

Focus Skill: Sequencing, Plot (Problem and Solution)

CCSS Standard(s):

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.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.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3

Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3/5.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Learning Targets:

I can define the phrase “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”.

I can write a story that teaches readers a life lesson.

I can write a story that has a problem and a solution.

Materials:

- Article and/or video about Alex’s story
- Paper
- Pencils
- Art supplies

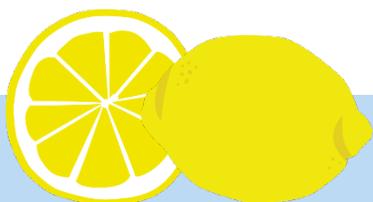
Introduction:

Have you ever heard the phrase “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”? (If not) Let’s break it into parts and try to figure out what it means.

(Make a list of things kids know about lemons, and make sure to include their bitter/tart taste. Make another list of things kids know about lemonade, and include the sweet/refreshing taste there as well.)

If I turn lemons into lemonade, it’s like turning something bitter into something sweet. You could say that I’m turning something bad into something better. We say it like we’re talking about food, but really, we can be talking about a situation in our lives as well. We could even say that the bitter lemons are the problem, and the sweet lemonade is the solution.

(Read article or book/watch video on alexslemonade.org. Assess the ways in which Alex followed this saying.)



Introduction (continued):

Let's brainstorm together before you work on your own. Take a moment and think of a time when you turned lemons into lemonade by making a negative or difficult situation into something positive. Talk to a neighbor about the situation you've thought about. Tell them about the "lemons", or the problem, and how you "made lemonade" by solving the problem.

(Listen in on conversations students are having and ask 2-3 to share. Model the way you would concisely write the problem and solution in their scenarios. If needed, you can make a larger version of the worksheet the students will be using.)



Activity:

I'd like for you to turn your own 'Lemons to Lemonade' situation into a story of your own, based on something that has happened to you.

We can start to plan it out by writing down the problem and solution of your story, like we've just done as a class.

(After the attached planning page is complete, you can discuss your expectations of the story such as perspective, dialogue, length, number of characters, etc. depending on your students' skill and grade levels.)

Progress Monitor:

- This will take place over multiple days:
 - Brainstorming characters, setting, plot
 - A clear story arc
 - Elaboration of events on each page
 - Story teaches a lesson that aligns with 'Lemons to Lemonade'

Accommodations/Modifications:

- Students can create a story if they cannot think of a personal example on which to base their narrative.
- Students can tell the story aloud into a tape recorder or to a staff member if they are unable to write it down.
- You can modify the length and number of characters in a story based on student ability level.

Thank you again for your interest in Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation!

We hope you will consider supporting ALSF with the help of your class, club, school, district, or community group.

Please contact our office by phone at 866.333.1213
or by e-mail at Takeastand@alexlemonade.org
if you have any questions or need help getting started.



Name _____

Date _____

Planning Page: Turning Lemons into Lemonade

Write the **problem** of your story underneath the bitter lemons.
Write the **solution** to your story (the sweet lemonade!) next to the straw.



Solution

Problem

