

The Connect Grid

Your Story Planning Tool

The Connect Grid helps you take a story you have read and turn it into a plan for your own story. It has **THREE** columns. You read a story, fill in the columns, and use Column 3 as a template for your own writing.

The Three Columns

Column 1 What Happens	Column 2 Generalised Plot	Column 3 Story Skeleton
The actual events in this story. <i>Concrete and specific.</i>	The pattern of what happens. Not the people or places, just the kind of thing that happens here. <i>Abstract and general.</i>	A reusable template you could copy for your own story. <i>A skeleton you can fill in.</i>
<i>"Sam fell into the pond and got muddy."</i>	<i>"A character has an unexpected setback."</i>	<i>"[Character] [does action] when suddenly [setback happens]."</i>

The Four Levels

Level 1	Whole Story - one big summary of the whole text
Level 2	5-Part Structure - one row each for beginning, build-up, problem, resolution, end
Level 3	Paragraph Level - one row per paragraph in the story
Level 4	Sentence Level - for analysing very important sentences in detail

How to Use This Pack

Step 1: Read the story carefully. Mark the parts (beginning, build-up, problem, resolution, end).

Step 2: Fill in **Column 1** first - just describe what happens in concrete words.

Step 3: Fill in **Column 2** next. Ask: *What is the pattern here? What kind of thing is happening?* Use the **Could-This-Happen** test (separate card).

Step 4: Fill in **Column 3** last. Turn your Column 2 pattern into a sentence template you could use for your own story.

Important

Column 2 is the hardest column. Pupils often write something too specific (still mentions characters or places). Use the **Could-This-Happen Test Card** to check.

Connect Grid - Level 1

Whole Story

Story title: _____

Name: _____

Column 1 What Happens	Column 2 Generalised Plot	Column 3 Story Skeleton
<i>Describe the whole story in 2-3 concrete sentences. Who? Where? What happened?</i>	<i>Describe the pattern of the whole story. Not the people or places - just the KIND of thing that happens.</i>	<i>Write a template sentence you could use for your OWN story.</i>

Connect Grid - Level 2

5-Part Structure

Story title: _____

Name: _____

Story Part	Column 1 What Happens	Column 2 Generalised Plot	Column 3 Story Skeleton
Beginning			
Build-up			
Problem			
Resolution			
End			

Connect Grid - Level 3

Paragraph Level

Story title: _____

Name: _____

Paragraph	Column 1 What Happens	Column 2 Generalised Plot	Column 3 Story Skeleton
Para 1			
Para 2			
Para 3			
Para 4			
Para 5			
Para 6			