

The Worried Wiseman



Susan Eaddy

"[A] tale full of heart, faith, and friendship. Truly stunning." —Julie Hedlund, author of *Over, Bear! Under, Where?*

The Worried Wiseman Educator's Guide

Story Basics

Most stories have a beginning, middle, and end.

Idea

Characters

Stories often have a problem or conflict that the main character has to overcome or solve.



What is the main idea in "The Worried Wiseman?"

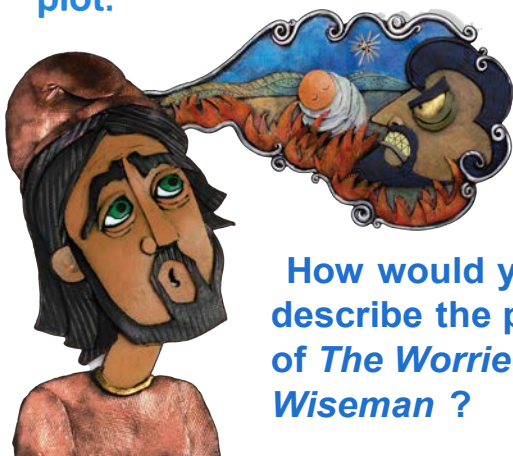


What is Melchior's problem?
How does he solve it?

Setting

Plot

Plot is what happens in a story. Strong plots often raise a question which must be answered. According to E.M. Forster, "The king died, and then the queen died", is a story, while, "The king died, and then the queen died of grief", is a plot."



How would you describe the plot of *The Worried Wiseman* ?

What are the main settings in *The Worried Wiseman* ? How many settings do you see?



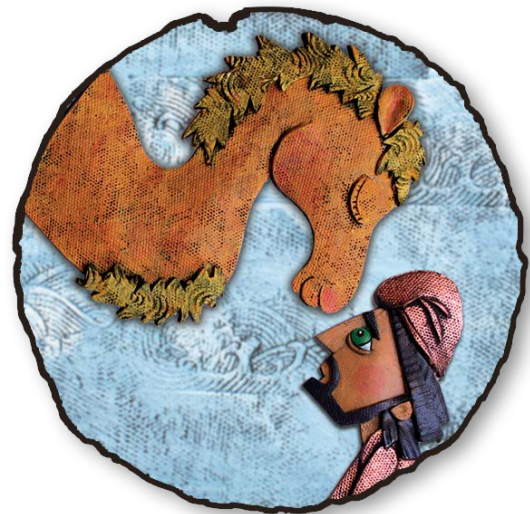
Character

Our main character, Melchior has a very anxious personality. Could the same story be told even if he was not afraid of the unknown?

Who are the other main characters in *The Worried Wiseman*?



What can you tell about Melchior's character from these illustrations?



Different characters have different points of view.

How would Nubia describe Melchior's character?

How would Balthazar or his horse describe Melchior?

What about Gaspar or his elephant?

How would Melchior describe the other characters when he first meets them? How would he describe them at the end of the story?

Writing Basics

Writers are encouraged to “show, don’t tell” in their stories.
What does this mean?

What can you tell about Herod’s personality by these sentences?

Herod was afraid too. He feared losing his throne to the newborn king. “Find the child for me. I want to honor him,” Herod lied.



Here are a few basic plots.

Heroes Journey- character has to go on a quest to solve a problem

Tragedy-things go from good to bad in the story

Rags to Riches- struggling or impoverished character achieves success

Voyage & Return-character takes a journey & returns to starting point with new wisdom

Which plot does **The Worried Wiseman** use? How could you tell the story differently with another basic plot?



Authors like to show that their characters have “grown and changed” during the course of the book.

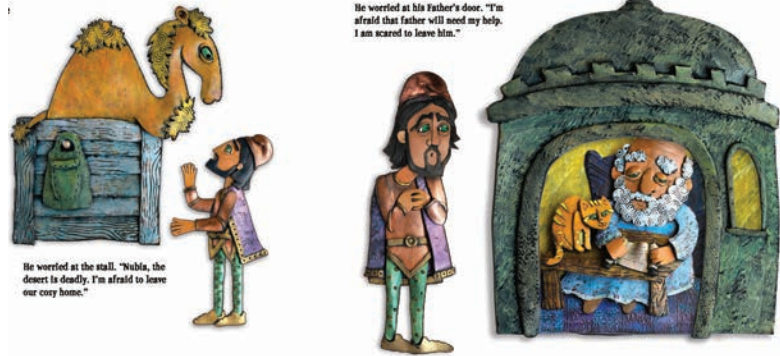
How did Melchior change?

Did any of the other characters change?

