SECTION 6: Endings
Menu for Extended Endings

*A MEMORY:*
What did you remember most?

*FEELINGS:*
How did you feel about what happened?

*WISH or HOPE:*
What would you wish or hope?

*DECISION:*
What did you decide?

*DEFINING ACTION:*
What did you do?
Analyze this Ending! - 1

Read this story ending.

• Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
• Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
• Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
• Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

Tim leaned back against the building and heaved a sigh of relief. It had been close, that’s for sure. When he shut his eyes he could still see the huge, slobbering dog snarling and snapping at him. He knew that if he ever wanted to explore the junkyard again, he’d check first to see if the dog was there. And he’d come armed with some dog biscuits or a very big bone!

THINK ABOUT IT:
What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

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Analyze this Ending! - 2

Read this story ending.

• Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
• Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
• Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
• Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

Mary thought back to the moment when she kissed the small ugly frog. She still could not believe he’d convinced her to do it. But he’d seemed so sad and lonely. She’d never forget the way the frog had turned into a prince! She hoped that he’d remember her and come back someday when she was all grown up. And if he did come back, she decided that somehow she would become his princess!

THINK ABOUT IT:
What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!
Analyze this Ending! - 3

Read this story ending.

• Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
• Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
• Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
• Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

Doris the cat purred happily and curled up in the sunny window. She shivered a little when she thought about how long she’d lived in the streets as a skinny, stray cat. But that was then. Now she knew she would never again choose to wander about chasing mice like she used to. It would be fancy cat food for her from now on, served in a fancy glass bowl. As old Mrs. Winn patted her soft coat, Doris stretched and hoped that life would always be this good!

THINK ABOUT IT:
What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!
Amy sat back and smiled proudly. The feeling of excitement when they’d announced her name still made her heart beat a little faster. Her arms ached from her efforts but she didn’t mind. Winning second place in the swim meet had been worth it. She didn’t sit for long though. Next time I’ll win first place, she thought. With that, she picked up her goggles, her towel, and her suit, and headed back to the pool.

THINK ABOUT IT:
What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!
Analyze this Ending! - 5

Read this story ending.

• Underline the main character’s memories of the main event in BLUE.
• Underline the main character’s feelings about the main event in RED.
• Underline a decision that the main character made in BLACK.
• Underline the main character’s hope or wish in GREEN.

Jeannie leaned against the wall, breathless, and wiped the sweat from her face. She closed her eyes and winced at the memory of how close she’d come to getting mugged, or worse. Her bottom lip began to quiver and she took a deep breath, trying to calm her racing heart and trembling hands. She’d gotten a good look at him though, before she outran him. With that, she set out in the opposite direction, heading for the police headquarters.

THINK ABOUT IT:
What do you think this story was about? Use this ending to summarize what probably took place in the story!

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Extend this Ending! - 1

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a greedy dog named Zippy who lived on a farm. Zippy would run around the farm stealing all of the other animals’ food. The other animals didn’t want Zippy for a friend. Zippy finally learned that friends shared and had a party for all of the animals. Then they were friends again.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, Zippy wasn’t greedy anymore. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.

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Extend this Ending! - 2

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a boy named Peter who discovered a time machine. He traveled back to the dinosaur days. He had a scary, exciting adventure, but was glad to get back home again.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, finally Peter got back home. He went inside and went to bed.

THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.
Extend this Ending! - 3

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a time I went fishing. I hooked something really BIG. It was a sea monster. I discovered it was friendly and let it go. We remained friends from that day on.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, I let my new friend go. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.
Extend this Ending! - 4

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about the time I discovered a magic carpet in my grandmother’s attic. I went for a dangerous, exciting ride high over the mountains before returning the carpet to the attic for someone else to discover.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, I flew home and put the carpet away. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.

