

# Hearts for Teaching



## Ideas for Using Story Outlines

**The Story Outlines offered here offer many opportunities for teachers! Below are a few of the ways they can be used:**

1. Use a Story Outline in order to create your own stories for your students to read. Add words and phrases that your students know well to the outline until you have a more detailed and interesting version of the story. These can be offered for reading opportunities, created for sub plans, or combined with questions for assessment.
2. Write two versions of the same story by changing details or the additional words and phrases in order to create an alternate version of the story. An alternate version is helpful for having two versions of an assessment, having materials students who are absent or providing extra practice.
3. Start with a Story Outline to co-create a story with students. For those who teach with TPRS®, the Story Outline can be used as a “story script”. (Google “Anne Matava+scripts” or “Tripp’s Scripts” for more of these.) Ask students questions about each line, and what might happen between each action, in order to create the story.
4. Use the Story Outline as a writing framework with the entire class. Project the outline and fill in the additional words, phrases and details as you go. The students can copy the information on to their own copies. It is a great way to model good writing! This activity can be done with an entire class or a small group.
5. When students are comfortable with using Story Outlines as a writing framework, it is possible to give the same outline to several different groups. Each group creates its own story. The stories can then be shared with the entire class.

6. Story Outlines can also be used as a writing assignment. Provide a Story Outline for each student and provide guidelines (Add two sentences after each sentence, add a phrase to each sentence, etc.) Grade using a rubric.
7. Students who love to write will LOVE to use these in their spare time to create stories for you and the class!
8. Use the Story Outlines as a base reading for creating Embedded Readings. For more information, see [www.EmbeddedReading.com](http://www.EmbeddedReading.com).
9. It is not always necessary, but certainly an option, to pre-teach the phrases that are repeated in the three stories. The vast majority are high-frequency phrases and will be very useful.
10. Use two of the Story Outlines in order to create activities with students and save the third to use as the basis for an assessment.
11. An activity for more advanced students: Ask students to create a similar story outline using the same structures.
12. Have students illustrate each sentence....or....have them create a speech or thought bubble related to the sentence.

For example: The student was not happy about the homework.



14. Cut the Story Outline into strips and have students change to order of the strips in order to change the story. Discuss what else would need to change/be added if the order is changed. Discuss what is/isn't possible when the order is changed.
15. Don't forget to ask your students for ideas! It is important to strive for a balance of comforting routines and interesting variety. Try not to use Story Outlines in the same way all of the time. If you have run out of ideas, ask your students for them!