

Lesson Plan 1 (Optional)

Lesson Time: **3 x 45mins**

A short, slide-guided lesson, video, idea generation, structured writing support, and publishing in the Build My Story web app – using the same slide deck throughout.

Tip: This is a full writing experience. Some teachers run this in two extended blocks; others break it into three shorter 40–45 minute sessions (plan, write, publish).

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

- Print any sheets you plan to use: Brainstorm, Story Mountain, Character Profile, Story Summary, Story Writing.
- Open the Teacher Slide Deck and the Video.
- Check devices for Session 3; have passwords ready.
- Create teacher account → add students (manual • paste list • Google Classroom • Clever).
- Print & send Pre-Session Flyers and family message.

Introduction Slides 1–3 (5–8 minutes)

Explain that students will write a Thanksgiving-themed story and publish it in Build My Story.

Play the video mini-lesson on Thanksgiving.

Tell students you will choose the route: full guided, prep on paper, or straight into the web app.

What is A.I? (Optional Slides) Slides 49–51

We have included three slides to explain to your students what Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is and how they use it to edit the images. It is important for them to understand safety online and how to use A.I safely.

Main Teaching Activity

Session 1 – Watch, Brainstorm, Plan (~45 mins)

Activity Name	Slide Reference	Activity Details
Thanksgiving Mini-Lesson (5–8 min)	Slides 1–2	Play the video. Ask: “What do people do on Thanksgiving?” “What does gratitude mean?” Note that families celebrate in different ways.
Gratitude Sparks (3–5 min)	Slide 4	Quick think: name one person, one place, and one small moment you are thankful for. Share with a partner.
Choose a writing prompt (2–5 min)	Slide 6–7	Hand out Prompt Sheet; pick one idea or write your own.
Brainstorm Ideas (10–12 min)	Slides 8–9	Hand out Brainstorm sheet. Students use their writing prompt. They list or sketch moments, traditions, foods, trips, funny mishaps, or challenges overcome. Encourage sensory notes: what they saw, heard, smelled, tasted, felt.
Plan on Story Mountain (12–15 min)	Slides 10–11	Hand out Story Mountain. Students map: Beginning, Climb, Big Moment, Ending. Add who the story is about and what they want. Remind them to use ideas from the brainstorm.
Character Profile (8–10 min)	Slides 12	Hand out Character Profile. Students choose the main character. Add name, age, goal, problem, looks, clothing, and one memorable detail.
Wrap-Up (1–2 min)	Slide 13	Share one strong “big moment” from the plan. Homework (optional): write a short summary (4–6 sentences) that covers the whole story arc.

Main Teaching Activity

Session 2 — Write on Paper (~45 mins)

Activity Name	Slide Reference	Activity Details
Quick Recap (2–3 min)	Slide 16–17	Remind students of their plan and character. If you did not play the video yet, play it now. The Video is on slide 2. Overview of the 5-part story frame.
Choose Your Path (1–2 min)	Slide 18	Explain two writing choices. Path A is a Summary for “Help me write.” Path B is a Full Draft for “Type it myself.” You as the teacher can decide if which path students go down. If they can write a full story, then great! But if they struggle to write, then we suggest use the “Help me write” path.
Path A: Story Summary (10–15 min)	Slides 19–21	Hand out Story Summary sheet. Students write 4–6 sentences that cover the whole story: who, want, problem, key events, ending. Keep it clear and complete. There are two examples on slides 20 and 21. The icons are used to help students structure their story in the Story Mountain format.
Path B: Full Draft (20–25 min)	Slides 22–25	Hand out Story Writing sheet. Students write the full story. Aim for up to 500 words so it fits the 11 pages later. Use the Story Mountain as a guide. Students can write as much or as little as they want. They can edit this later in the web app when they edit. Seeing the images that are created might spark some ideas! Remember to hand out the word bank to help your students.
Peer Quick Check (5–8 min)	Slide 26	Swap papers. Partner gives one praise and one suggestion using the checklist on the slide. Writers make small fixes.
Ready to Type (1–2 min)	No Slide	Collect summaries or drafts in a pile or digital folder for typing. Tell the class that next time they will build their book in the app.

Main Teaching Activity

Session 3 — In the Web App: Build, Edit, Publish (~45 mins)

Activity Name	Slide Reference	Activity Details
Sign In (4–5 min)	Slide 30	Students sign in as Kid with class credentials, Clever, or Google Classroom. Teacher circulates to support. If you added your students using Clever or Google classroom, then they can log in this way. They can also use the username and password generated on your teacher dashboard.
Setup Story (30 sec)	Slide 31	Students enter their character name and choose a reading level. This sets text limits and font size. Suggest Beginner Reader for Grades 2–3 and Independent Reader for Grades 4–6, but adjust as needed for each student’s ability. Then they choose art style.
Pick Writing Mode (2–3 min)	Slide 32	Choose Help me write (paste the summary) or Type it myself (type the draft). Remind about the 11-page limit and ≈500 words total. These options may be different from student to student. Whatever path they/you chose, then make sure they use the correct mode.
Help Me Write Steps (8–10 min)	Slide 33	Type the story summary. Choose story type and writing style. Choose language. Click continue. If anything is inappropriate, then we will tell the student to change it.
Type It Myself Steps (10–12 min)	Slide 34	Type the story into the 11 pages. Keep sentences clear and short. Use the plan to stay on track. The icons on the story mountain will help. If anything is inappropriate, then we will tell the student to change it.
Build Your Character (8–10 min)	Slides 35–37	Upload a photo or drawing, or describe the character clearly. Generate the character. Try again until happy. Check the character library.
Edit Text and Images (8–10 min)	Slides 38–45	Click Edit text to fix words. Click Create new image to regenerate a picture. Keep the character, change actions, setting, or objects as needed. Add a title and author name. We show examples of good image prompts. There are slides at the end to explain what A.I. is and how these images are made using A.I. (Optional Bolt on).
Read, Finish, Celebrate (4–6 min)	Slide 46	Use Read mode to flip through the book. Make any last edits. Click Finish. Share the moment: “You are a published author.”