

RE-VIEW

Video: Grunge: The Making of an Adventure *Narrative Story Structure* (*story map*)

Turner has just completed his Writer's Workshop class and is hoping to get published in a children's magazine. Natalie is interested in learning about how writers use Narrative Story Structure to compose a story and how it can be useful for readers to help them remember what they've read. Turner shares his masterpiece, *Grunge's Big Adventure*, and uses it as an opportunity to teach Natalie about Narrative Story Structure. Natalie finds that story structure really does help her remember key elements of a story.

Now it's Your Turn! Read *Grunge's Big Adventure*. Create your own *Think Aloud* and *Graphic Organizer*.

Then compare your thinking with Natalie's Think Aloud.



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Compare your Think Aloud with Natalie's Think Aloud:

Natalie's Think Aloud: Since I'm reading a story I will use a story map graphic organizer to help me identify the different elements within the story.

I notice right away the title and the first sentence used the name Grunge. Since it is "*Grunge's Big Adventure*," I am thinking that Grunge must be the main character. I will record *Grunge* next to the word *character* on my story map. In the second sentence I read, "*at home in the city dump*." This sentence helps me know that the *setting* of the story is the dump because it tells me where the story takes place. I'll record *the city dump* next to *setting* on my story map. When I read that Grunge found a "*travel brochure*" and "*dreamed of climbing Jagged Top Mountain*" I realized this is Grunge's *goal*, because it is what he wants to accomplish. I will record *climb Jagged Top Mountain* next to the word *goal* on my story map to indicate Grunge's goal in the story. As I continue I find that Grunge encounters a *problem*. When I read the sentence, "*He noticed four trails, snaking their way up the mountain*," I realize that Grunge's *problem* is that he will need to decide which trail to follow in order to reach the top. I will record *finding the right trail to reach the top of the mountain* as the *problem* in the story.

In the next paragraph I read, "*Trail A looks like a winner*," so I know that this is the trail Grunge picks as the way to the top of the mountain. As I continue reading, however, I find that Walter the dog tells Grunge, "*you're on the wrong trail, Trail A leads to the ski slope*." This sentence helps me understand that Trail A is not going to help Grunge reach his goal. On my graphic organizer I will write *Trail A* as the *first event*. Since he didn't reach his goal, I need to show on my graphic organizer that he is back to the level of his original *problem*. When I read that Walter offers Grunge help getting back to the base of the mountain, I know Grunge is back to his original *problem*.

Later, when I read, "*Trail B will not fail me*," I understand that Grunge is going to try a different trail to reach his goal. When Ollie tells Grunge that Trail B has been wiped out from an avalanche I'm thinking that his second try will not be successful. Next to *event two* I will record *Trail B*. I must also show that Grunge is again back to his original *problem*. When Ollie suggests he's headed toward Trail C and will walk with Grunge to the base of the mountain I know that Grunge is back to his original *problem* of getting to the top of the mountain.

I'm thinking when I read, "*Trail C, here I come!*" that Grunge is making his third attempt up the mountain to reach his goal. I'll record Trail C next to *event three* on my story map. However, when I read that Eddie tells Grunge "*Trail C ends at this cave*," I'm thinking that Grunge's attempt up the mountain is unsuccessful. When I read that Eddie and his bat buddies would keep Grunge company on the way to the base this confirms that Grunge is again back to his original *problem*.

When I read, "*goat kids gathered at Trail D*," I'm thinking Grunge may find success on this trail because there were only four trails to choose from and many stories have happy endings. Then I read that, "*Grunge took the last place in the mountain goat line*." I know that Grunge is making another attempt towards his goal. The text, "*the herd scaled its way to the very peak of Jagged Top Mountain*," and "*we did it*," helps me understand that Grunge accomplished his goal. Since the goal was reached I know that the *solution* to Grunge's problem was to take Trail D up the mountain. I will record *Trail D* as the solution to Grunge's problem on my story map.

Even though Grunge reached his goal of climbing the mountain, I know that skillful authors use the ending of their story to wrap it up. So, as I read the last several paragraphs I understand that the story actually ends when Grunge returns to the dump and shares his adventures with his friends.



Grunge's Big Adventure

Grunge loved adventure. At home in the city dump, Grunge leaped from smelly pile to pile. He scaled the highest stack of tires. He even raced with bulldozers!



One day, while munching on a shoestring, Grunge discovered a soggy travel brochure. "Scale the heights of Jagged Top Mountain!" he read. "Experience the majesty of a massive peak! Trek to one spectacular view after another!"

"Wow!" said Grunge. "That's the adventure for me!"

That night, Grunge dreamed of climbing Jagged Top Mountain. In his dreams he was at the peak, his goatee blowing in the mountain breeze.

The next morning, Grunge stuffed his backpack with old newspapers, carrot tops and candy wrappers for meals, Grunge set off for the base of Jagged Top Mountain. Once there, Grunge gazed at the monstrous mountain towering above him. He noticed four trails, snaking their way up the mountain.

"Hm... Trail A looks like a winner," he said, starting off. As he climbed, the air grew colder. Strong winds and heavy snow whipped around Grunge. In the snowy distance, Grunge saw something furry and brown lumbering toward him. Was it a bear?