Author and Illustrator Roles

Who is the Author? Who is the illustrator?
How does the illustrator tell the story without the words?

What can you tell about Melchior through this picture?
Does the text describe his physical appearance?



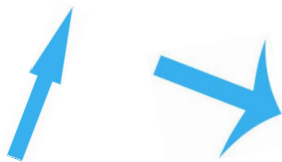
How does the illustrator advance the story here? Are the soldiers mentioned in the text?



Whose point of view tells the story? Can you retell this scene from Nubia's point of view?



How do illustrations set the mood for the story?



Compare and contrast the mood in these two scenes.



Writing Process Activity

The author revised *The Worried Wiseman* over fifty times to get to the final book.

The author's writing process looks something like this:

1. Think of ideas/brainstorm

2. Write first draft

3. Revise- changing big things first, then littler things



4. Let the story sit and revise again

5. Get help from writing friends

6. Repeat steps #3-5 as many times as needed



7. Get final revision feedback from editor (or teacher!)

8. Revise again



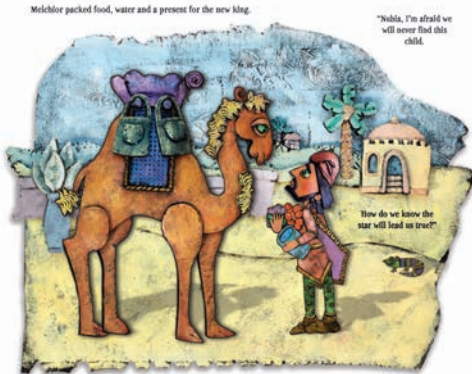
Follow this process to write your own story!

Story Starters

1. I would, or would not like, to follow a star or a dream.
2. I would, or would not like, to live in the desert.
3. I would, or would not like, to have a camel as a best friend.
4. Tell your own story from a camel's point of view.
5. Escaping from bad guys is going to require a boat. But- your character is terrified of water.
6. Explain- how to do something- like how to pack for a trip across a desert. Or how to choose the perfect gift for someone.
7. Write a day in the life story about your pet or favorite toy

OPINION PIECES

Choose a topic from the first three story starters. Write an opinion piece with reasons to back up your ideas. In groups, students compare and contrast their opinions.



PROCEDURAL

- Create a procedural paper with steps that can be followed in the classroom.
- Explain the steps in detail.
- Break into groups and following directions EXACTLY, complete the steps.
- Use a phone or video camera to film the process. As a group, evaluate what works, and what leads to unintentional results.

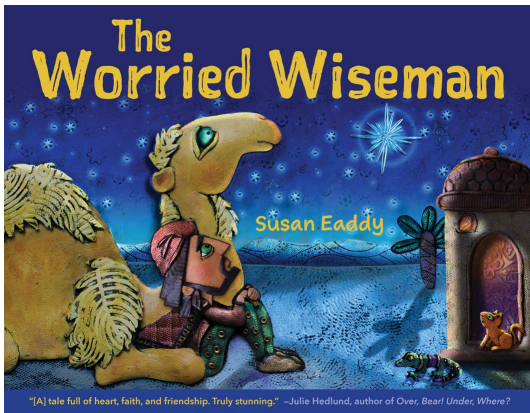
NARRATIVE PIECE

Use one of the topics to write a narrative recounting a sequence of events, with details to describe actions, thoughts and feelings.



ELA standards: W1.1,W1.2,W1.3, W1.6-W2.1,W2.2,W2.3, W2.6-W3.1,W3.2,W3.3, W4.1,W4.2,W4.3,W4.6

Flap Copy



Toss. Turn. Tangle.

Scholar and wise man Melchior has the same worrisome dream night after night. In it, he is urged to travel on a dangerous journey and follow a newly risen star. Reluctantly, the worried Melchior leaves the safety of his home with his wise camel, Nubia. Even though Melchior feels small and afraid, he does not give up. As he connects to others who want only to do good, he gains confidence in himself, and finds that just one person can make a difference.

Write your own flap copy!

