

The Story Web

Time to Complete: 5 minutes

Mission: You will mix, match, and connect the different story parts and interpret how the type of connections influence the structure of your story and give it a shape.

Outcome: You will draw a random web of lines that criss cross and intersect, connecting the story pieces that interest you. Where the lines cross and the concentration of lines signal where most of your story weight will be focused.

Potential Difficulty: Not allowing your lines to go anywhere and go through any area of the page. You should make sure your lines touch and cross because this will give you an idea of how the different pieces influence each other. You might have a hard time interpreting and understanding the way your lines cross and how that can influence the shape of your story.

Steps to Complete the Exercise:

1. Fill in a **star** next to the story part that seems interesting to you.
2. Write the number 1 next to that star, then **draw a curvy line** from that star to a new star. Write the next number in sequence next to that connecting star, then fill it in.
3. Repeat until you have **connected the story parts** you are interested in.
4. You can **go through other words**, if you like.
5. Try NOT to connect more than 6 different stars together.
6. Look at how your lines connect, cross, and group together **to get an idea of the structure underneath your story**.

Ways to Avoid Failure: If your lines mostly go through the top of the page, look to that area as the more important pieces of your story. If many lines cross a particular line then there is something important that happens when those pieces come into the story. If more lines appear closer to one particular story piece, you might lean the story in that direction.

Avoid being too critical. Try to make sense of your web of lines.
