

Beginning, middle and end

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 3 • Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aims: To introduce the idea that stories have a beginning, middle and end; to use story markers; to practise telling each other stories in a jigsaw activity

Time: 20–30 minutes

Student grouping: Individuals, groups

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student plus two more copies for you (cut out the cubes from one of your worksheets, ready to glue; assemble the cubes fully from your other worksheet); multiple pairs of scissors; sticky tape or glue; pictures to tell the stories on the cubes (see the language focus below)

Language focus: Key words of well-known stories, e.g. *Cinderella*, *Goldilocks*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Billy Goats Gruff*; *ate*, *slept*, *kept*, *walked*, *kissed*, *ran*, *threw*, *grew*, *married*, *climbed*; *cube*; *once upon a time*, *then*, *but*, *so*, *happily ever after*, *beginning*, *middle*, *end*

Procedure

Step 1

Show the children the pictures you have prepared for each story and ask them to tell you the story. If they don't know the stories, refer to the simple story summaries on the next page, using L1 if necessary. Remind the children of key language by writing it under each title, for example – *Cinderella*: *work*, *step sisters*, *dance*, *fairy godmother*, *midnight*, *shoe*, *prince*; *Billy Goats Gruff*: *field*, *grass*, *river*, *troll*, *bridge*, etc.

Step 2

Roll the story cubes to show all the different parts of the stories. Tell the children these are called cubes.

Step 3

Tell the children that stories have a beginning, middle and end. Using the first cube, show them the beginning, show them the middle with the second cube and the end with the third.

Step 4

Give each child a worksheet and tell them to cut out the cubes, making sure they do not cut off the flaps.

Step 5

Show them how to bend, fold and glue or tape the cube together. Let them make all three.

Step 6

Put the children into groups of three. Explain that they are going to play a game with the cubes. One child has the B cube, one the M cube and one the E cube. Each child rolls a cube. Each child then describes the part of the story they have rolled, starting with the child who has the B cube, then the child with the M cube and finally the child with the E cube.

Step 7

In groups of three, using one set of cubes, children match the story pictures from each cube and tell each other the story.

Step 8

Now, give one child the B cube, one the M cube and the other one the E cube. They roll the cubes and tell each other the part of the story that they roll, for example, 'Sleeping Beauty is lying in bed asleep.'

Step 9

In the middle of this, call 'Stop!' and 'Swap!' Now you call 'Beginnings,' 'Middles' or 'Ends' and the children with that particular cube must take their cube to the next group. Now they tell the new group their part of the story and see if it fits the story in this group.

Step 10

Tell them they may find they have very silly stories. Tell them that if a group rolls a perfect story, that is a beginning, middle and end of the same story, they put their hands up.

Step 11

Let the children start rolling and telling stories. Every now and again, stop them and swap some of the story parts around. Start slowly and give them time to get settled in each group but quicken it up so that it gets very exciting. At one stage, you could have all three parts of the story moving!

Step 12

Go round and listen to the stories and ask the groups with the funniest stories to tell the whole class.

Step 13

Finally, ask one group to read out a beginning, another group a middle and one more group an end. See if it is a funny or a perfect story!

Follow-up activity

Ask children to write the story they created. They can then make small zigzag books of their story.

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Story summaries

Cinderella

Cinderella lived with her stepfather and did all the cleaning in the house. Her stepsisters were nasty to her. The prince was having a big dance and Cinderella wanted to go. A fairy godmother helped her by turning a pumpkin and some mice into a coach and horses, and by giving her a new dress. She went to the dance and the prince danced with her, but at 12 o'clock, she had to go home as she promised. As she left, she lost one of her shoes and the prince picked it up. He tried the shoe on every woman in the land until he found Cinderella and married her.

Goldilocks

Goldilocks was a naughty little girl who went into the woods and walked into the house of the three bears while they were out. She tried their bowls of porridge. One was too hot, one was too cold and one was just right. She tried their chairs. One was too hard, one was too soft and one was just right. She tried their beds. One was too hard, one was too soft, and one was just right, and she fell asleep. The three bears came back and saw that their porridge had been eaten, their chairs had been sat in and their beds had been slept in. They found Goldilocks asleep and frightened her, and she ran all the way home.

Sleeping Beauty

Sleeping Beauty was a lovely princess with a stepmother who wanted to kill her. She gave Sleeping Beauty a poisoned apple, a poisoned comb and finally she poisoned the needle on the spinning wheel. Sleeping Beauty pricked her finger on the spinning wheel and fell asleep for a hundred years, until a handsome prince found her and kissed her. The kiss woke her up and they were married and lived happily ever after.

