The Cure for "I don't know what to write!"
Ask yourself…

	Problem – Solution	**Cause – Effect**	**Character Trait**
Introductory Sentence	• What is the purpose of this paragraph? (there is a mystery to solve) • Who is the most important character? • Where is the mystery taking place? • Remember not to give away the problem!	• What is the purpose of this paragraph? (something or someone changes from beginning to end of the story) • Who or what changes?	• What is the purpose of this paragraph? (to prove a character trait) • What is the character like at the beginning of the story? Is he/she the same or different at the end? (Does the character stay the same, or change?)
Beginning Box	What is the problem that the whole story is about solving?	What is different at the end of the story than at the beginning of the story? What is he/she/it like at the beginning of the story?	Think of things that the character does in the story, or that happens to the character in the story, and ask yourself: What kind of person would do that? (If Character stays same throughout story, then put character trait in Introductory Sentence, and don't write sentences for the Beginning and Ending boxes.)
Events	• What happens next that helps solve the problem? • What does the character do next to help solve the problem? • Does this have to happen in order for the problem to be solved? • Does this little problem have to be overcome before the story's big problem can be solved?	• What happens at the beginning of the story that causes everything else to happen? • What happens next that helps cause the change? • Does this have to happen in order for everything else to happen?	• What is the first thing the character does that proves he/she is _____ ? • What happens next that proves the character is _____, or that helps explain how the character changes?
Ending Box	If the problem is _____ , then the solution is _____. Make sure it matches the problem.	If the "Before box" is _____ , then the "After box" is _____. Make sure it matches the "Before box."	Is the character the same at the end of the story? Is the character different at the end? (If the character changes, ask yourself:: Do my events prove how the character changed from the beginning of the story to the end?)
Concluding Sentence	• Reread the Introductory Sentence, and pick out the key words. The name of a character, the setting, the mystery. Come up with a sentence that uses these words, and lets the reader know that the mystery was solved.	• Reread the Introductory Sentence. Who or what changes in this story? • Look back at the first event. What was the first thing to happen that caused everything else to happen in the story? • Was the character able to do anything at the beginning of the story that he/she can't do at the end? What can't he/she do anymore? • Did any of the characters learn a lesson in the story? • Does the story explain why something is the way it is at the end?	• Reread the Introductory Sentence, and pick out the key words. The name of the character, and the character trait. Come up with a new sentence that uses these words.