.

Write about what the new character's do next. Be descriptive!

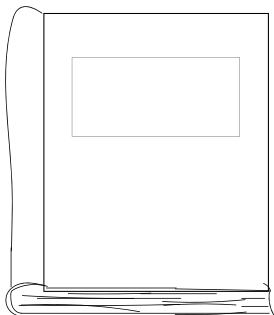


Step 11:

Write about what the characters do after this. Use **temporal words** like next, after, before, or then.

EXAMPLE:

Next, Tess opens a book. Scarlett sees a picture of her school on the first page.



Write what they do after step 10. Use TEMPORAL WORDS.



Step 12:

Write about how the characters **solve the problem.**



EXAMPLE:

Tess says a magic spell, and Scarlett enters the book. She returns to the library at her school.

.....

How do the character solve the problem.

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Step 13:

Write about how the character **feels about what happened.** Make sure to use temporal words like finally, after, in the end, or lastly

EXAMPLE: Finally, Scarlett is back in the real world. She had a fun time in fairytale land.



Write how the character feels about what happened. Use temporal words!

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Step 14:



Now, write all your sentences together to form a complete story. Don't forget to come up with a fun title!

EXAMPLE:

Scarlett in Fairytale Land

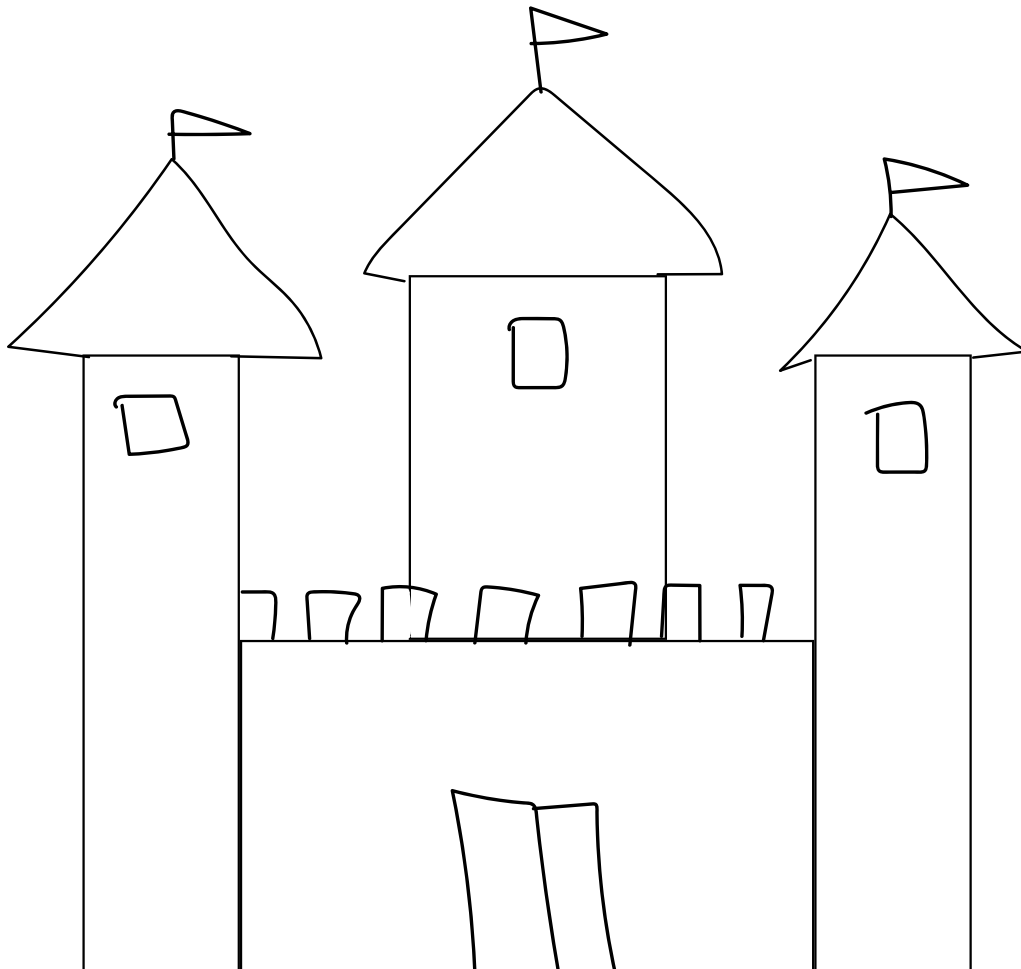
Scarlett is a brown puppy who wears a red bow. Scarlett likes to read books in the library. One day, Scarlett is reading a book when she falls inside of it! She stands up and realizes that she is in fairytale land.

