

GROWING great *Stories*

with Little Pot



by Dawn Stephens

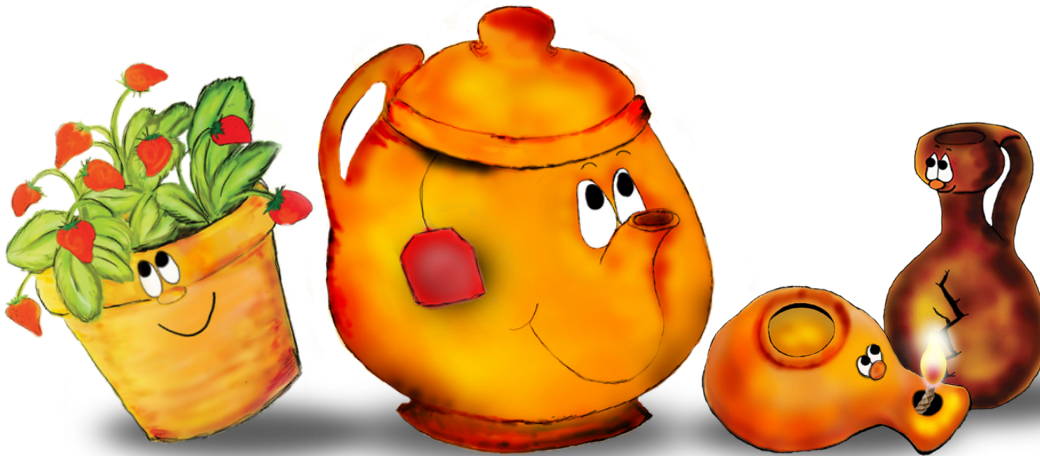
DawnStephensBooks.com



About Dawn Stephens Books, LLC

Our Mission

To help you discover the vessel the Potter created you to be. Then grow the Potter's fruit like **The Little Pot**. Pour into others like **The Tea Pot**. Shine like **The Oil Lamp**. And, allow the Potter to use your cracks like **The Small Jar**.



Hello, I'm Dawn,

Everyone has a unique story that leads to our ability to grow fruit, serve, and shine for the Potter. As an award-winning children's author/illustrator, school principal, classroom teacher, and Bible study leader, I create stories about vessels discovering their identity and purpose. Consequently, Little Pot, Tea Pot Oil Lamp, Small Jar, and I now help others know why they were created. We love speaking at events and sharing biblical truths through our stories, books, and resources. We also assist authors with publishing and marketing their books through EA Books Publishing.

This resource explains how Little Pot and I teach others to write a fruitful and compelling story. I use it with author visits and professional development seminars with future writers. You can also purchase the PowerPoint and Elements of the Story Posters too.



Purpose

This workbook will help you identify and use the elements of a great story.

Objectives

Know the elements of the story and be able to identify them in various books or movies.

Use the elements of the story when writing your own creative manuscript

Additional materials available

- Elements of the Story Powerpoint
- Elements of the Story Posters

Set

Display several different potted plants of all sizes. Tell teachers that these plants are like stories. They are all different sizes. Some are long and tall, Some are short and bright. Some may be prickly and sharp, while others are colorful and fragrant. Regardless of their differences, they all require the same things to grow. Today we are going to learn how to grow a story by comparing its elements to how a plant grows.

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Parts of a plant

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Parts of story

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The Setting

The soil and pot is the place where a plant can grow.
The setting is the place your story will grow.
Describe the setting.

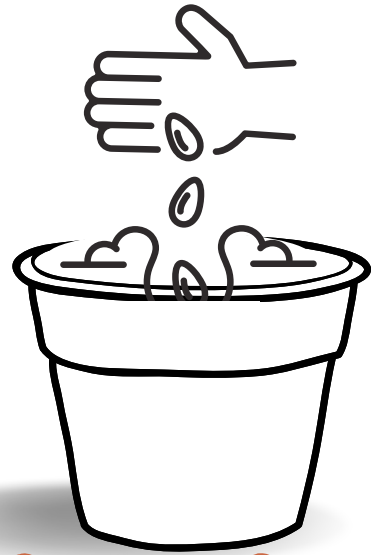


When and where does the story take place?
Consider century, year,
day, night, planet, country, state,
city, farm, river, house, store,
climate, weather

A large, stylized outline of a seed packet, intended for writing. It has a wide top and a narrow bottom. Inside the packet, there are eight horizontal lines for writing. At the bottom center of the packet, there is a green circle with the number 3 inside it.

The Main Character

A seed is planted into the soil and pot, just as your main character must be planted in the setting.



Name and describe your main character.
Is your character human? What is their gender, and age?
What does the reader need to know about them?