Billy Goats Gruff

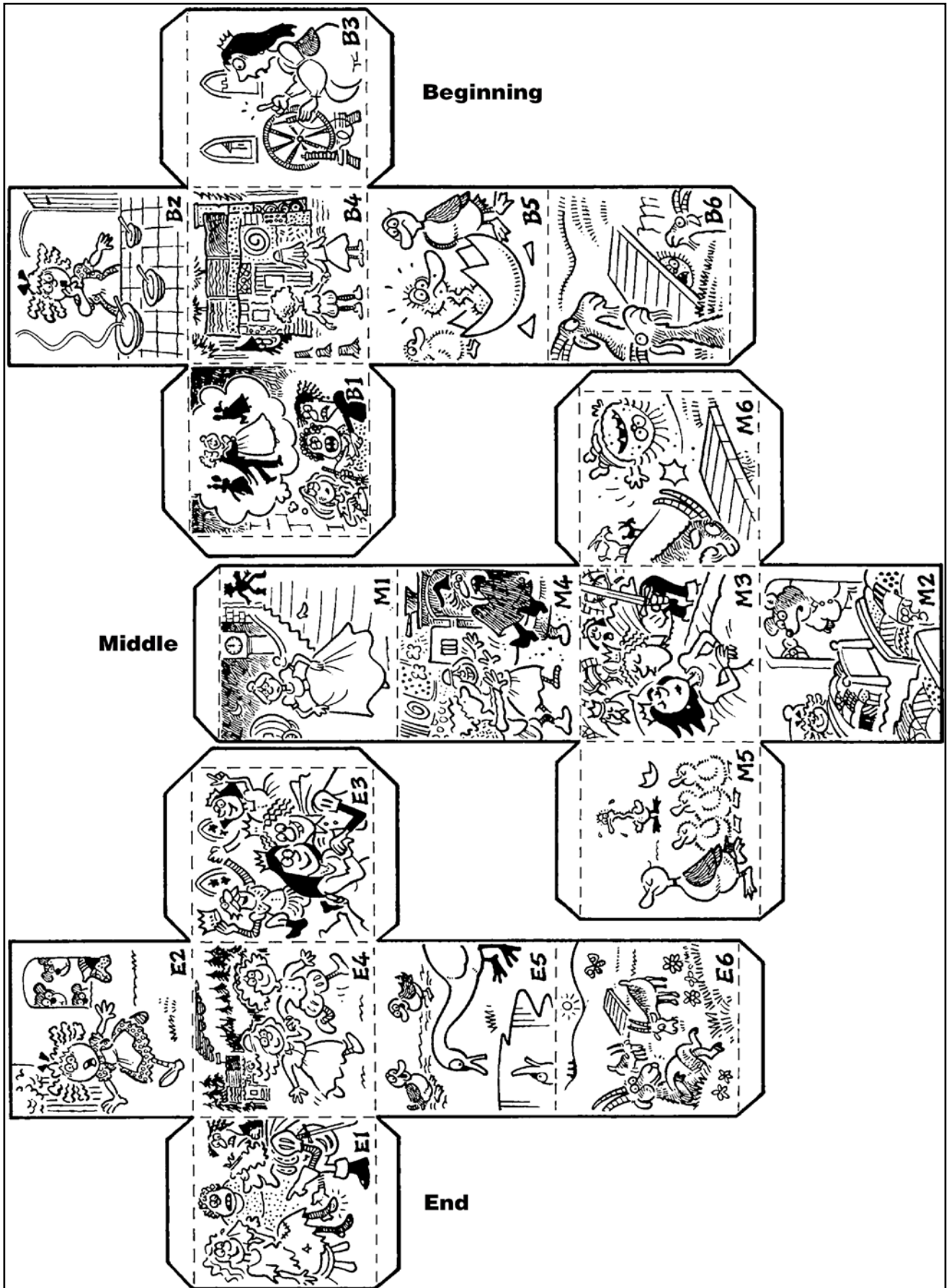
The three Billy goats gruff lived in a field by a river. Over the river was a lovely field of juicy grass, but a troll lived under the bridge and frightened them. One day, they decided to trick the troll. One by one, they went over the bridge and told the troll to wait for the next goat. Eventually, they all got over the bridge and pushed the troll into the river. They went into the field and ate all the juicy grass and could walk back over the bridge any time they wanted.

The Ugly Duckling

One day in spring, a duckling hatched by the river bank. He was fluffy and brown, but all the other ducklings were yellow. Mother duck and the other ducklings said he was ugly and didn't include him in any of their games. The duckling got very lonely, and all through the winter he hid in the weeds by the river bank. Next summer, he looked in the lake at his reflection and he had turned into a beautiful swan. Now all the other ducks said he was very handsome and he was very happy.

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WORKSHEET