

Story Mapping

Ages: 10–18 (Grades 5–12)

Duration: 30–45 minutes

Materials needed:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Stapler, paperclips, or something to secure pages together

Procedure:

1. Take some time to brainstorm about some stories that you enjoy. These can be from a movie, a book, or a myth that you know.
2. Think about the hero/heroine in the story. What are some of the characteristics of the hero? If the hero undergoes personal development, what sparked the development? Were there specific events that caused a change in the hero? Were there subsidiary characters that assisted in the hero's development? Were there certain actions that the hero performed to signal their personal change?
3. Using the same sample story, think about the structure. Did the hero's journey follow the common structure of a **call to action**, embarkation on a journey, experience of a challenge or challenges, and then resolution? Did this character experience supernatural events, resistance, or support? Did this character change as a person over the course of their journey or the story's plot? If not, what was the story structure? Can you experiment with how this story structure would look as a diagram?
4. Think about some ideas that you want to explore in your story. You can expand on an existing character and write a new adventure for an well-known hero, such as Harry Potter, or you can create an entirely new character. Using the worksheet below, flesh out the story structure and character development of your hero.

Worksheet: Story Mapping

What is your hero's name and age?

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Appearance?

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Special talents?

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Background?

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Who are the other characters in your story?

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What is your hero's relationship to the other characters?

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How or why does your hero, animal, or object end up in the night sky?

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What is the problem or cause of the journey? Why does your hero decide to go on their journey?

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What obstacles or challenges will this character have to face?

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What, if any, type of personal development does your hero go through?

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What is the resolution of your story?

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Is there a moral lesson that you want the reader to learn?

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