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Extend this Ending! - 5 🎨

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- A memory - What do you remember most?
- A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
- A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
- A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
- A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a beautiful princess named Crystal. She lived in a castle on top of a huge mountain. The problem was that she was very lonely. One day she snuck out of the castle and visited the marketplace in the village dressed as a peasant. She met a young handsome shopkeeper and they were married. He became the prince and they were happy.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, now Crystal and her Prince were happy. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.
Extend this Ending! - 6

REMEMBER: Story endings should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

• A memory - What do you remember most?
• A feeling - How did you feel after everything that happened?
• A decision - What did you decide to do after everything that happened?
• A wish or hope - What did you wish or hope for?
• A defining action - What did you do to show how you felt, or what you decided?

Read this story summary:

This is a story about a young man named Ben. He was a track and field athlete who practiced and worked out very hard. After recovering from an injury he went on, and against all odds, won a marathon in his town.

Now read the way the author ended the story. It is abrupt and unsatisfying.

So, now Ben was happy that he won. THE END

REVISE this story ending. Include the main character’s memories, feelings, decisions, hopes, or wishes.
Read this retelling of the story of “Little Red Riding Hood.” The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying. Instead of the usual, “and they lived happily ever after” ending, write an extended ending. Include Little Red Riding Hood’s memories and feelings about the main event, and any decisions, wishes, or hopes she has as a result.

Little Red Riding Hood

“I’ll take the basket of food to Grandmother’s house!” said Little Red Riding Hood. She took the basket, kissed her mother goodbye, and headed out.

“Remember,” called her mother, “Stay on the path and don’t dilly-dally!”

Little Red Riding Hood sighed. Her mother was such a worry-wart! “Okay, Mom,” she answered as she started down the forest path.

“La-de-da-de-da,” she sang as she skipped along the path through the forest. The sun peeked through the tall trees. Birds chirped and small animals scurried around in the underbrush. Little Red Riding Hood sniffed at the fresh forest air. “Mmmm...” she said, “I think I smell lilacs!” She looked around until she saw the purple fluffy flowers on a bush quite a ways off the path. Even though she knew she shouldn’t, Little Red went off the path to pick some fragrant lilacs for her Granny. What she didn’t know was that she was not alone! A big bad wolf was watching her, licking his chops and thinking about what a fine lunch she would make. He stepped out from the underbrush.

“Hello, Missy,” he said. “Lovely day for a walk!”

Little Red did not want to seem rude. “Yes it is,” she said politely. “It is a perfect day for bringing lunch to my poor old Granny!”

The Big Bad Wolf nodded. A perfect day for gobbling up a silly girl, her poor old Granny, and a basket of lunch besides, he thought. That’s when he had a brainstorm! “Tootle-loo then,” he called and pretended to go on his merry way. But instead, he made his way to Granny’s cottage, gobbled Granny up and hopped into her bed. He pulled on poor Granny’s ruffled night cap that hung on the bed post, and yanked the lacy covers up to his hairy old chin. He licked his chops and said, “That was quite a good first course. I can hardly wait for the main dish!” He burped and settled down to wait.

Soon enough, Little Red came skipping up the path. “Hello Granny,” she called. She ran inside and peeked at her Granny. Granny looked much worse than Little Red expected. Her nose seemed long, her chin seemed hairy, and her eyes seemed shifty and bloodshot. “You look terrible, Granny!” said Little Red.
“Nonsense,” whispered the Big Bad Wolf, “come closer and let your old Granny get a look at you!” Little Red came to Granny’s bedside. The closer she got, the worse Granny looked. “Your eyes look so shifty and bloodshot,” said Little Red.

Her Granny laughed. “The better to see you with muffin,” she said.

Her laugh sent a shiver down Little Red’s spine.

“And your ears,” said Little Red, noticing how Granny’s ears seemed to stick up under her nightcap. “Your ears seem gigantic!”

“The better to hear you with, cupcake,” said the Big Bad Wolf. He said it in a dribbly kind of voice because his mouth was watering.

Little Red Riding Hood thought that Granny must be quite ill. That was when she noticed her teeth. Quite yellow, they were, and awfully long and pointy.

“Granny,” said Little Red, “I think you ought to brush and floss a bit better. Your teeth don’t look very good at all.”

That was when the wolf jumped out of the bed.

“These teeth may not be brushed, and they may not be flossed, but they’re good enough to eat you with!” he shrieked.