Short- 4 to 6 sentences

- * **Active- use strong verbs**
- * **Include settings and or characters**
- * **Describe plot but don't give away the ending**

Worried Wiseman Camel Ornament

Materials:

1oz Black Polymer clay

(Sculpey or Premo)

Wax paper

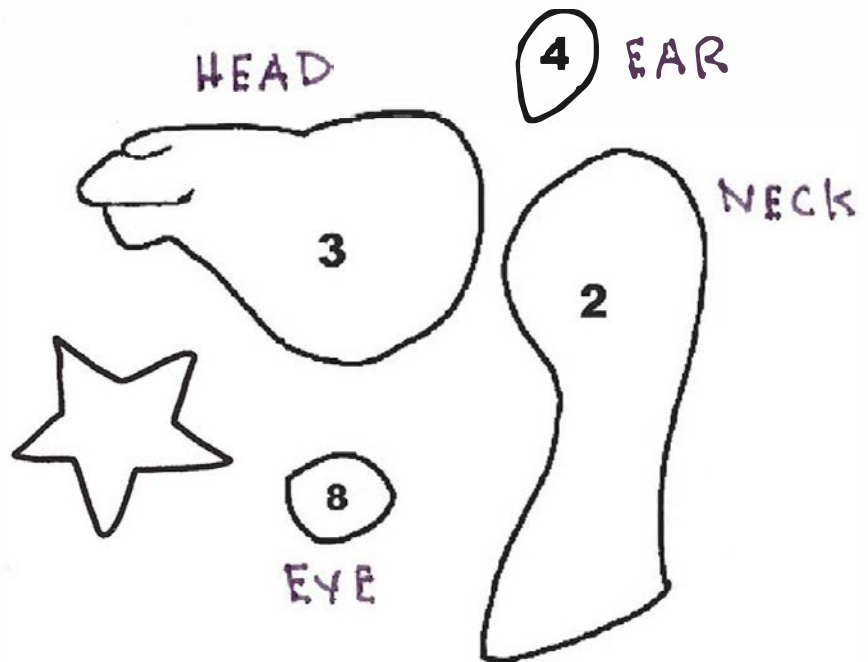
Rolling pin or Pasta roller

Sharp pencil

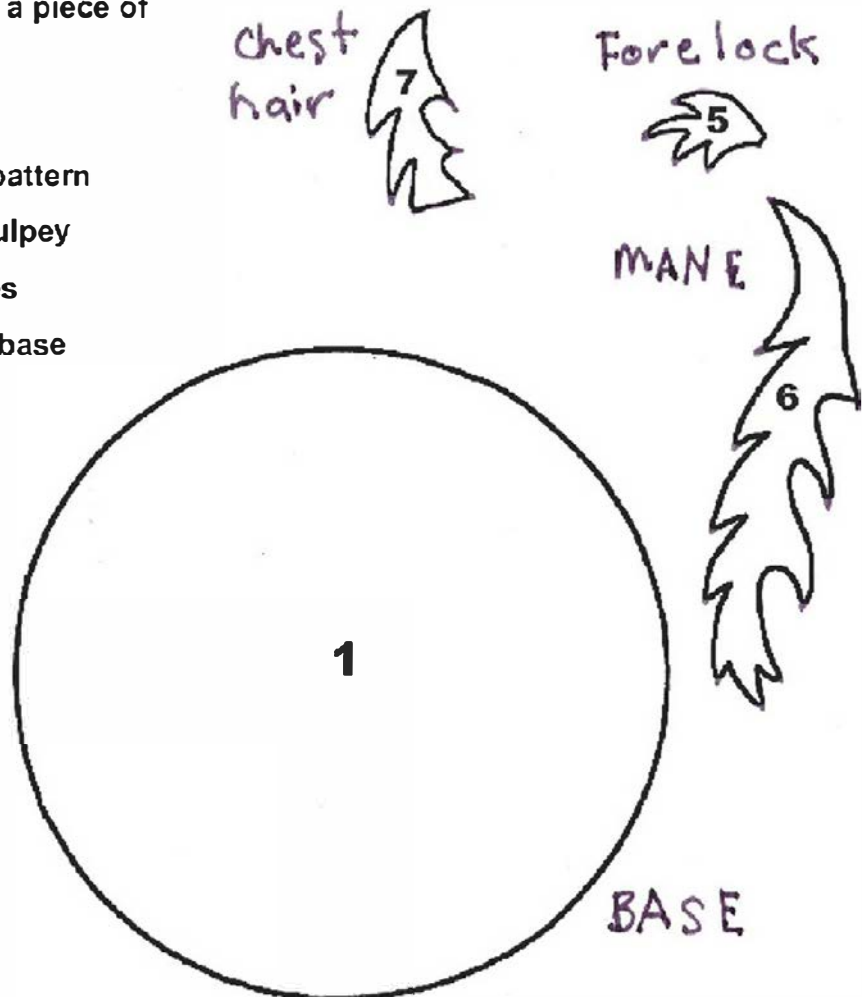
Scissors or craft knife

Acrylic paint & brushes

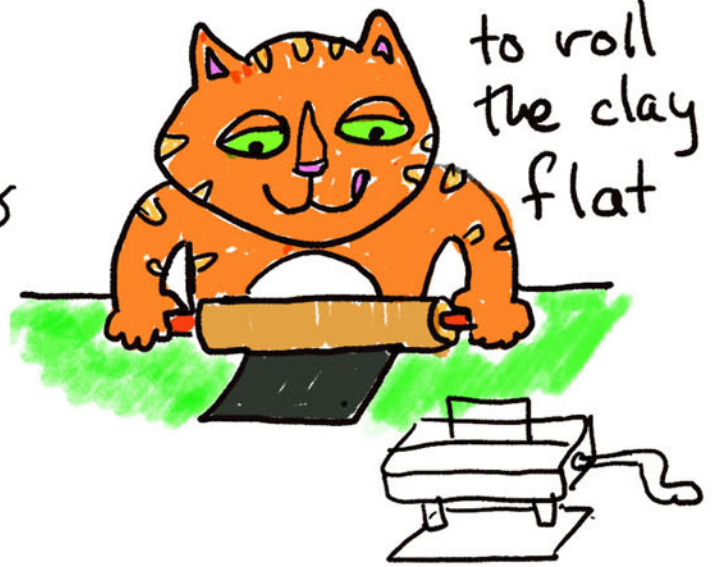
Oven - conventional or toaster
(optional-liquid Sculpey)



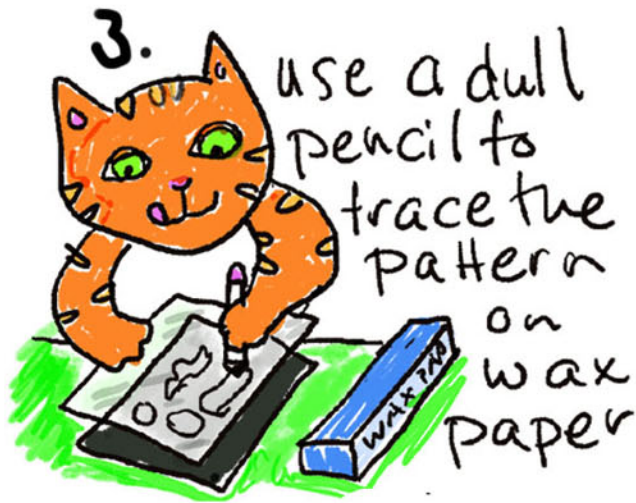
1. Trace the pattern pieces onto a piece of wax paper
2. Roll 1 oz of Sculpey flat
3. Using a dull pencil trace the pattern shapes onto the flat layer of Sculpey
4. Cut out the clay pattern pieces
5. Assemble pieces in order on base
6. Use liquid sculpey to attach pieces to base if needed
7. Poke hole in top center for hanging
8. Bake in a 275 degree oven for 20 minutes
9. Paint with acrylic. Usually 2 to 3 coats
10. Thread fishing line or cord through hole & knot



1. Knead the clay until it is soft enough to roll flat. The warmth of your hands will soften it.



