

Story Pyramid

This technique is used to look at the main character, story setting, and plot development. At first glance, it appears easy but it's not. It's a lot like a word puzzle. Students must be precise in their word selection. Have students work in pairs or small groups. Have a dictionary and/or thesaurus available, as well as copies of the text.

Line 1 – One word – main character	Robin
Line 2 – Two words – describe the main character	Proud Young
Line 3 – Three words – setting	Green Sherwood Forest
Line 4 – Four words – state the problem	Unjust king rules England
Line 5 – Five words – an event	Robin recruits his merry men
Line 6 – Six words – an event	Sheriff's archery contest is a trap
Line 7 – Seven words – an event	Robin wins the heart of Maid Marian
Line 8 – Eight words – solution	Richard returns to England and takes the throne.

STORY PYRAMID

Abbie

Responsible Courageous

Matinicus Rock Lighthouse

Father leaves before storm

Ocean sweeps wooden house away

Abbie and family move to tower

Abbie rations food and oil to survive

Lights are still burning when Father returns home.

Abbie

Responsible Brave

Matinicus Rock Lighthouse

Stranded during violent Nor'easter

The wooden structure washes away

Flees to tower together for safety

Rations food and supplies to stay alive

Father returns to lit lighthouse with needed supplies.

Abbie

Responsible Brave

Stormy Matinicus Rock

Nor'easter endangers family's lives

Daring Abbie collects drowning hens

Billowing breakers destroy house's wooden section

Abbie scrapes ice so sailors can navigate

Finally as the swells diminish Father returns home.