Realizing what had happened, Little Red knocked him over the head with the basket and turned to run. But the Big Bad Wolf was not about to let his main course get away that easily. He grabbed her, and swallowed her in one gulp.

“Yum, yum, yum,” he said as he polished off his dessert in the basket.

Meanwhile, Little Red and Granny were squeezed pretty tightly in the belly of the wolf. And they were both more than a little annoyed.

“Let’s teach him a lesson,” said Granny. With that, the two of them began kicking their feet, thrashing their arms, and yelling at the top of their lungs.

Making his way through the forest, the Big Bad Wolf suddenly didn’t feel very well. “I don’t think my meal is agreeing with me,” he moaned.

A woodsman passed him by and was quite amazed at the way his belly was popping and bopping. He also heard a strange muffled noise.

“Yo, Mr. Wolf,” said the woodsman, “I’ve never seen a wolf belly dance before. And I’ve never heard a stomach growl like that either.”

The wolf didn’t answer, so the woodsman came closer. He was amazed to find that the stomach growling he heard was even stranger than he’d thought. He grabbed the wolf, bent over his popping, bopping belly and strained his ears.
“Help! Help!” growled the stomach. “The wolf has swallowed us whole!”

The wolf groaned. “Help me!” he begged. “I think I bit off more than I can chew!”

With that, the woodsman grabbed the wolf below his ribs, made a fist with his hand, and gave several big yanks. “Don’t worry wolf,” he said, “I learned this in first aid. It’s called the Heimlich Maneuver. You’ll be good as new in no time.”

And, after five or six big Heimlich yanks, out popped Little Red. After five or six more, out popped Granny. (The wolf ran off, Granny went home, and Little Red thanked the woodsman and went home. THE END)
Read this retelling of the story of “The Three Little Pigs”. The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying. Instead of the usual, “and they lived happily ever after” ending, write an extended ending. Include the Smart Pig’s memories and feelings about the main event, and any decisions, wishes, or hopes he has as a result.

The Three Little Pigs

“I’m telling you two,” said Smart Pig, “building a house takes a lot of careful planning!”

“Hogwash!” said his two brothers, both glued to the T.V. set. They were all getting ready to leave home for the first time, to make their way in the world on their own.

“Okay,” said Smart Pig in a huffy way. “You two can sit there watching Porky Pig reruns. I’m going off to plan my house!”

“Goodbye,” said the two Pig brothers, their eyes never leaving the screen.

So Smart Pig set off in his shiny red truck for the Home Improvement and Building Supply Store. He marched inside. A salesman approached him.

“May I help you?” asked the salesman.

“Yes,” said Smart Pig. “I am planning on building a house. I need to buy my supplies.”

The salesman nodded and pointed to a display on his right. “We have a special on this fine thatching straw,” he said. “A dollar a truckload, while supplies last.”

Smart Pig poked at the straggly straw. He blew on it and watched it fly this way and that.

“No,” said Smart Pig. “This straw will never do. I want to build a strong house.”

“You certainly are a smart pig,” said the salesman.

“That’s my name,” said Smart Pig, smiling proudly.

The salesman pointed to a display on his left. “These sticks are stronger than the straw. Buy five, get one free!”

Smart Pig scratched his head. He looked at the skinny wooden sticks. “Hmm...” he said, as he tapped at the sticks. “Hmmm.....” He picked one up and bent it across his chubby little knee.

CRACK! It broke in two.

“Please, sir,” said the salesman, “Don’t handle the merchandise like that!”
Smart Pig shook his head. “These sticks will never do. I want to build a really strong house.”

“You certainly are a smart pig,” said the salesman.

“That’s my name,” said Smart Pig, smiling proudly.

The salesman pointed to a display in the corner. “These bricks are the strongest things we have. Only ninety nine cents each with an eighty nine cent mail in rebate.

Smart Pig took his time. He blew on each brick. He tapped them, and scratched at them. They seemed very strong.

“Okay,” said Smart Pig. “I’ll take them! Let’s load up the truck!”

