



# GREEN NINJA

## TEACHER SUPPORT MATERIALS



### The Story Spine

Below you will find one of many examples of the spine to any story. This will help guide you to think about what makes a good story for the viewer. The organizational template will help provide a model for a well-constructed story with a beginning that establishes a routine, an event that breaks the routine, a middle that shows the consequences of having broken the routine, a climax that sets the resolution to the story in motion, and the resolution. It goes like:

- **Once upon a time...**
- **Every day...**
- **But, one day...**
- **Because of that...**
- **Because of that...**
- **Because of that...**
- **Until, finally...**
- **And, ever since then...**

And, here's how the lines correlate to the different sections of a well-constructed story:

The **Beginning** that establishes the routine: Once upon a time... Every day...

The **Event** that breaks the routine: But, one day...

The **Middle** shows the consequences of having broken the setting: Because of that...Because of that...Because of that...

The **Climax** that sets the resolution to the story in motion: Until, finally...

The **Resolution** concludes the story: And, ever since then...

This model will help develop your idea to a compelling story. There are hundreds of variations known to this. This template serves as a dynamic and fluid structure, allowing storytellers to pick and choose what works best for you. You can decide what you want to include in your story but having a standard foundation to start on will lead you to creating your final piece.

**Credit:** The original story spine was created by Kenn Adams and the above was adapted from [http://improvincyclopedia.org/games/Story\\_Spine.html](http://improvincyclopedia.org/games/Story_Spine.html) .

**Practice:** 1) Take an existing story (from a film or book) and break the film down into the different sections of a well-constructed story using the Story Spine Template. 2) Create your own story using the Story Spine Template



# GREEN NINJA

## TEACHER SUPPORT MATERIALS



### **Story Spine Template:**

The following template includes the important elements to any story. Complete each section for an existing story or your own newly developed story.

### **THE BEGINNING:**

Once upon a time/Every day...

### **THE EVENT:**

But, one day...

### **THE MIDDLE:**

Because of that...

Because of that...(repeat as many times as necessary)

Because of that...

### **THE CLIMAX**

Until, finally...

### **THE RESOLUTION**

And, ever since then...