



EduTrend Contents

G4C · STORYTELLING AND WRITING GAMES · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fifty-Word Stories

Write a complete story in exactly fifty words, then cut and sharpen it with a partner

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

40 minutes

Individuals and pairs ·
up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Fifty-Word Stories

Students draw a prompt card and write a complete story with a beginning, a problem and an ending. First drafts can be any length. Then the rule: the final story must be exactly fifty words. Partners help cut weak words, choose stronger verbs and check the story still makes sense. Students read their finished stories aloud and explain one cut they are proud of.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- write a complete short story;
- revise for precision;
- choose strong words;
- explain revision choices.

KEY WORDS

draft · revise · cut · precise · verb · structure

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: narrative writing and editing.

1**WARM UP**

Words and ideas ready

2**EXPLAIN**

One game, one rule

3**TELL**

Say it first

4**WRITE**

Record the story

5**IMPROVE**

Change one thing

6**SHARE**

Read aloud

Materials (whole class)

- Prompt cards
- Paper and pencils
- Word-count sheets
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Write prompts.
- Print sheets.
- Model a fifty-word story.
- Plan pairs.

SAFETY

Keep feedback specific and kind; stories stay invented.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

The constraint turns revision into a game.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Warm up	Cut a long sentence in half.	<i>“What did you keep?”</i>
5–10 min Explain	Draft, then exactly fifty.	<i>“What must every story have?”</i>
10–32 min Write	Draft and revise with a partner.	<i>“Which word can go?”</i>
32–40 min Share	Read aloud; explain a cut.	<i>“What cut made it stronger?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Write a complete story in exactly fifty words, with every word earning its place.

ACTIVITY 03 • FACILITATOR NOTES

The story writing know-how in brief

Separating drafting from correcting keeps writing low-pressure.

A word limit makes students choose words deliberately.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Shorter means easier.” Precision is hard.
- “First drafts should be perfect.” Drafts are for ideas.
- “Cutting ruins it.” Cutting often strengthens it.

Adapting the activity

Support

Allow a hundred-word version first.

Stretch

Tell the same story in exactly twenty-five words.

WORKSHEET 1

Draft

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write freely first.

Draft

WORKSHEET 2

Cuts and swaps

Record changes.

Changes

Cut or swap	Why

WORKSHEET 3

Final fifty

Write your final story.

Exactly fifty words

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Complete structure	Precise words	Explains revisions

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Fifty-Word Stories is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents G4C Storytelling and Writing Games programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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