

Who's Writing This Story?!

By Robin Newman, illustrated by Debra Zemke

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Format: Hardcover Picture Book

Pages: 32pp, color

Category: Relationship Skills, Literacy and Writing

Age Range: 7 – 11 years

Reading Level: Grade 2

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Background Information:

Have you ever wondered who the real boss of a story is? The writer or the characters who live to tell the tale? Or both together?

Follow the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf as they argue with the writer over what kind of story to tell. Will the hero become the villain?

Find out in this fun introduction to the essential components of all great stories.

Common Core State Standards:

Guided Reading Level V; Grade Level Equivalent 5; Interest Level by Grade 4-8;

Lexile level 500L, Guided Reading Level M, Grade Level Equivalent 2

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.3,3a,4,4a,4b,4c,4d,5,5a,5b

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.3,3d,3e,3f,4,4a,4c

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1,1b,1c,2,4,6

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.3,5,6,8

Elements of a Story, Figurative Language, Idioms, Hyperbole, Metaphor, Relationship Skills, Social Emotional-Learning,

Themes:

- Components of a story
- Humor
- Relationships
- Critical Thinking Skills: problem solving.

Objectives:

- Connect with literature.
- Teaching children literacy terms and components of writing.
- Problem Solving: Learning ways in which we can approach problems in a variety of ways.

Key Terms:

- Components of a story: Plot, Setting, Characters, Conflict, Resolution
- Idioms, Puns, Expressions
- Literary terms: Antagonist, Protagonist

Discussion Questions:

- How do you think this story will end?
- What was the first pig's complaint? What was the problem?
- What did the pig need to do to plan a sturdy house?
- How does having the first pig's house be made out of bricks change the original story?
- What is the second pig's problem?
- How does his request change the story?
- The writer tells the second pig, "But this is the last straw." What type of speech is that?
- What does the third pig want the writer to do?
- What element of the story does that change?
- What does the wolf want?
- What is an antagonist? Protagonist?
- What are the five elements of a story?
- What did the pigs and the wolf decide should happen to the writer?
- What story element is changed by the wolf's decision?
- What was the resolution?
- Do you like the new ending?
- What makes a good ending? A cliffhanger?
- Do you like an ending that is surprising or predictable?



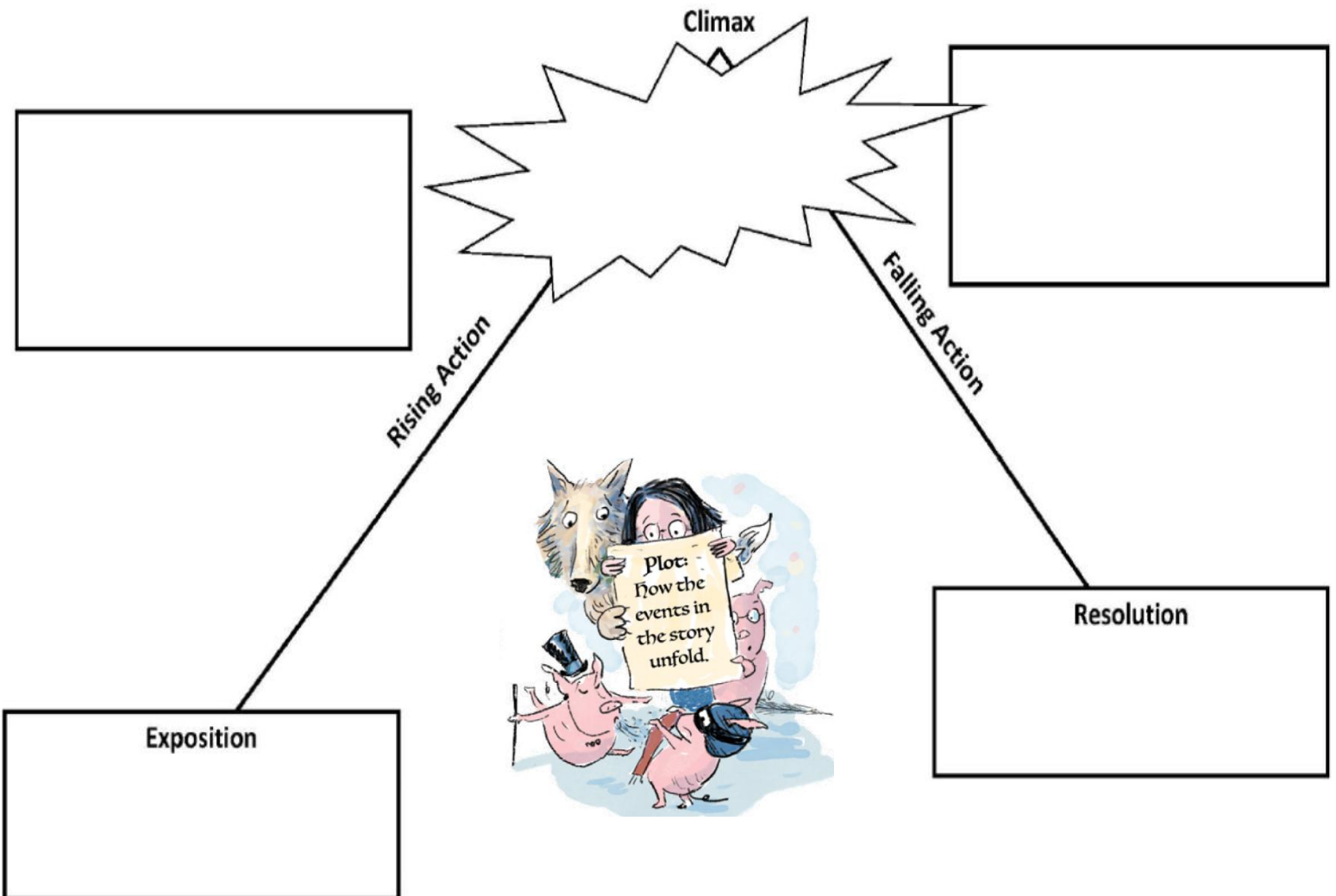
Activities:

