Step 7.

Endings With Impact

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<th>A common problem with kids' stories is they end on an anticlimax</th>
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| Take this sports story. Belinda begs to join the volleyball team, but she isn't very good. Jackie the captain helps her and gradually a friendship forms. In the final game, Jackie is injured but now it's Belinda's turn to help. At match point, she sets a perfect ball to Jackie. Here's the last sentence.

*Jackie jumped high, hope giving her strength and she hit the ball hard. It landed right in the corner. They'd won! Then they all went home to bed.*

Why has the writer tacked on that last line? The answer is kids feel something is missing, but they don't know what. We need to show young writers that there are often two parts to ending a story – the action climax and the 'inner' story.

This story is not just about volleyball, it needs a celebration of the friendship that has grown between the two girls.

*We did it! We won!* Everyone was yelling and hugging each other. But Jackie just turned and looked at Belinda.

*Great set,* she said. Belinda laughed.

*Great hit!* she said. At last she really was part of the team.

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<th>TOP TIP.</th>
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<td>Solve the action part of the story (like winning the final game) but also allow for the characters and their inner journey to be celebrated too.</td>
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<th>ACTION ACTIVITY.</th>
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<td>Many authors actually get their ending first – and then figure out the story working backwards. Here's a fun ending, <em>'Crocodiles don't like fly spray.</em>' Try brainstorming with your kids what the story could be. You can be as crazy as you like!</td>
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Year 4/5 read the poem The Man From Ironbark by A. B. Paterson and turned it into a narrative. Here are some of their endings.

Finally the barber spoke and admitted that “It was all a little harmless joke, a trifle overdone.” The policeman still wasn’t done because John had broken the youth’s neck and this was a major crime. The man from Ironbark sprinted out the door and plunged into a nearby lake. No one knew what happened to him and everyone had different thoughts. Some say he eventually died, others say he went back to Ironbark but no one is quite sure.

By Teegan W

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Until this day no one ever saw him again. Some people say he went back to his hometown Ironbark and hid out there for a while. But the most popular tale is that he was caught and hanged for his crime, but as he was being hanged he muttered a curse on the entire village…….

By Asha W

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Bob helped repair the barber shop and Ben invited some men from Ironbark to visit Sydney to thank him. Bob did eventually go back to Ironbark, but he visited Sydney all the time just to see his best mate Ben. But what Bob didn’t know was that Ben had one more little trick in store and it was going to be big, so big that it would ruin Bob’s life forever…..

By Chloe H