

Creating Stories

by Iclarcq on November 29th, 2017

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<http://blog.heartsforteaching.com/creating-stories/>

There are a number of ways to combine structures to create a story skeleton. It works most smoothly when the story evolves naturally from the problem.

Step #1:

Identify the problem or the situation using a high-frequency or high-interest structure.

Step #2:

Look for “natural” reactions (think cause and effect) or complementary actions to that statement.

Here are some ideas

<p>_____ therefore _____</p> <p>is hungry — wants to eat is thirsty — wants to drink is tired — wants to sleep loses — looks for</p>	<p>_____ so _____</p> <p>gets sick — goes to doctor needs money — gets a job admires — tries to impress</p>	<p>_____ but _____</p> <p>has — loses looks for — cannot find has to — forgets to wants to/tries to — is not able to wants/likes/needs — does not have is asked to — but refuses to</p>	<p>_____ then _____</p> <p>buys.....eats/drinks/puts on/gives Eats.....vomits</p>
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A variety of options can be created just using Terry Waltz' “Super 7”:

<p>wants/likes but does not have wants/likes but there are none Wants _____ so goes to _____</p>	<p>is located in _____ but/therefore/and wants _____ goes to _____ but doesn't have _____ has _____ but doesn't like/want _____</p>
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Just one of these options can lead to many, many stories:

<p>Is in school but doesn't have a pencil Is in the ocean but doesn't have a boat Is in the bathroom but doesn't have toilet paper Is in the store but doesn't have money Is in the hospital but doesn't have an illness</p>	<p>Is in trouble but doesn't have a solution Is at the doctor's office but doesn't have an appointment Is at the entrance but doesn't have a ticket Is at the dance but doesn't have a date</p>	<p>Is at the airport but doesn't have a passport And these are just the “basic” kinds of stories. With a little imagination and trial and error, stories can be much more interesting: Is at Costco and the credit card has no limit. Is on a beach but doesn't have sunscreen for his/her whole body.</p>	<p>Is at the cashier after eating at a restaurant but doesn't have money. Is shopping at Petco but doesn't have a pet Is at a funeral but doesn't have any idea who the deceased is.</p>
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Then add one of Mike Peto's “Sweet Sixteen” structures:

<p>Is at Starbucks, and Starbucks has no milk for coffee so puts _____ in the coffee. Is on Dancing with the Stars but has no partner so asks many people to dance. Is at a birthday party but has no gift so looks for a gift in the house/restaurant.</p>
