Teacher Notes

Anticlimax: Good Stories with Bad Endings

**Activity 2
Making a Good Story
REALLY Good!**

Activity Overview

Students write their own ending to one of the stories that they chose as having an anticlimactic ending. The instructor and classmates will discuss what methodology or thought process leads up to the new ending and whether or not each student's efforts are satisfactory.

Tip

Teachers should encourage their students to be as creative as possible while keeping their newly revised ending in context with the rest of the story. Students should sit in groups and share their newly revised endings with one another before reading aloud. Students will consider this an enjoyable activity, especially if they are revising stories familiar to one another. Allow 15-20 minutes for this exercise.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Use the transparency from Activity 1 to review the terminology for this lesson. If the discussion from the end of the last activity was not completed, then take time to finish the discussion. Give the class a couple minutes to review their

book and movie titles. Ask them to focus on what they disliked about the ending along with their reasons for the dissatisfaction.

During the Activity

Tell the students that they are to select one of the book or movie titles that they disliked and to create a better ending for the work. They are to enter their improved ending into a new NoteFolio™ file on the TI-83 Plus. Their time limit for completing this assignment is 20 minutes.

Note: With this time constraint, the ending will have to be concise, and in some instances, a summary of what the student would have preferred to have encountered in the work.

While the students create their "improved" ending, circulate among them to provide assistance, where needed.

When the writing time is past, divide the class into groups of five or six students. Each student in each group will read his or her revision aloud and discuss their methods and reasoning for the changes. The members in the group will advise one another as to whether or not the writer achieved a better, more appropriate ending.

After the Activity

Students will discuss ways in which their classmates' story revisions may have proven satisfactory or problematic. Instructors will encourage students to be critical and exchange ideas that can help one another.

Homework

Have students revise the endings they wrote using the comments and suggestions that their group members provided. Each student should be ready to read his or her ending or summary aloud at the next class period.