

Identifying

PURPOSE Identifying the cause and effect of story events helps students see the consequences of a character's actions. By recognizing the causes and listing their effects, students learn to look at alternative choices that help in their own life decisions.

WHAT TO DO Students identify and write a cause on the left side and its effect (or effects) on the right. In some cases, it is easier for students to write the effect first and then determine the cause.

Cause

Effect

Peter wages a war against Grandpa.

Hurt feelings (both Peter and Grandpa)

Peter wants to keep his room at all costs.

He makes choices he later regrets.



Literature

Using this organizer, students can see that a decision made by a story character—like Peter in *The War with Grandpa*—may lead to negative consequences.



Social Studies

Looking at a historical event as the "effect" helps students identify the cause (or causes). Working in small groups, students will often find a variety of causes for the same event. Then they can share and discuss why a particular event occurred in history.

Cause

Effect

Slavery—a moral issue — is questioned.

Laws to ban Slavery

Economic necessity for slave labor

The South fought to keep slaves and slavery.

Cause

Effect

Taking Drugs

peer pressure

You do what you don't want to do.

educate (learn about drugs)

You know what drugs do to you.

refusal skills

You are prepared with ways to say, "No!"



General Classroom Use

Students need to see the connection between their behavior choices and the positive or negative effects of these choices. Have students examine a situation and discuss alternative choices. This activity allows them to see that making wise choices often yields positive results.

Name _____

Topic _____

Cause

Effect