- **Explore Puns and Idioms.** Explain puns and idioms to the students. Have the students come up with puns and idioms that they have heard or made up. Download free Idiom and Pun worksheets here: <https://www.education.com/worksheet/article/puns-with-idioms/>.
- **Explore Figurative Language.** Write idioms and/or figurative language found in this story on several slips of paper and place them in a bag. Then have each student select an idiom out of the bag and illustrate it. Students can guess the idiom that the artist is drawing and explain its literal meaning.
- **Teach the Elements of a Story.** Have a discussion about the Five Elements of a Story. Have the children come up with examples from familiar stories. Use the worksheets provided below.
- **Explore the Elements of a Story.** Create a collaborative story. Arrange the students in groups of five. Write "Plot, Setting, Characters, Conflict, Resolution" on slips of paper. Give one element to each group member. Have them work together to create a story to present to the class.
- **Explore Vocabulary.** Have the students do the Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle below.
- **Rewrite the Fairy Tale Ending.** Pair students up and have them work collaboratively to make a new ending for a familiar fairy tale. Have the students share their new endings and discuss how changing the ending changes the story.
- **STEM Activity.** Organize the students into teams or pairs. Give the students materials needed to make houses. Provide materials such as straws, sticks, and building blocks. Challenge the students to build the strongest house. Then have them test the strength with a 3-speed fan and/or rolling a ball into the houses.

[Mid-Columbia STEM Education Collaboratory](#) has created a [Three Little Pigs STEM Design Challenge](#) with Standards Connections.

Directions: Use the figure below to diagram the main elements of the plot of *Who's Writing This Story?!*.

