Story Pyramid

What is a Story Pyramid and why is it important?

A Story Pyramid (Macon, Bewell, & Vogt, 1991) helps students pinpoint highlights of a story and describe the important parts using a limited number of words. The requirement of brief responses stretches students' thinking and is fun.

How can I use a Story Pyramid with my students?

Show students the Story Pyramid graphic organizer. Ask questions that will help students complete the pyramid using the correct number of words. Some questions you could use are: "Using one word, can you name the main character?" "Using two words, can you describe the main character?" "Using three words, can you tell where the story took place?" . . . and so on. Once students have completed the story pyramid outline, encourage them to write a summary using the information in the pyramid.

Following is an example of a completed Story Pyramid for *Always My Dad*, a story about a girl who misses her dad, who must travel frequently.

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1. Daughter
2. Sad   lonely
3. On   Grandpa's   farm
4. She   misses   her   dad
5. Her   dad   is   always   leaving
6. Her   dad   comes   to   visit   them
7. He   leaves   again   for   a   new   job
8. Dreaming   about   her   dad   makes   her   remember   him

1. One word naming the main character
2. Two words describing the main character
3. Three words describing the setting
4. Four words stating the problem
5. Five words describing first main event
6. Six words describing second main event
7. Seven words describing third main event
8. Eight words stating the solution to the problem

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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1. ——— ———

2.——— ———

3. ——— ——— ———

4. ——— ——— ——— ———

5. ——— ——— ——— ——— ———

6. ——— ——— ——— ——— ——— ———

7. ——— ——— ——— ——— ——— ——— ———

8. ——— ——— ——— ——— ——— ——— ——— ———