

Story Grammar Sequence

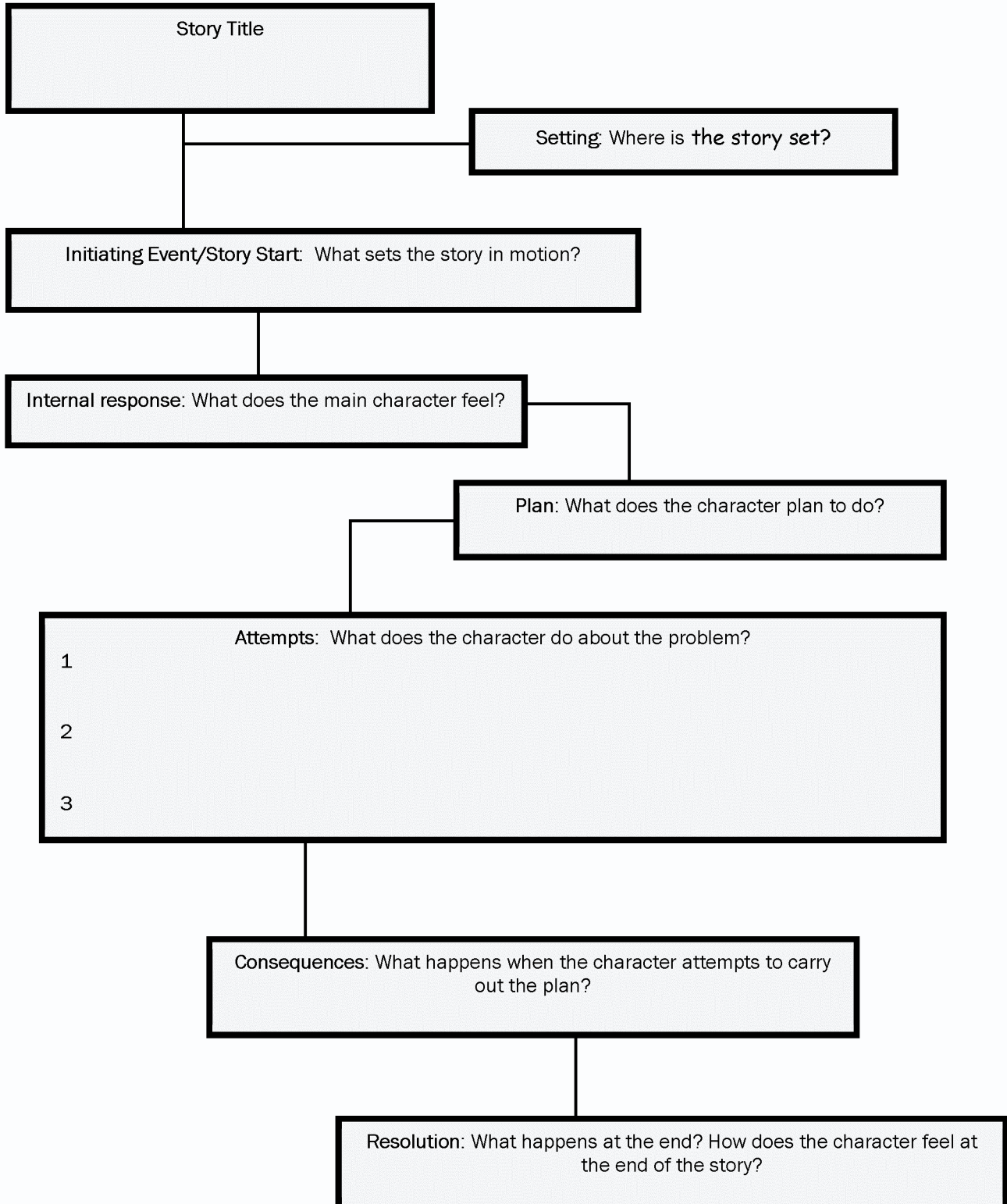
Recent research reveals that students who are provided with a framework when creating written narratives significantly improve the quality and structure of their stories, both oral and written stories. This handout features several visual frameworks that have been created to assist students when they begin to construct their own stories.

The classic story grammar format is a sequence that has the following characteristics that revolve around a main character: *initiating event, setting/s, internal response, internal plan, attempt, or attempts, consequence, and resolution.*

The next two pages feature visual representations of story grammar sequence. The sequence on the next page presents the story grammar map as a **graphic organizer**. The goal is for students to self-generate better organizational skills and recall the most salient story events. In time, students will *internalize* story grammar components. This will aid students' *understanding* of complex narratives, foster story grammar knowledge, and provide the skills on how best to summarize and retell a story.

The Story Grammar Marker can be photocopied, cut out and laminated to be used by students as a visual guide of story grammar structure.

Story Grammar Sequence



Story Grammar Marker

A useful visual reference to demonstrate the elements of a fully formed story is to use a story grammar marker. The marker clearly shows how a story comes full circle. In the illustration below all the elements of a simple story grammar are displayed in one *unbroken* sequence. The initiating event – the first event that begins the narrative - is underlined. The events then follow in a *clockwise* direction.

Stickman wants to photograph an eclipse of the sun from the roof of his house (*Setting*). Stickman falls from the roof (*Initiating Event*) onto a bush. He is unharmed, but anxious. Stickman doesn't have much time. He needs to get to the roof before the *partial eclipse* becomes a *total eclipse* (*Internal Response*). Stickman acts quickly. He needs to get *back* to the top of the roof (*Plan*). He tries the door (*Attempt*). It's locked! He climbs a ladder to the first level, (*Attempt*) and then uses the same ladder to the second level (*Attempt*). He makes it to the roof at last. He takes a beautiful photograph of the total eclipse just in time (*Consequence*). Stickman constructs a guard rail to prevent any future falls from his rooftop (*Resolution*).

