Students describe story elements using a pyramid that requires increasingly long answers.

**MATERIALS:** Books, story pyramids, pencils

1. Create a story pyramid and model how to use it with a text familiar to the entire class. Students follow the steps by selecting words from the text that describe the main character, setting, problem, and events.

2. Working independently or in pairs, students practice using a story pyramid with another familiar text.

3. Once they understand how to use a story pyramid, students can complete them regularly for texts read independently.

**EXAMPLE:**

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Story Pyramid

1. Main character’s name.
2. Describe the main character in two words.
3. ____________________________
   Describe the setting in three words.
4. ____________________________
   Describe the main problem in four words.
5. ____________________________
   Describe one event in five words.
6. ____________________________
   Describe a second event in six words.
7. ____________________________
   Describe a third event in seven words.
8. ____________________________
   Describe how the problem was solved in eight words.
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**EXTENSION:** Story pyramids can be created with fewer or more events, and with more lines for writing about characters or setting.

**PREPARATION OF MATERIALS:** Print the Story Pyramid on page 2. Provide each student with text and a Story Pyramid organizer. Follow the activity directions.
Story Pyramid

1. Main character's name.

2. Describe the character in two words.

3. Describe the setting in three words.

4. Describe the main problem in four words.

5. Describe a second event in six words.

6. Describe a third event in six words.

7. Describe how the problem was solved in eight words.