



Writing A Cause-and-Effect Story

Opening the Lesson

- ✦ I read aloud the books *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* (a companion book to *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*) and *Fortunately*. After comparing and contrasting the two books, I ask my students which graphic organizer from pages 45 and 46 they would use to graph the causes and effects in *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*. (the Chain Reaction graphic organizer)
- ✦ Then I ask which graphic organizer they would use to graph the causes and effects in *Fortunately*. Again, they should select the Chain Reaction organizer. I prompt discussion by asking questions such as “How are the books similar and different? Which book did you prefer and why?”

Teaching the Lesson

1. Imitating a writing style or story pattern can be a good learning device. Challenge students to write and illustrate their own chain-reaction, cause-and-effect stories based on *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* (each item that the demanding animal receives causes it to want yet another item) or *Fortunately* (something fortunate happens, and then something unfortunate happens).
2. Before students begin writing, go over the rubric on page 52 with them. Hand out a copy of the rubric for students to refer to as they work. (NOTE: They will not be assessing their own work; you will.) Emphasize that their stories should be unique. For example, if they chose *Fortunately*, their story cannot be about a birthday party, a crashing airplane, a parachute, a haystack, and so on.
3. As a pre-writing exercise, students should copy and complete a Chain Reaction graphic organizer.

Closing the Lesson

- ✦ **Kinesthetic:** Extend your students’ creativity by having them turn their stories into books, placing each cause-and-effect statement on a single sheet of paper with a colored illustration.

Objective

Students write a story with a sequence of cause-and-effect events that are part of a chain reaction.

Materials

Fortunately by Remy Charlip (Aladdin, 1964), *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* by Laura Numeroff (HarperCollins, 1991), or similar books; construction paper; notebook paper; markers, colored pencils, stapler; glue

Reproducibles

Cause-and-Effect Graphic Organizers 1–2, page 45 (transparency or posters)

Cause-and-Effect Graphic Organizers 3–5, page 46 (transparency or posters)

Cause-and-Effect Story Rubric, page 52 (Make 1 copy for each student.)