When Smart Pig had the truck loaded he drove to his building lot. He hopped out. He measured, dug, measured, mixed cement, measured again, poured cement, and laid the bricks one by one. As he was working he saw his two brothers at their lots, one on the right and one on the left. The first brother threw together a straw house.

“A dollar a truckload,” he hollered, pointing to the flimsy straw. “I had enough money left to buy a color T.V.” he squealed. Smart Pig grunted and shook his head.

“You’ll be sorry,” he snorted.

The second brother threw together a stick house. “Buy five, get one free,” he hollered, pointing to his skinny sticks. “I had enough money left over to buy a color T.V.” he squealed. Smart Pig grunted and shook his head.

“You’ll be sorry too,” he snorted.

That night Smart Pig finally finished his strong brick house and settled down in his parlor. Suddenly there was a terrible commotion outside. There was a lot of huffing and puffing, snarling and squealing. When Smart Pig looked out the door he saw his first brother’s straw house blowing down the avenue. His brother was running toward the stick house, with a terrible wolf right on his curly little tail.

“Oh boy,” said Smart Pig. He held his breath as his brother ran into the stick house. He made it, but just by the hair on his chinny chin chin.

Then came the next terrible commotion. There was a lot of huffing and puffing, snarling and squealing. There were suddenly a lot of sticks tumbling down the avenue. Now both of his brothers were running toward his brick house with the terrible wolf on their curly little tails.
“I notice neither one of them is carrying a color T.V.” said Smart Pig shaking his head with a sigh. He rushed to the door and held it wide open. “Hurry up you two,” he snorted.

They ran in, and made it just in time, just by the hairs of their chinny chin chins. Smart Pig was glad he’d bought the double steel door. The wolf, however, was not glad. Charging into it gave him a terrible bump on his chinny chin chin.

The three brothers watched the terrible wolf head back down the road. THE END
Read this retelling of the story of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”. The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying. Instead of the usual, “and they lived happily ever after” ending, write an extended ending. Include Goldilocks’ memories and feelings about the main event, and any decisions, wishes, or hopes she has as a result.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

“What a marvelous day for a walk in the forest,” said Goldilocks as she skipped along the forest path. She bent here and there to pick buttercups and whistled at the singing birds overhead. She gathered acorns and chestnuts, berries and mushrooms.

There was only one thing about the forest that frightened Goldilocks--bears. Although she’d never actually seen a bear in the forest, she was always afraid that she might. And that would be awful!

Suddenly there was a noise behind her. A crunching sound, a sound like leaves underfoot. Thump, thump, thump came another sound. A sound like footsteps. Lots and lots of footsteps.

Goldilocks scurried over behind a very big rock. She listened carefully. She could make out the sound of voices in the distance. She strained her ears to hear. There were three voices. A very deep voice, a sort of medium kind of voice, and a tiny little high voice.

“How long will it take for my porridge to cool, huh Ma, huh?” said the very high voice.

“By the time we’re done with our walk it will be just right,” said the medium sort of voice.

Mmm, thought Goldi, wouldn’t a bowl of porridge hit the spot? Her tummy began to rumble at the thought of thick sweet porridge with honey. Mmm...she thought.

Then she heard the very deep voice. “Yes indeed mother, I can hardly wait to dig into that porridge myself!”

Goldi strained to see who the voices belonged to. She looked this way and that, peeking between trees, and around bushes. But she could not see a soul.

Still thinking about that delicious porridge, Goldi set off for home. Suddenly she stopped short. She couldn’t believe her eyes. She gasped and her heart pounded.

There on the path her worst fears were realized. There was not only one bear on the path! There were three! A small, a medium, and a large bear!
“Aahhh!” screamed Goldi, as she took off running down the path. She jumped over shrubs, she dodged low hanging branches. She ran and ran, afraid to look behind her.

Goldi found herself in a part of the woods she’d never seen before. There was a clearing with a little cottage nestled in the middle. “Goody goody!” yelled Goldi. “Here is a safe place for me to hide from those terrible bears!”

With that she ran inside.

She looked around the cottage. “Oh my!” said Goldilocks. There were three bowls of porridge on a neatly set table. There was a jug of honey and three spoons.

