

Lesson: Compose a draft that conveys major ideas and maintains focus on the topic with specific, relevant, supporting details by using preliminary plans.

Fourth Grade Objective: 4.06 enrichment

Lesson 1: Identify a lesson or message

1. A strong, narrative story is focused on one main idea and has one clear action around which the story is built. In addition, a strong story has many relevant details and reads so that the reader can picture what happens. At times, an author also conveys a lesson or message within a story. In order to convey this lesson, the writer still focuses on one main idea and uses details that will help convey the lesson he wants the reader to learn.
2. To help you better understand how an author does this, read the book *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon. As you read, think about what *Stellaluna* learns at the end of the story. Once you identify what *Stellaluna* learned, think about how that can be generalized to apply to other situations.
3. Record your responses below.
 - What did *Stellaluna* learn at the end of the book?

 - What do you think the author wanted us to learn?

Check your answer:

- *Stellaluna* learned that even though she and the birds are very different, that they can still be friends.
- The author wants the reader to understand that people who come from different backgrounds or cultures can still be friends with one another.

Lesson 2: Develop Characters

1. How can the author write a focused story with specific details that will help her convey the lesson that people who come from different backgrounds or cultures can still be friends with one another? One strategy that can be used is to work backwards: think about the lesson you want to show at the end and then come up with a plan that will help show this lesson. For example, if the author wants to convey this particular message, she first has to come up with characters who are very different from each other for her story. Let's look back at the story to see how she does this. Reread the story and complete the chart below to show the contrasting facts of birds and bats. One example is already provided for you.

Stellaluna	Three birds
1. Likes to eat fruit	1. Likes to eat insects
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.

Check your answers

Stellaluna	Three birds
1. Likes to eat fruit	1. Likes to eat insects
2. Likes to sleep during the day	2. Usually stay awake during the day
3. Usually stays awake at night	3. Usually sleeps at night
4. Likes to sleep hanging by her feet	4. Usually sleep in a nest
5. Cannot land smoothly on a branch	5. Can land smoothly on a branch
6. Can see at night	6. Cannot see at night

Lesson 3: Focus on a Plot

1. Now that the author has characters who are very different, she needs to think of a plot that will show how they are able to get along and be friends since that is the lesson she wants to convey. You can use a plot chart to help you develop a focused idea. A plot chart reads “Somebody/Wanted/But/So.” The “somebody” is the character, “wanted” is the goal, “but” is the problem, and “so” is the solution or how the problem is handled. In this story, what did Stellaluna want? What was her problem? So, how was the problem solved?
- 2.

Check your answer

Stellaluna wanted to live with her mom, but she fell from her mom’s grasp when they were attacked by an owl. So, Stellaluna lives with three birds who teach her the ways of birds.

Lesson 4: Add Details

1. Now the author has a lesson for the reader to learn, characters, and a plot that will help show this lesson. The final step is to provide details to highlight the differences of the characters and the interactions that show how the characters are able to get along with each other despite their differences. The author does this by including **Words, Actions, Feelings, and Thoughts** (W.A.F.T).
2. Reread the story. As you read, look for examples of words, actions, feelings, and thoughts from the characters that either highlight their differences or show their friendship. Record your ideas in the chart below.

Words	Actions	Feelings	Thoughts

Check your answers

Words	Actions	Feelings	Thoughts
<p>“I don’t know, but it’s hanging by its feet.”</p> <p>“You ate b-bugs?”</p> <p>“You slept at night?”</p> <p>“How very strange”</p> <p>“We can’t fly in the dark or we will crash into trees.”</p> <p>“I’ll never eat another bug s long as I live,” cheered Stellanuna.</p> <p>“I must tell Pip, Flitter,; and Flap!”</p> <p>“I feel upside down here.”</p> <p>“They’re going to crash, I must rescue them.”</p> <p>“I wish you could see in the dark, too.”</p> <p>“We wish you could land on yoru feet.”</p> <p>“How can we be so different and feel so much alike?”</p> <p>“And how can we feel so different and be so much alike?”</p> <p>“But we’re friends. And that’s a fact.”</p>	<p>Stellanuna quickly clambered from the nest and hung out of sight below it.</p> <p>Stellanuna ate bugs without making faces, slept in the nest at night, and didn’t hang by her feet, behaved as a good bird should.</p> <p>Stellanuna grabbed her friends to rescue them.</p>	<p>Stellanuna was afraid.</p> <p>Misses her mom.</p> <p>Worried about each other.</p> <p>Happy to find her family.</p>	<p>Stellanuna was terribly hungry-but <i>not</i> for the crawly things Mama Bird brought.</p> <p>How embarrassing! (after Stellanuna landed clumsily on branch)</p>

Closure

The strategies we reviewed to help you write a focused story with support and elaboration that also conveys a message are as follows:

1. Identify your lesson or message.
2. Develop your characters.
3. Plan for a plot that will convey your message.
4. Use words, actions, feelings, and thoughts to show your message.

Try these on your own!

1. Write a narrative that conveys the following message: Perseverance pays off!
2. Write a narrative that conveys the following message: Treat others how you would want to be treated.

Check how well you did by using the following rubric:

4	Goes beyond
3	Meets Expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Story conveys a lesson or message.- Story has characters that will help develop the lesson or message.- Story stays focused on a plot that shows the lesson or message.- Most ideas and events are important to the plot and lesson.- Story has specific details of which most are related to the main event- The details help the reader see and feel what is happening.- The details help to move the story along.
2	Inconsistent
1	Not Present