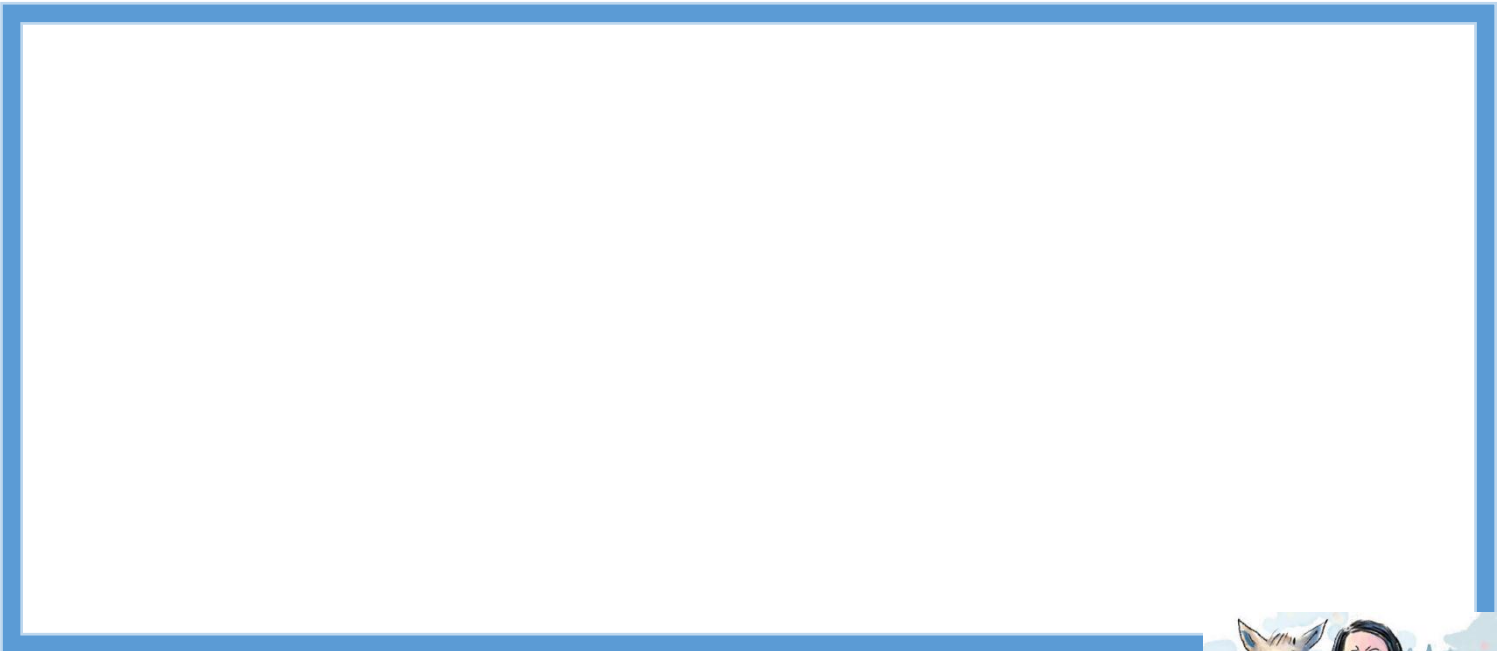
- *Exposition:* the introduction or beginning of a story that reveals important background information.
- *Rising Action:* when the story builds as the character keeps facing obstacles and trying to overcome them.
- *Climax:* the point in the narrative where the tension, excitement, or stakes reach the highest level.
- *Falling Action:* the central conflict of the story is moved toward complete resolution.
- *Resolution:* the conclusion of a story's plot



