Runaway Kitten

Learning objectives

- Analyze a story ending to create a relevant beginning.
- Construct the beginning of a story using transitional words and sensory detail to describe experiences and events.
- Identify the essential elements of a fictional story.
- Choose words, phrases, dialects, and punctuation that add expression and effect.
- Learn to identify and elaborate on elements of suspense and horror.
- Convey experiences to the public through articles and documentaries.

Setting the scene

“What an adventure!” said Jenny as she carried her runaway kitten back home. She was very excited and eager to talk about what she had just experienced. It had been amazing; she had rescued “Kitty” from the big, scary old house on the hill. Some people had said the house was haunted, others had said that an old witch lived there. In truth, nobody really knew what went on inside the big old house . . . before today.

What adventure do you think Jenny and Kitty had inside the big old house? How did Jenny rescue Kitty?

Building the story

Ask the students to build their very own Runaway Kitten scenario based on this happy ending.

- How can the big old house be made to look scary?
- What props can be added?
- What sort of adventures will Kitty the kitten have in the house?

Reflecting

Encourage the students to reflect and discuss elements of coherence and continuity while building.

- What led to Kitty’s rescue?
- What happened to Jenny and Kitty?
- Which elements will help to create the right atmosphere and context for the story?
- Ask students to use their scene structures to create a coherent story.

Common Core Standards

Speaking and Listening: 2-5.4
Reading for Literature: 2-5.2
Reading Informational Text: 2-5.3
Language: 1-5.5
Language: 2-5.3
Language: 2-5.5
Writing: 2-5.3
Sharing and documenting
Use the StoryVisualizer software to produce a story that clearly explains what went on inside the big old house and what led to Kitty’s rescue. Include elements that convey how dangerous and spooky the situation has been.

Extending
• Imagine scary things that could have happened to Kitty while she was alone in the big old house. She might have fallen into a large bowl of water—and knowing how Kitty hates water, that would certainly have been very scary indeed. Write a list of scary things that could happen in a haunted house.

• This story had a “happy ending.” Make a short TV documentary about Kitty’s rescue from the big old house.

• Authors use words to bring their stories to life. They go through many drafts and revisions before the perfect words are found. Create a short storyboard of your Runaway Kitten story (beginning, middle, and end) with three illustrations. Practice using precise language by writing a caption that communicates the meaning, experience, or feeling under each illustration.

You can use:
Three examples of figurative language
• similes
• metaphors
Three adjectives highlighting the shades of meaning
• example: spooked, frightened, terrified