Name of the character:

Facts about the character:

Note:

More than one seed is usually planted. Likewise, your story may have many characters. When ready, you can have your students develop more characters. In this workshop, the focus is on just the main character.

Just as the seed needs water and light, your main character must have an obvious need and a hidden need. The water represents the obvious need. The sunlight represents the hidden need.

The Obvious Need

The obvious need is clear and visible. The character knows it and wants whatever it is.

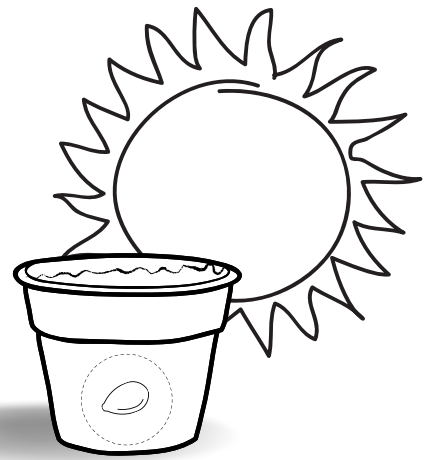


Write about the obvious need here:

A large, thick black outline of a watering can, designed to be used as a writing template. The body of the can is filled with horizontal lines for text. The spout is on the right, and the handle is on the left.

The Hidden Need

Your character may not even be aware of their hidden need. The hidden need is not always written in the story. It might be emotional. It is something that everyone needs and will make your reader identify with your story.



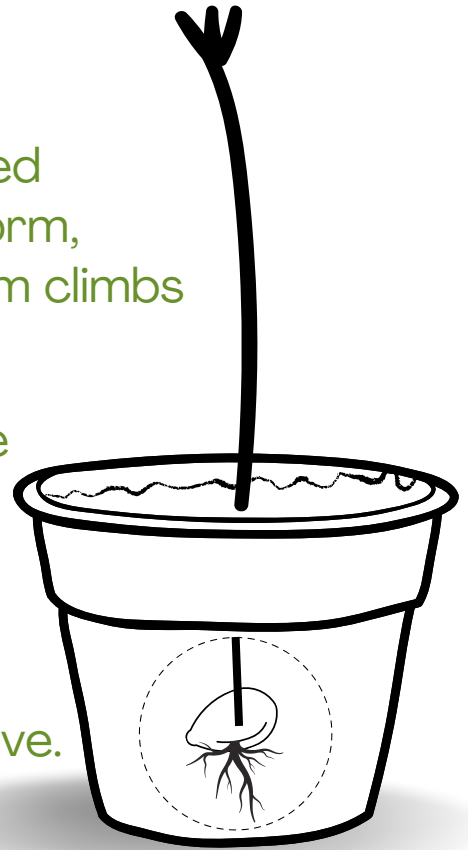
Describe the hidden need here:

The Inciting Incident

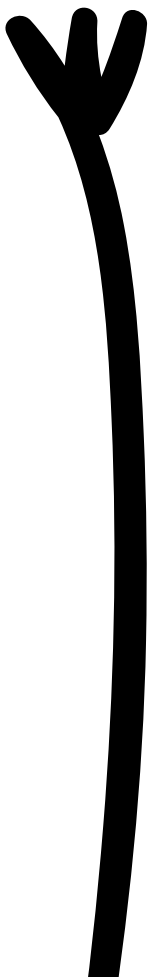
Something happens...

Inside the pot, buried in the soil, the seed breaks open and new roots begin to form, upsetting the seed's world. Then, a stem climbs and grows upward.

In your story, this is the moment where something happens to the main character. A new event occurs that upsets the balance within the main character's world. This new journey will climb and grow throughout the narrative.



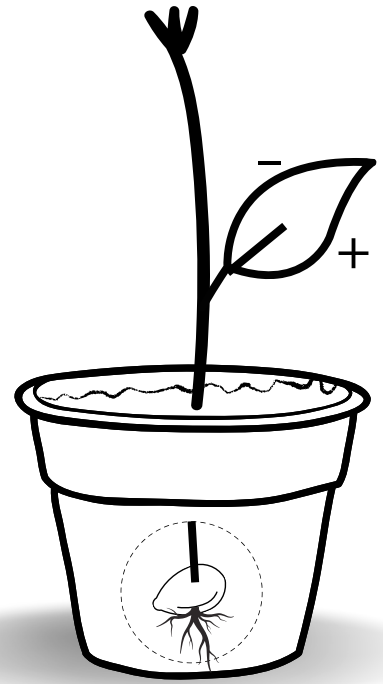
Describe the inciting incident here:



Two-fold Events

As the stem moves upward, leaves grow out of it. A leaf has two sides.