Scarlett is surprised. She walks down a golden path. The path leads to a school building that looks like a tall castle. In the castle, Scarlett meets runs into her friend, a puppy named Tess. Tess is tan. Scarlett is happy to see a familiar face. and has floppy ears. Scarlett says, "Can you help me, please? I am lost."

"Yes, I can help you," replies Tess. Tess leads Scarlett to a magic library filled with many books.

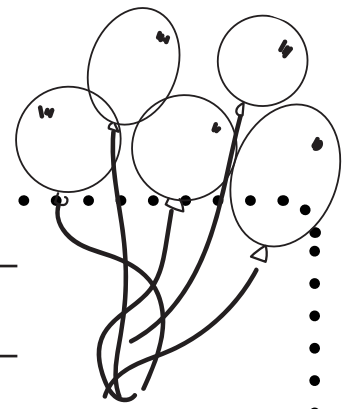
Next, Tess opens a book. Scarlett sees a picture of her school on the first page. Tess says a magic spell, and Scarlett enters the book. She returns to the library at her school.

Finally, Scarlett is back in the real world. She had a fun time in fairytale land.



YOUR STORY:

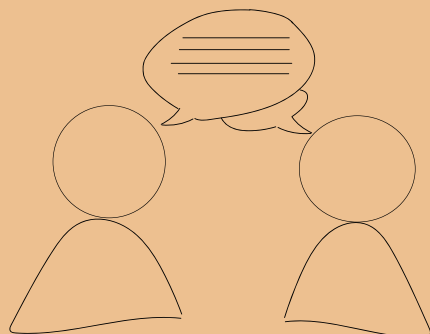
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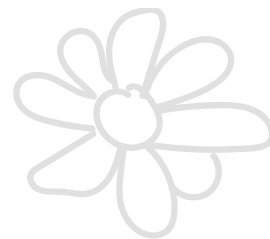
A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted border, containing 20 horizontal lines for writing a story.

Conversation Corner

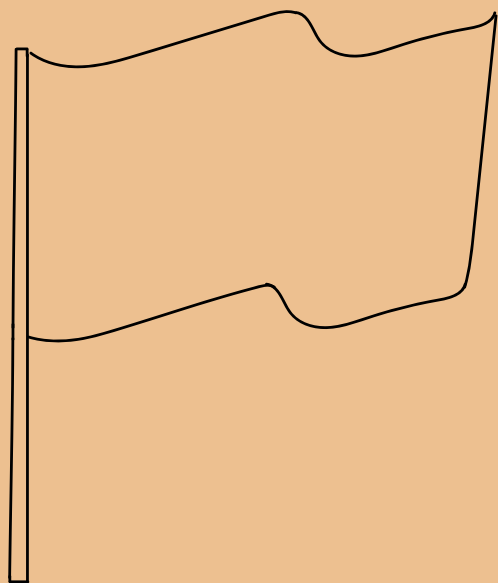
After the story is complete, ask your child/students the following questions. Encourage them to make revisions based on their answers.



- How did you decide who your second character was going to be?
- Why did you choose the magical or mysterious event that you did?
- If you could add one more thing to your story, what would it be?
- If you could change something about your story, what would it be?
- Did you enjoy writing speech (or dialogue) for your characters? Why or why not?



Challenge Levels:



Challenge Levels are for young writers who are looking for a challenge or who want some more writing practice before going on to the next guide. Challenge Levels include short writing prompts that expand upon the story guide's lessons.

Let's have some fun with your story.
Use these challenges to play around with what you have just written.

Challenge Level One

- Write a story with the same characters but have the characters discover something magical. Some examples of this include a portal to another world, a genie in a lamp, or magic crystals.

Challenge Level Two

- In the sample story, Scarlett asks Tess to help her find her way. Write a story in which your main character asks the second character to do something. Some examples of this are: "Will you help me find something?" "Will you go for a walk with me?" "What are you doing today?"
- Don't forget to use quotation marks at the beginning and end of speech (" ") as well as dialogue tags like **says, replies, asks, whispers, shouts, or agrees.**