“I can hardly believe my good luck!” said Goldilocks. “I’ve not only found a place where the bears will never find me--I’ve also found my breakfast!” She sat down and sampled the porridge. The biggest bowl of porridge was kind of lumpy. The medium bowl of porridge was kind of runny. But the little bowl of porridge was just right. Goldi poured honey over the porridge and gobbled it up. “Yum, yum, yum,” she said.

She looked around the cottage. There were three chairs set by the hearth--one big, one medium, and one small. “This will be the perfect place to sit and wait until those horrid bears are out of sight,” she said. She tried to hop onto the big chair, but she couldn’t reach the seat. She tried the medium size chair, but even in that chair her feet dangled and didn’t touch the floor. Finally she slid off of the medium sized chair and plopped into the little chair. CRACK! BOOM! The little chair would have been perfect if it hadn’t broken in two!

Goldilocks yawned. Worrying about those bears had made her very tired. She rubbed her eyes and looked around for a place to rest. Lo and behold, there were three beds. You know the sizes--small, medium, and large. Goldilocks poked at each of them with her finger. The large one was too hard. The medium one was too soft. But the small bed was just right. Goldilocks hopped in to take a little snooze.

She had just gotten to snoring when something awakened her. Voices--three voices that sounded familiar. Goldi strained her ears. There was a lot of moaning about broken chairs and missing oatmeal. “Oh no,” she said to herself. “I know that voice.” It was the same high voice she’d heard in the forest. “This must be the cottage of those people I heard out in the woods.” Goldi felt a little afraid to confess that she’d broken the chair and eaten the porridge. But then again, she thought, once they hear about those bears out there in the woods, they’d understand.

With that Goldilocks got out of bed. She was careful to rearrange the covers just so. After all, she wanted to make a good impression. Maybe she would even ask if these kind people would walk her home. She certainly didn’t want to meet up with those bears again!
“Excuse me,” called Goldilocks in her sweetest voice, from the other room. “Pardon me, good people, I’m sure you’ll understand why I let myself in. There were BEARS around here!”

“Of course there are bears around here,” boomed the very large bear. “We LIVE here!” So Goldilocks ran away. THE END
Before and After Revision Activities -

Skill: Endings

Read this story ending. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

So that is the end of the story about how I survived that avalanche.

Revise this by writing an extended story ending.

Include at least 3 of the following:

• A memory of the place you visited.
• A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
• The main character’s feelings about the trip.
• A decision that the main character makes.
• A defining action that shows how the main character feels.
Read this story ending. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

After the genie granted me three wishes I went home and went to bed. THE END.

Revise this by writing an extended story ending.

Include at least 3 of the following:

• A memory of the place you visited.
• A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
• The main character’s feelings about the trip.
• A decision that the main character makes.
• A defining action that shows how the main character feels.
Read this story ending. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

I love the pony I got for my birthday.
THE END.

Revise this by writing an extended story ending.

Include at least 3 of the following:

• A memory of the place you visited.
• A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
• The main character’s feelings about the trip.
• A decision that the main character makes.
• A defining action that shows how the main character feels.
Read this story ending. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

**So that is the story of my big soccer victory. THE END**

Revise this by writing an extended story ending.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of the place you visited.
- A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
- The main character’s feelings about the trip.
- A decision that the main character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the main character feels.
Before and After Revision Activities –

Skill: Endings

Read this story ending. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

**So, after I spent the evening in the amazing city with my best friend I went home and went to bed. THE END**

**Revise** this by writing an *extended story ending*.

Include at least 3 of the following:

- A memory of the place you visited.
- A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
- The main character’s feelings about the trip.
- A decision that the main character makes.
- A defining action that shows how the main character feels.
Skill: Endings

Read this story ending. It is abrupt and does not leave the reader with a sense of satisfaction. It is BORING!

This is the end of my story about my incredible trip.

Revise this by writing an extended story ending.

Include at least 3 of the following:

• A memory of the place you visited.
• A hope or wish that resulted from the experience.
• The main character’s feelings about the trip.
• A decision that the main character makes.
• A defining action that shows how the main character feels.