

How to Make a Story Map

0:00	Owl: Welcome to How to Make a Story Map, an instructional video on reading comprehension brought to you by the Excelsior College Online Writing Lab.
0:13	Have you ever read a story and forgotten or been confused about its major elements?
0:18	A good way to keep track of the major elements of a story is to construct a story map.
0:23	You can do this either during or after you read.
0:27	Story maps can help you identify the major elements of a story.
0:30	You can use one whether you're describing a fictional story or a true story.
0:35	And a story map can help you remember this information later, when it comes time to write or study.
0:42	In this example, we'll construct a story map for Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour."
0:48	First, write down the title and the author or authors of the story.
Displayed on screen	Title: The Story of an Hour, Author: Kate Chopin
0:54	After that, list the characters, making a note of the main characters.
Displayed on screen	Louise Mallard (Main Character); Brently Mallard, husband; Josephine, sister; Richards, friend of Brently
1:02	Describe the setting—the place and time of the story.
Displayed on screen	Late nineteenth century at the Mallard residence
1:09	Next, list the main events in chronological order.
Displayed on screen	Louise learns of her husband's death as a result of a railroad disaster. She locks herself up in her room and privately rejoices as she ponders a life of freedom. Ironically, the other characters believe she is grieving and worry she might make herself ill. Louise finds out her husband is still alive and dies of grief. Ironically, the other characters believe she died of a heart attack resulting from the joy of learning that her husband was still alive.
1:16	Then, describe the major conflict that drives the story and the resolution achieved at the end.
Displayed on screen	Conflict: Louise struggles to define her identity, hopes, and dreams within her marriage. She feels both joy and guilt when she learns of her husband's death. Resolution: She dies of grief upon hearing the news that her husband is still alive.
1:26	Finally, sum up the major themes addressed by the story.
Displayed on screen	Freedom, Selfhood, Self-fulfillment, The meaning of love
1:31	That's it!

1:32	The next time you read a story, whether fictional or real, remember to create a story map to help you remember key information.
1:39	You can download a story map template here .
1:46	Thanks for listening to this instructional video on How to Make a Story Map!
1:51	Visit the Excelsior College Online Writing Lab for more support with reading and writing skills.

