

Finley's Fantastical Story Factory: A 9-Week Adventure!

Hi Finley! Welcome to your very own Story Factory! Over the next 9 weeks, we're going to have so much fun making up amazing tales. Before we start our story factory fun each week, make sure your grown-up has gathered the cool supplies listed in the 'Materials' section of this plan! Let's get creative!

Week 1: The Idea Spark! (What are Stories?)

This week, we'll discover what stories are made of and meet some exciting characters!

Activities for Finley:

- **Story Time Explorers:** We'll read lots of fun picture books. As we read, let's talk about: Who is the story about? These are the **characters**!
- **My Favorite Character:** Who is your most favorite character from a book? Let's draw them! Or, you can invent a brand new character and draw them instead. What makes them special?
- **What's a Story?:** Let's chat about what makes a story. Does it have people or animals? Does something happen?
- **Make a Storytelling Hat/Idea Crown:** Let's decorate a special hat or make a crown! This will be your official Storytelling Hat to wear when we make up stories.

Week 2: Where in the World? (Wonderful Settings)

Every story happens somewhere! This week, we'll explore story **settings**.

Activities for Finley:

- **Setting Spotters:** When we read books, let's look for where the story is happening. Is it in a forest? A castle? Space? That's the setting!
- **Draw Your Dream Setting:** If you could set a story anywhere, where would it be? Draw a picture of this amazing place.
- **Setting Shoebox:** Let's pick a setting (like a jungle, a beach, or a cozy room) and create it in a shoebox diorama using craft supplies. What details can you add?
- **'What If?' Setting Game:** What if your favorite character visited a new setting? What if a pirate landed on the moon? Let's talk about the funny things that might happen!

Week 3: The Adventure Begins! (Starting Our Stories)

All good stories have a **beginning**. Let's learn how to start a great tale!

Activities for Finley:

- **Story Starter Bag:** We'll fill a bag with small toys or pictures. Pull one out! Let's use it to start a story. For example, 'Once upon a time, there was a little blue car that...'
- **Picture This Start:** Look at a fun picture (from a magazine or a drawing). What could be the beginning of a story about this picture?
- **Beginning, Middle, End Intro:** Stories are like a sandwich! They have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Today, we focus on the first slice – the beginning, where we meet characters and learn where they are.
- **Group Story - The Beginning:** Let's start a story together! I'll help you think of a character and a setting, and what happens first. We can draw the beginning part.

Week 4: The Exciting Middle! (The Action Unfolds)

The **middle** of the story is where all the exciting things happen! Let's get into the action.

Activities for Finley:

- **What Happens Next?:** Let's take the story beginnings we made and ask, 'What happens next?' This is the middle part where characters do things or face challenges.
- **Action Word Fun:** Let's play charades with action words (jump, run, fly, hide, build). How can characters in our stories do these actions?
- **Puppet Power:** Using our puppets (or making simple paper bag puppets), let's act out the middle part of a story. What adventure do our puppets go on?
- **Group Story - The Middle:** Let's continue our group story from last week by adding some exciting middle parts. What challenges do our characters face? What do they do?

Week 5: All Wrapped Up! (Creative Endings)

Every story needs an **ending**. How will our adventures finish?

Activities for Finley:

- **Happy Endings, Funny Endings:** Let's talk about how stories can end. Are they always happy? Sometimes they are surprising or funny!
- **'Finish the Story' Game:** I'll start a story, and you get to make up the ending! There are no wrong answers.
- **Group Story - The End:** Time to finish our group story! How does it all wrap up? Let's create a great ending together and then draw or act out the whole story from beginning to end!
- **My Story's Feelings:** How do you want people to feel at the end of YOUR story? Happy? Giggly? Surprised?

Week 6: My Very Own Story! (Planning My Masterpiece)

This week, Finley, you become the master storyteller! You'll start creating your very own story.

Activities for Finley:

- **Idea Harvest:** Let's look at our Story Jar or picture prompts. What idea sparks your imagination for YOUR story?
- **My Story Map:** We'll draw a simple map for your story. Who is your main character? Where does your story happen (setting)? What's the very first thing that happens (beginning)?
- **Tell Me the Start:** With your Storytelling Hat on, tell me the beginning of your story. I can help write down some key words if you like, or you can draw pictures for it.
- **Descriptive Words:** Let's think of some 'sparkle words' (adjectives like 'big,' 'fluffy,' 'shiny,' 'brave') to describe your character and setting!

Week 7: My Story Grows! (Adding Details and Pictures)

Let's continue building your amazing story, adding more details and pictures!

Activities for Finley:

- **The Middle Adventure:** What exciting things happen in the middle of your story? Tell me all about it! We can draw pictures for this part too.
- **Problem Solvers:** Does your character have a little problem to solve in the middle of the story? How do they solve it?

- **Illustrator Fun:** For each part of your story (beginning, middle, and what you think the end will be), let's draw a picture. Your pictures help tell the story!
- **Adding Sounds:** Could we add some sound effects if we were telling this story out loud? What would they be? (e.g., a 'whoosh' for wind, a 'stomp' for a giant).

Week 8: Showtime! (Sharing My Story)

You've created a whole story! It's time to share your wonderful creation.

Activities for Finley:

- **Practice Makes Perfect:** Let's practice telling your story with your pictures. You can use funny voices for characters if you want!
- **Author's Chair:** This is a special time for you, the author! You'll sit in the 'Author's Chair' and share your story with your family. We are your biggest fans!
- **Make Your Own Book:** Let's gather your story pictures and staple them together to make your very own book! You can design a cover too.
- **Story Celebration:** After sharing, let's celebrate your amazing work as a storyteller!

Week 9: Story Celebration & Remix Fun!

Let's celebrate all you've learned and have some more story fun by mixing things up!

Activities for Finley:

- **Story Element Recall:** Can you remember the main parts of a story? Character, Setting, Beginning, Middle, End! You're an expert!
- **Story Remix:** Let's take a character from one of your favorite books and put them in a totally new setting or a new adventure from your imagination! What would happen?
- **Silly Story Salad:** We'll write down different characters, settings, and simple problems on slips of paper. You can pick one of each and try to make a silly, quick story!
- **Future Story Ideas Jar:** Let's decorate a new jar and fill it with any new story ideas you have. You can pick one anytime you want to create a new tale! Keep being a Super Storyteller, Finley!