As your story moves onward, events occur. Each event should have two sides too. One side should be positive and the other should be negative. Your story should have three main positive and negative events.



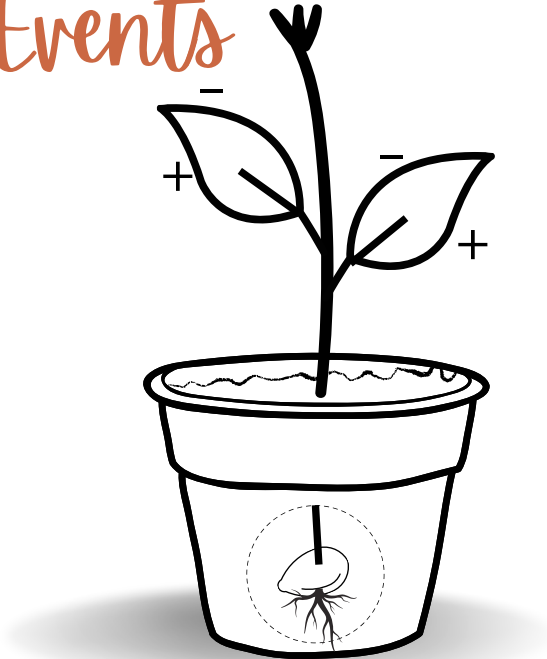
Event 1.

Describe the first event here:

The good side:

The bad side:

Two-fold Events



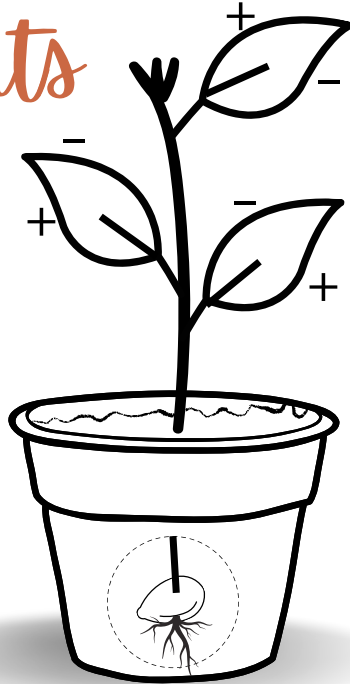
Event 2.

Describe the second event here:

The good side:

The bad side:

Two-fold Events



Event 3.

Describe the third event here:

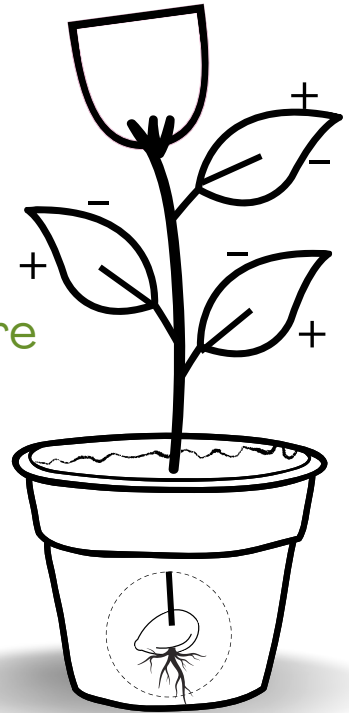
The good side:

The bad side:

The Climax or Hardest Moment

Just as the rhythm of the leaves growing seems natural, a hard receptacle forms. The receptacle is not pretty and will require a natural phenomenon to open.

In your story, this is the point that is hardest for your character. Your reader believes this is an impossible moment and all is doomed to fail.



Describe the hardest moment here:

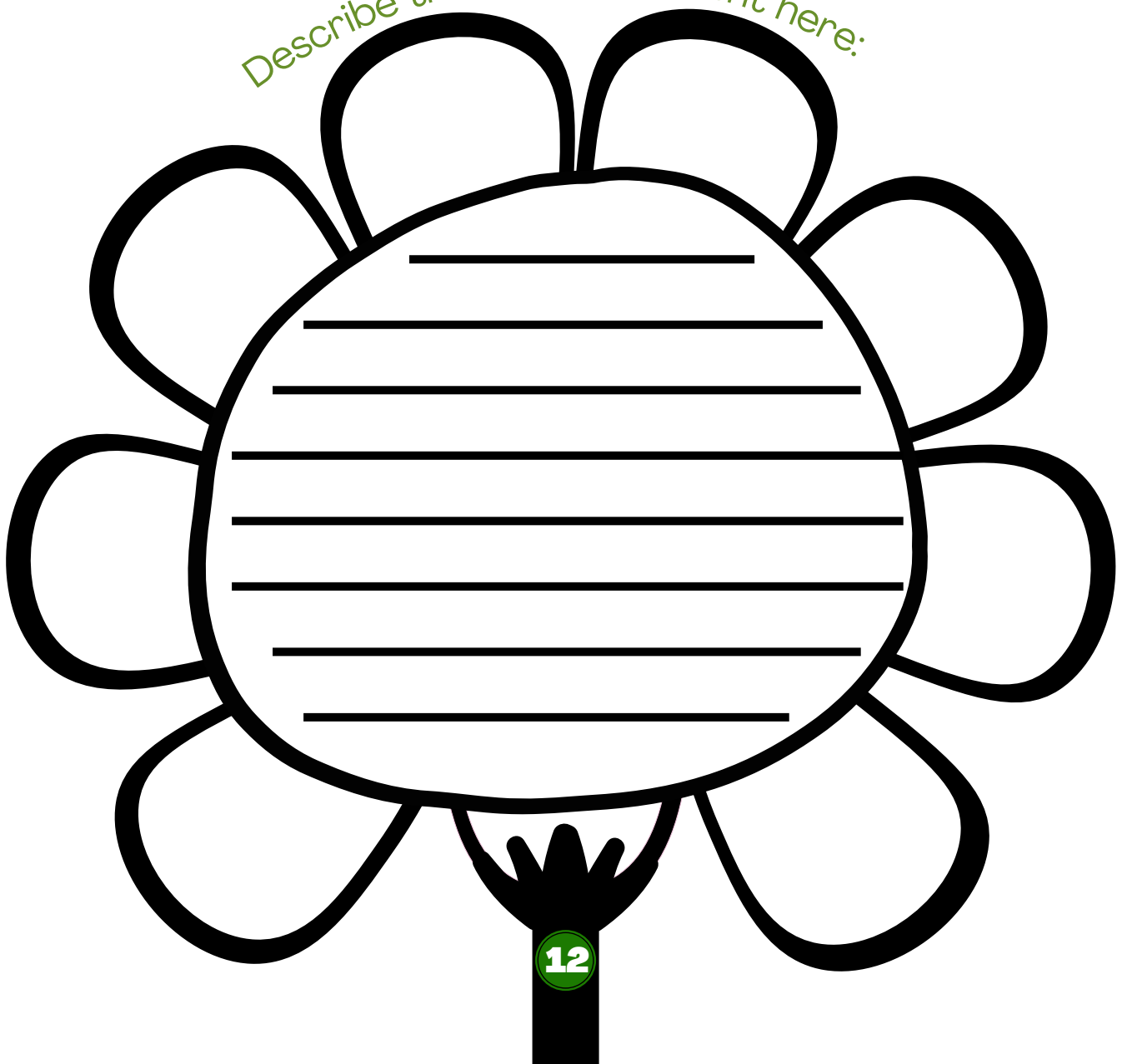
An Unexpected Surprise

Unexpectedly, the receptacle opens and births a flower.

Just as all seems lost, something unexpected unfolds in your story. Your narrative opens to birth a new and beautiful outcome. This event should surprise your readers.



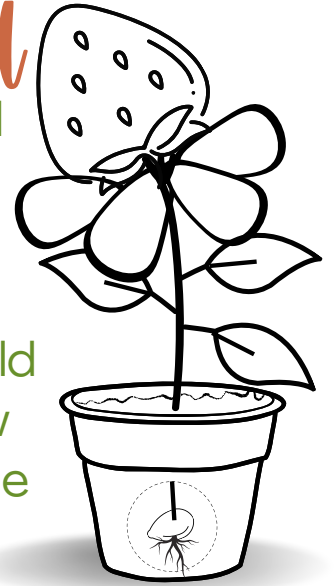
Describe the inciting incident here:



A Fruitful Lesson Learned

It's not over just yet. That beautiful flower will turn to fruit and produce new seeds.

Both the hidden and physical needs you identified at the beginning of your story should be met. Your character has grown and is now birthing an outcome that can produce a whole new story.



Describe the ending:



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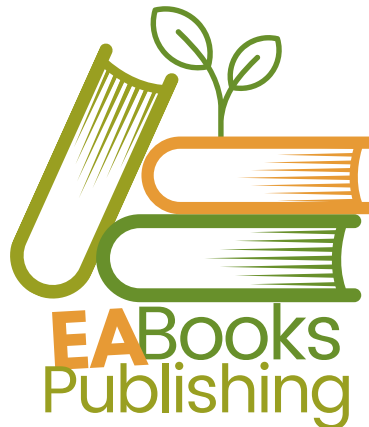
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