

Purpose: Character Trait

Title: City Green (Marcy)

Characters?

Marcy
Old Man Hammer
Miss Rosa
Neighbors

Setting?

In the city

Beginning

Determined

Ending

Determined

Events

1. Marcy wished for the lot to be beautiful.
 2. She got the neighbors to sign a petition and rent the lot from the city.
 3. She gathered the neighbors to clean the lot.
 4. Marcy and the neighbors grew a garden.
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| Sample Introductory Sentence | Sample Concluding Sentence |
|--|--|
| In the story <u>City Green</u> , Marcy was determined to clean up the lot. | As you can see, people can now relax in the lovely garden lot because of Marcy's determination and thoughtfulness. |

Story Map Writing: City Green

Character Trait

In the story *City Green*, Marcy was determined to clean up the lot. Marcy wished for the lot to be beautiful. First, she got the neighbors to sign a petition and rent the lot from the city. Then she gathered the neighbors to clean the lot. Next, Marcy and the neighbors grew a garden. As you can see, people can now relax in the lovely garden lot because of Marcy's determination and thoughtfulness.

*Juicy words
are underlined*

Next follows a Character Analysis of Old Man Hammer. He changes from beginning to end of the story.

Purpose: Character Trait

Title: City Green (Old Man Hammer)

Characters?

Marcy
Old Man Hammer
Miss Rosa
Neighbors

Setting?

In the city

Beginning

Grumpy, sad

In the beginning, Old Man Hammer is sad because his house was torn down and the empty lot is dirty.

Ending

Delightful, happy, cheerful

At the end, Old Man Hammer is happy because the lot is clean and pretty.

List the EVENTS on the back.

Events

1. Marcy and the neighbors cleaned up the lot.
2. Old Man Hammer planted some seeds.
3. The seeds grew into a garden.
4. Marcy shows the garden to Old Man Hammer.

NOTES:

Old Man Hammer is a great example of why it is helpful to use the Story Map for all three types of paragraphs (Problem-Solution, Cause-Effect, and Character Trait). Old Man Hammer's story is all three! He has a problem that gets solved. He changes from beginning to end of the story. And the paragraph proves his character traits.

| Sample Introductory Sentence | Sample Concluding Sentence |
|---|---|
| In the story <u>City Green</u> , Old Man Hammer changes from a grumpy man into a delightful person. | Now Old Man Hammer comes back every day to relax. |

Story Map Writing: City Green

Character Trait

In the story *City Green*, Old Man Hammer changes from a grumpy man into a delightful person. In the beginning, Old Man Hammer is sad because his old home was torn down and the empty lot is grimy. The neighbors clean the lot up. Next, Old Man Hammer plants seeds in the garden. Then Old Man Hammer's seeds grow. Marcy goes and gets Old Man Hammer and shows him the sunflowers. At the end, Old Man Hammer is happy because the lot is clean and pretty. Now Old Man Hammer comes back every day to relax.

*Juicy words
are underlined*

The next two pages are taken from the original proposal for the alternative Language Arts Assessment program. They were created in the spring of 2002. They are included here to show the variety of paragraphs that can be written from *City Green*.

EXAMPLES FROM GUIDED and INTERACTIVE GROUP WORK

STORY MAP → PARAGRAPH

CITY GREEN: RETELLING THE MAIN PLOT

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER (STORY MAP)

Characters: Marcy, Miss Rosa, The neighbors

Setting: In the city

Problem: The old lot is a mess after a building is torn down.

Solution: Marcy and the neighbors cleaned up the lot and planted a garden.

The Events:

1. Marcie and the neighbors go to City Hall.
2. They rent the lot for one dollar.
3. Marcy and the neighbors clean up the lot.
4. They plant a garden.

THE PARAGRAPH

The story *City Green* is about working together to clean up a messy lot. When the city workers tore down a building it left a lot of rubble. Marcy and her neighbors went to City Hall to rent the lot for one dollar. Then they could clean the lot up. Next they planted a garden lot. Now the people could go to the to relax and look at the flowers.

*In our paragraph, what are the 2 best words that help us paint a picture in our mind of what's going on? **RUBBLE** and **RELAX!***

When working on their own, many students tried to match the problem from the above plot with the problem from the subplot below, or vice versa. As a group, we talked about how there might be more than one problem in the story, but that we need our solution to match whatever we choose for our problem. We created two different Story Maps – one for the plot (what we as a group decided was the “main problem”) and one for the subplot. (Notice that the subplot is like a character analysis of Old Man Hammer. He has his own problem and solution in the story!) For our character analysis of Marcy, see next section on CHARACTER ANALYSIS.

CITY GREEN: RETELLING THE SUBPLOT (Old Man Hammer's Story)

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER (STORY MAP)

Characters: Old Man Hammer, Marcy

Setting: In the city

Problem: Old Man Hammer is sad because his old house was knocked down & the empty lot is dirty.

Solution: Old Man Hammer is happy because his seeds grew into a garden in the lot.

The Events:

1. Marcy & the neighbors cleaned up the lot.
2. Old Man Hammer planted some seeds.
3. The seeds grew into a garden.
4. Marcy showed the garden to Old Man Hammer.

THE PARAGRAPH

In the story *City Green*, Old Man Hammer changes from a grumpy man into a delightful person. Old Man Hammer is sad because his old home was torn down and the lot is grimy. The neighbors clean the lot up. Next Old Man Hammer plants seeds in the garden. Then Old Man Hammer's seeds grow. Marcy goes and gets Old Man Hammer and shows him the sunflowers. Old Man Hammer is happy at the end because the lot is clean and pretty. Old Man Hammer comes back every day to relax.

EXAMPLE FROM GUIDED and INTERACTIVE GROUP WORK
CHARACTER TRAIT → ONE-PARAGRAPH CHARACTER ANALYSIS

(MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT – NO CHANGE OVER TIME)

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER
(Character Traits Step 1)

Character: Marcy

| Evidence | Trait |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Wanted the lot to look more beautiful | Respectful Responsible |
| 2. Marcy & Miss Rosa rented the lot for \$1 | Courageous |
| 3. Marcy and the neighbors cleaned up the lot. | Organized Helpful, Polite |
| 4. Marcy & the neighbors planted flowers. | Determined |
| 5. Marcy showed Old Man Hammer his garden. | Thoughtful |

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER
(Character Traits Step 2)

Character: Marcy

Most Important Trait:
Determined

Evidence (Sequence of Events that Prove Marcy is determined):

1. Marcy wanted the lot to be prettier.
2. Marcy got the neighbors to sign a petition and rent the lot from the city.
3. Marcy got the neighbors to help clean the lot with her.
4. Marcy helped grow a garden.

THE PARAGRAPH

Character Analysis of Marcy

Marcy was determined to clean up the lot. Marcy wished for the lot to be beautiful. She got the neighbors to sign a petition and rent the lot from the city. She gathered the neighbors to clean the lot. Marcy and the neighbors grew a garden. People can now relax in the lovely garden lot because of Marcy's determination and thoughtfulness.

(Our “juicy” words are underlined!)