Quickly, Grunge flopped over and played dead. Suddenly, he felt something panting hot root beer breath on this face. He opened one eye.

"You're not a bear," Grunge said.

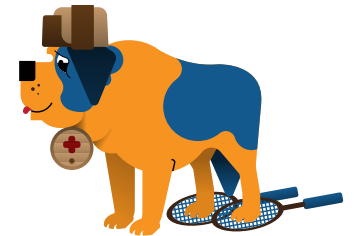
"I'm Walter, the Saint Bernard," said Walter. "Where are you going?"

"I'm hiking to the peak," said Grunge.

"Well you're on the wrong trail," said Walter. "Trail A leads to the ski slope."

"The ski slope!" Grunge exclaimed.

"Sorry friend," said Walter. "Say, would you like some help going back to the base? We've got a blizzard kicking up." Grunge nodded. Then, after a slurp of root beer from Walter's barrel, they slipped and slid down Trail A.



At the base, Grunge thanked Walter and said goodbye. He ate his supper of four newspapers, and settled in for the night.

The next morning, Grunge woke up still determined to make it to the peak. "Trail B will not fail me!" he exclaimed.

Grunge hiked for many hours on the zigzagging Trail B before coming to a raging river. "I did get a gold star in goat paddling," Grunge said, with a little gulp. "But maybe there's another way to cross."



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Grunge followed the river downstream until he reached a washed out bridge. "Looks like I'll be jumping in," he said. But just as he was about to stick his hooves in the frigid water, a young screech owl caught his attention.



"Hello," said Grunge. "You must be the wise old owl."

"Nah. Didn't you hear? He flew off with the spring chicken," said the owl. "I'm Ollie, his nephew."

"I'm Grunge," said Grunge, "and I'm hiking to the peak."

"Not on Trail B," said Ollie. **"Even if you could swim across, an avalanche wiped out the rest of the trail."**

Grunge plopped down in the grass. "Not again!" he said. **"What about Trail C?"**

"It's worth a try," said Ollie. **"I'm headed that way myself."**

As Grunge hiked down to the base, he told Ollie all about his old life back at the city dump. "It was smelly, dirty, and wonderful," said Grunge, munching his supper of carrot tops and the bag they came in. "But nothing as wonderful as the mountain peak."

Ollie and Grunge bid farewell, and Grunge went to sleep. When morning came, Grunge did ten goat push ups and stretched all four legs. He shook out his stubby tail. **"Trail C, here I come!"** he said.

Throughout the long day, Grunge continued on. He picked his way up the trail. The trail led to the entrance of a dark cave. "Hello," whispered Grunge, worrying about bears. "Is anybody home?"

Suddenly, a giant blur of whirring black wings flew from the cave and surrounded Grunge. Grunge trembled as hundreds of beady bat eyes stared at him. One of the bats spoke up. "We didn't mean to scare you. Well, actually we did. We love scaring tourists. By the way, I'm Eddie."



"I'm Grunge, and I am not a tourist. I'm a hiker trying to reach the peak."

"That is a problem," said Eddie. **"Trail C ends at this cave."**

"What?" said Grunge. "I still must find a way to the top. I must not give up!"

"You'll have to find another trail," Eddie replied.

Grunge's new bat buddies kept Grunge company on the way back to the base. Once there, they squeaked, "You can do it, Grunge!" Then they flew off into the night sky.

"They're right," said Grunge. "Tomorrow could be the day." He chomped his dinner of candy wrappers, and stretched out to sleep.

In the early morning, Grunge awoke to the clapping of heavy hooves all around him. A herd of mighty mountain goats, along with their newest mountain **goat kids, gathered at Trail D.**



“Ready for your first hike to the peak?” asked the largest mountain goat.

“Baah!” cheered the kids.

Excitedly, **Grunge took the last place in the mountain goat line.** He helped the kids scramble up the trail, wade streams, and shimmy over boulders. The trail grew steeper, and the air turned clear and cold.

Finally, **the herd scaled its way to the very peak of Jagged Top Mountain.** Grunge took a deep breath. **“We did it!”** he said. He gazed at the spectacular view. It was just like the photos in the travel brochure, only better.



But down in the valley below, Grunge spotted something familiar. It was his beloved, stinky dump. The dump he affectionately called home.

Grunge’s goatee blew in the mountain breeze as he thought for a while. “The peak and the dump – they’re both a grand adventure,” he said.

Grunge hugged and high-hoofed the herd goodbye and made the long, happy hike down the mountain. When Grunge returned home, he told everyone about the mountain peak, and everything in between.

One day, after lunching on envelopes and cantaloupes, Grunge spied another travel brochure and began to read. “Fly like a bird! Have the hang gliding experience of a lifetime!” And it was then that Grunge began dreaming.



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Compare your Graphic Organizer with Natalie's Graphic Organizer:

Natalie's Graphic Organizer: "Because this story uses narrative story structure, I will use a story map graphic organizer."

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How does the Story Map help Natalie determine the elements of the story?
- How does *story structure* help you retell the story?
- Why might this process help you make sense of a story?
- When might this process be useful?

