**Lesson 1 - Endings**

**Starter:**

How did each character feel about the bet, before it happened?

1. The man from the South felt…

I know this because…

1. The young boy felt…

I know this because…

1. The narrator felt…

I know this because…

Who do you agree with and why?

**Task 1:**Can you think of a book or film that has an interesting ending? How did it end and why was it interesting?

**Challenge:**What are some of the different ways in which a story/narrative can end?

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**Read this:**Here are four common ways of ending a narrative:

* **The Happy Ending:** The tension is resolved in a positive way for the protagonist (eg. The hero saves the day)
* **The Tragic Ending:**The tension is resolved in a tragic way for the protagonist (eg. The hero dies)
* **The Cliff-hanger:**The tension is not resolved either way (eg. The hero is left in danger)
* **The Twist Ending:**The tension is resolved in a surprising way (eg. The hero turns out to have been the villain all along!)

**Task 2:** Choose any three of the films/stories below and decide what type of ending they use. Then complete the writing frame that follows.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Lion King | Titanic | The Sixth Sense |
| Romeo & Juliet | The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas | The Land-lady |
| The Hitch-hiker | Tangled | Stone Cold |

***Film/Story 1:***

*This uses a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ending because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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***Film/Story 2:***

*This uses a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ending because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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***Film/Story 3:***

*This uses a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ending because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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***Challenge: Write about another film/story of your choice***

*Another film/story that uses a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ending is*

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*because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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Read the ending of The Man from the South:

Then she slowed down and the little man came into view again and she hauled him across the room and pushed him backward onto one of the beds. He sat on the edge of it blinking his eyes and testing his head to see if it would still turn on his neck.

"I am so sorry," the woman said. "I am so terribly sorry that this should happen." She spoke almost perfect English.

"It is too bad," she went on. "I suppose it is really my fault. For ten minutes I leave him alone to go and have my hair washed and I come back and he is at it again." She looked sorry and deeply concerned.

The boy was untying his hand from the table. The English girl and I stood there and said nothing.

"He is a menace," the woman said. "Down where we live at home he has taken altogether forty-seven fingers from different people, and he has lost eleven cars. In the end they threatened to have him put away somewhere. That's why I brought him up here."

"We were only having a little bet," mumbled the little man from the bed.

"I suppose he bet you a car," the woman said.

"Yes," the boy answered. "A Cadillac."

"He has no car. It's mine. And that makes it worse," she said, "that he should bet you when he has nothing to bet with. I am ashamed and very sorry about it all." She seemed an awfully nice woman.

"Well," I said, "then here's the key of your car." I put it on the table.

"We were only having a little bet," mumbled the little man.

"He hasn't anything left to bet with," the woman said. "He hasn't a thing in the world. Not a thing. As a matter of fact I myself won it all from him a long while ago. It took time, a lot of time, and it was hard work, but I won it all in the end." She looked up at the boy and she smiled, a slow sad smile, and she came over and put out a hand to take the key from the table.

I can see it now, that hand of hers; it had only one finger on it, and a thumb.

Was this the ending you were expecting? Why/why not?

The reader is kept on the edge of their seat, wondering whether the American boy will lose a finger or win a car. However, neither of these things happen. Instead, Dahl surprises the reader with a twist ending. Nonetheless, the story could have ended in a number of ways.

**Task: Have a go at these questions:**

1. What type of ending does *The Man From The South* use?
2. What might have been a happy ending for this story?

1. What might have been a tragic ending for this story?
2. What might have been a cliff-hanger ending for this story?
3. Do you like the ending that Dahl used? Explain your answer.

Challenge: Why do you think Dahl chose to use this type of ending? Explain your answer.