2. USE a rolling pin or a pasta roller to roll the clay flat



3. use a dull pencil to trace the pattern on wax paper

press down fairly hard so you see the pattern when you lift the paper

4. clay knife



OR plastic knife



with an adult's supervision cut out the pattern using a dull knife or scissors - don't worry if the pieces aren't perfect!

Assemble Pattern pieces



Place the star & eye on last.

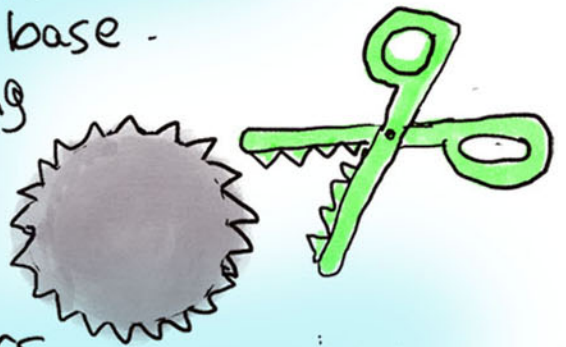


USE a sharp pencil to draw an eyelid & poke a pupil before placing eye on your camel. If your pieces don't seem to stick use liquid sculpey as glue

Optional - roll a clay rope to add an edge to your ornament



OR
USE some fun toothy scissors to cut out your base.
pinking shears or craft scissors
make a nice decorative edge



You can make a fancy swirl where the ends meet!



poke hole in top



BAKE at 275° for 20 to 30 minutes

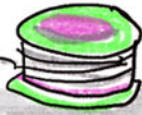
PAINT with ACRYLICS



usually needs 2 or more coats - let dry between coats



String fishing line or cord through the hole. If you knot it twice it will hang straighter



Now your ornament is ready to hang!