Teacher Notes

Anticlimax: Good Stories with Bad Endings

Activity 3
Homing in on Endings

Activity Overview

Students learn ways to ensure a good ending to a story by considering the processes with which they revised the stories they chose and class discussion. This activity gives students a practical outlook on how to best end a story, speech, or statement.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Students should have their devices and keyboards ready for typing.

Instruct the class to open the file containing their revised endings to their selected stories.

During the Activity

Have each student read his or her revised ending summary.

When these presentations are completed, tell the students to open a new NoteFolio™ file on their TI-83 Plus handhelds. For the first part of this assignment, they are to write three sentences that describe what constitutes an anticlimactic ending and record the sentences in the new NoteFolio™ file.

When they have completed the first part, have the students write three sentences that describe what constitutes a good ending. They should enter these sentences in the same file as used for the first part of the exercise.

Note: A paper-based instruction sheet for this assignment is included at the end of this activity.

When the students have completed the assignment, choose several students to read their sentences aloud and explain their reasoning. Write down the different ideas expressed by the students on a chalkboard or whiteboard during this oral discussion.

Students should be encouraged to question the student reading after he or she has finished if they do not understand or disagree with the logic applied to the statement.

After the Activity

In light of the discussion, generate a class discussion about the different short stories contained in the class textbook, and assess whether or not the endings are "good" or "bad." Use the logic mentioned by the students (and recorded on the board) to make the determination. If a story was "good" in spite of perhaps failing the logic of the rules determined by the students, explore why the story is "good" and adjust the rules accordingly, if needed.

Possible Extra Credit Assignment

If a "problematic" story is found that does not fit the criteria of a "good" ending, propose, as an extra credit activity, that interested students write a critique of the story's ending for submission. In this critique, the students should explore the seeming dichotomy and resolve it to the best of their ability. This exercise can benefit the students' critical analysis skills as well as improve their writing skills.

Student Work Sheet
Bad Ending vs. Good Endings

Name: _____

Date: _____

Using complete sentences, complete the following statements.

1. Describe three characteristics of poor or "bad" endings to stories.

2. Describe three characteristics of appropriate or "good" endings to stories.