

Summary Chart for Writing A Story

Characters	Setting
Problem	Solution

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The summary chart is an excellent tool to use for brainstorming a story. It includes the basic story elements we can expect elementary-age students to display in their writing.

I like to display the chart on my SmartBoard, or draw it on the whiteboard.

Characters Me Genie	Setting My bedroom
Problem The genie grants me three wishes and I make horrible choices with the first two	Solution My final wish is to wish for everything to go back to how it was.

Using four different colors, list or write a short phrase for each box.

If this is the first time your students have used a Summary Chart for writing a story, be sure to orally tell your story first. Don't worry about getting all the details in at this time. Just make up a story with your class so they can see how you are incorporating the 4 main story elements into your tale.

After telling to story, you need to model writing the story from the summary chart. Focus on one specific element at a time. For example, do not expect your students to be wonderfully creative the first time you do this. Just focus on getting a story down that follows a predictable pattern and makes sense.

When your students are finally ready to write independently, be sure to celebrate their efforts and allow them many opportunities to share their finished pieces!