

## Teacher Notes



# Anticlimax: Good Stories with Bad Endings

## Activity 1 When an Author “Drops the Ball”

### *Activity Overview*

Students will share the titles of literary works they have read and/or films they have seen that had, in their opinions, disappointing endings. Instructors will further engage titles that seem to be popular choices among students.

### *Tip*

When the same book or film title is presented by more than one student, the teacher should take time to consider the reasons students were disappointed. This may prove very interesting considering different students may have been disappointed with the same literary work or movie yet have completely different reasons why. Also, the teacher should give some of their own examples and briefly explain their choice. For example, Mario Puzo’s *The Last Don* had an implausible ending because there is no credible way that the governor of Nevada could run for President considering his repeated run-ins with the law and his connections with the Mafia.

### *Directions*

#### *Before the Activity Begins*

Students should have their devices and keyboards ready for typing.

Prepare an overhead transparency of the vocabulary words at the end of this activity.

## Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Reading Strategies
- ◆ **Topic:** Predicting Outcomes
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 8 - 10
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 40 minutes

## Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ NoteFolio™ application installed on each TI-83 Plus
- ◆ Overhead projector
- ◆ Teacher Guide: **Vocabulary**

### ***During the Activity***

Students will work individually in this activity. Begin the activity by talking about some of the books and films you were disappointed in and why you were disappointed in the outcome. If some of your selections are known to the students, encourage them to discuss their opinions of the books or films, whether they agree with your viewpoint or not. Discuss how, at times, the “happy” ending is not always the most appropriate or plausible ending for a story.

Using the overhead projector, display the transparency with the vocabulary terms defined. Introduce and explain or review these terms with the students so they have a good understanding of them.

After the discussion, instruct the students to select at least three titles from literary works or films that they found to have anticlimactic endings. Each student should enter the titles into a new NoteFolio™ file on his or her TI-83 Plus.

Five to ten minutes prior to the end of class, have each student read aloud the titles they have chosen. If any of the students have selected the same titles, make a note of the title and when every student has read their list, return and briefly discuss their reasons for selecting the work.

### ***Accessing the NoteFolio™ Application on the TI-83 Plus***

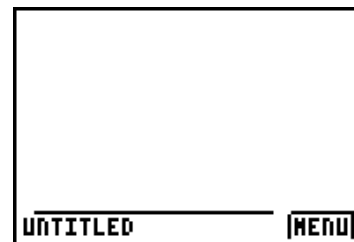
The following procedure enables you to access the NoteFolio™ Application. It assumes that the software is already installed on the device.

**Note:** NoteFolio™ App is most efficiently used on the TI-83 Plus with the TI Keyboard.

1. Turn on the device and press **[APPS]** to display the list of installed applications. Select the **NoteFlio** Application by using **[▲]** **[▼]** to scroll to it in the list.



2. Press **[ENTER]**. Press any key to clear the NoteFolio™ App Introduction screen. A blank (new) NoteFolio™ App file is initially displayed.



3. Students should complete the assignment.

**Note:** If you are not using a TI Keyboard, remember to press the **[ALPHA]** key to type letters.

4. When the file is complete, press **MENU**. Students can save the file under a new name by selecting **Save As**.



5. When the new file name is entered, press **OK** (the **Y=** key).

To exit the application, press **MENU** and select **6: Exit**.



### ***After the Activity***

Prepare the students for the next activity by telling them to think about how they would change the endings of the literary or film titles that they named in class.

***Teacher Guide***  
***Vocabulary Terms***

***Anticlimax***

A descent, as in a series of events, which is in ludicrous or disappointing contrast to a preceding rise.

***Denouement***

The outcome, solution, unraveling, or clarification of a plot in a drama, story, or the like.

*Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1983).