**Guided writing: Writing a story in groups**

**Level:**8th – 10th grade

**Time:**60 min or more

**Objective:**

* write different types of texts with structure and coherence
* use central patterns for orthography, word inflection, sentence and text construction to produce texts.

**Instructions:**

This activity can be used with intermediate and upper-intermediate students and practices fluency as well as story-writing skills. It offers free practice of narrative tenses and sequential linking words, and helps foster cooperation and a sense of achievement as students work together to prepare and write their stories. It also solves the problem of giving up valuable class time to lengthy writing exercises and stops writing being such a lonely experience.

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**Preparation**

Divide the class in two equal parts and then each part in 4 groups of 2-3 students. The two parts will write their own story with the same name.

**Procedure**

Step 1

* Tell your students they are going to write a story entitled **‘An Unexpected Day’** and that they are going to be the narrator in the story.
* Draw 4 big circles on the board. In the first circle write **‘Who am I?’** and ask your students to decide on the main character of the story (You could use a picture to stimulate imagination):
  + How old am I?
  + What do I do?
  + What do I look like?
  + What am I like?
  + Who are my friends?
  + What family have I got?
  + What kind of relationship do I have with the other characters?
  + What do I like doing?
  + Etc
* Write up ideas.

Step 2

* In the second circle write ‘Morning’ and ask the students to decide what I did to make it such an unexpected day and write up their ideas.
* Repeat the procedure for the third and fourth circles substituting ‘Morning’ for ‘Afternoon’ and ‘Evening’.

Step 3

* Put the students into groups and tell them each group is going to write one part of the story: morning, afternoon or evening.

Step 4

* Give the students about twenty minutes to discuss together and write their part of the story then collect the parts back and arrange them together and ask them to read the stories.

Reflections:

* I find it helps if you read the text aloud and the students follow. Go over the text with the students and tell them what you think they did well.
* If you want you can also analyze the texts for errors.

**Variations**

You can vary this theme to incorporate other ideas like **‘An Awful Day’** or **A Wonderful Day’,** etc.