- Draw the setting that the author chose in *Who's Writing This Story?!*

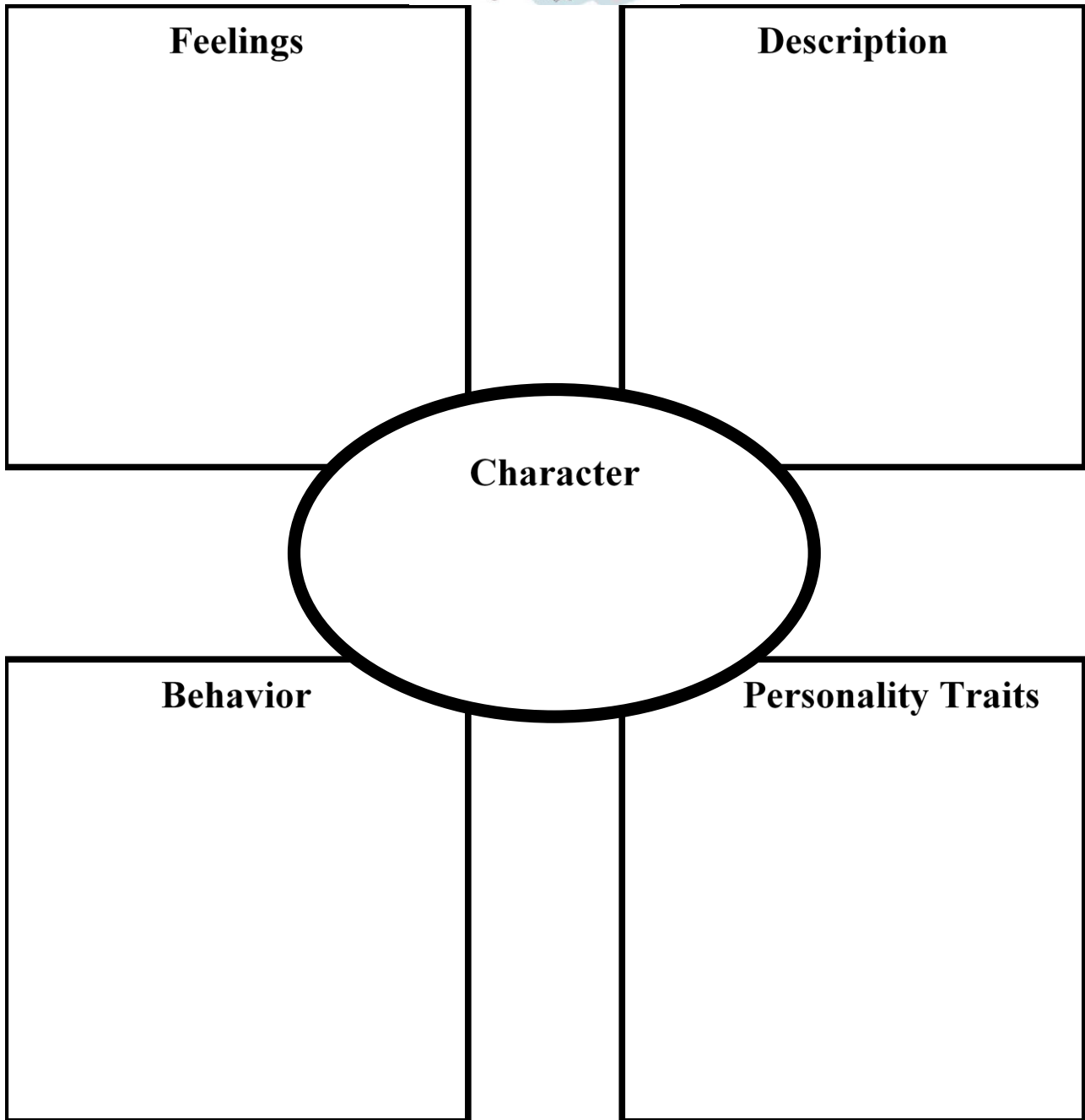


- Draw the setting that the pigs and wolf chose in *Who's Writing This Story?!*



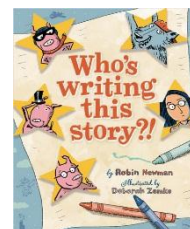
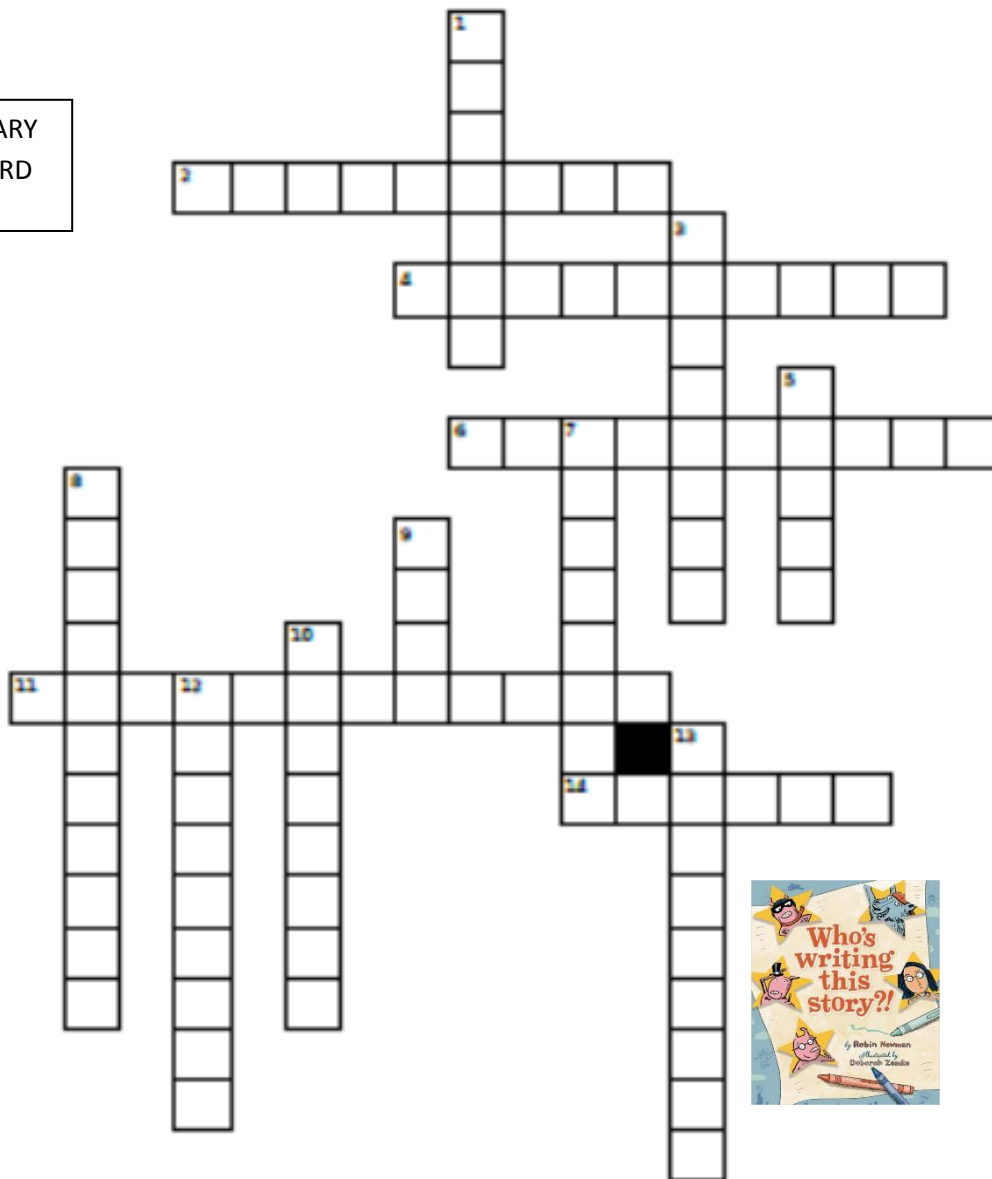


CHARACTER MAP



VOCABULARY
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE

C



Down:

1. the place or type of surroundings where something is positioned or where an event takes place.
3. a problem that is unique, original, or previously unseen
5. a description, either true or imagined, of a connected series of events
7. The order in which the events happen
8. the leading character
9. the main events of a play, novel, movie, or story
10. the essential components that make up a piece of literature, such as plot, setting, and character.
12. an individual in a novel, play or story
13. a process in writing of rearranging, adding,

Across:

2. an exciting or very unusual experience.
4. a character who actively opposes or is hostile to someone; an adversary
6. the conclusion of the story by the resolving of conflicts between characters.
11. a mathematical determination of the size or number of something.
14. things that happen in a story

Vocabulary Words and Answers to Who's Writing This Story?! Crossword Puzzle

1. Setting
2. Adventure
3. Conflict
4. Antagonist
5. Story
6. Resolution
7. Sequence
8. Protagonist
9. Plot
10. Elements
11. Calculations
12. Character
13. Revisions
14. Events



About [Robin Newman](#)

Raised in New York and Paris, Robin is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and the City University of New York School of Law. She was a practicing attorney and legal editor, but she now prefers to write about witches, mice, pigs, bears, and peacocks.

She's a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, National Writing Project's Writers Council, Bank Street Writers Lab, Read Alliance Advisory Council, and PEN America, CYAB. She lives in New York with her husband, son, and two spoiled dogs.

She is represented by Liza Fleissig at the Liza Royce Agency.

Other books from Robin Newman: *The Case of the Missing Carrot Cake*, *Don't Call Me Fuzzybutt!*, *The Case of the Poached Egg*, *The Case of the Bad Apples*, *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep*, *No Peacocks: A Feathered Tale of Three Mischievous Foodies*.

To learn more please visit www.robinnewmanbooks.com



About [Deborah Zemke](#)

Deborah Zemke has written and/or illustrated more than 50 books for young readers, including the acclaimed Bea Garcia chapter book series and the wildly successful Doodles drawing series. Deborah grew up drawing, dreaming, reading, and climbing trees near Detroit, Michigan. Many years later, she now does exactly the same thing in Columbia, Missouri. You can visit her website at www.deborahzemke.com.



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