Choose Your Own Adventure: Reframe Scenario-based Learning with Good Storytelling

Jean Marrapodi, PhD, CPTD
Applestar Productions

4

Typical Scenario Based Learning
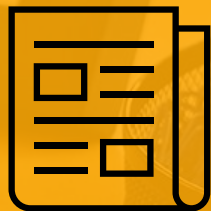
It's like reading the newspaper.

Content

Scenario

Choice 1
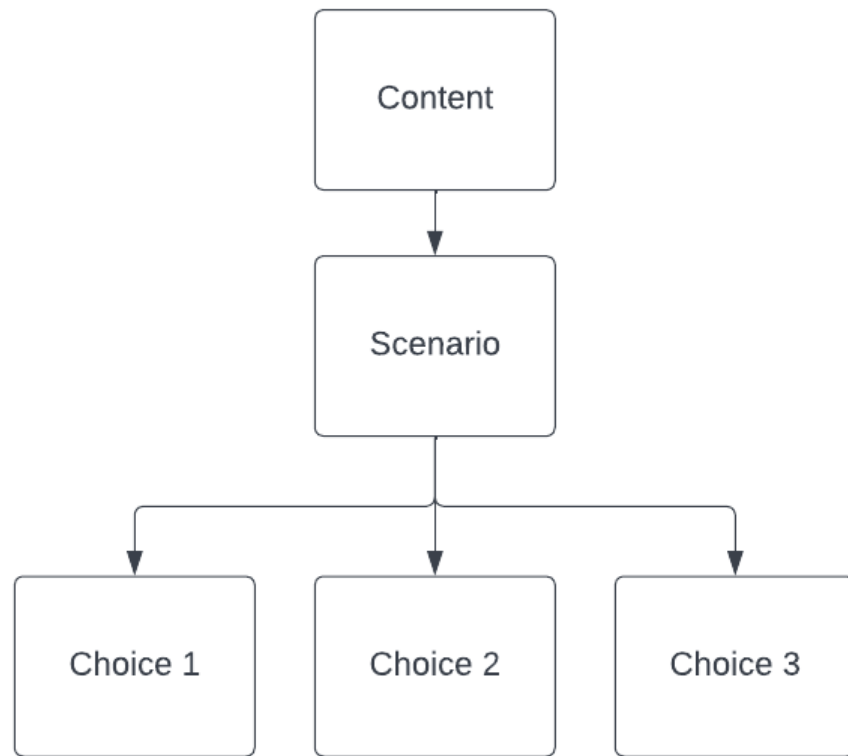
Choice 2

Choice 3

Most Training

or

Why?

Here's why:

—

There's also no
- Character
- Challenge
- Choice
- Consequence

There's no ADVENTURE!

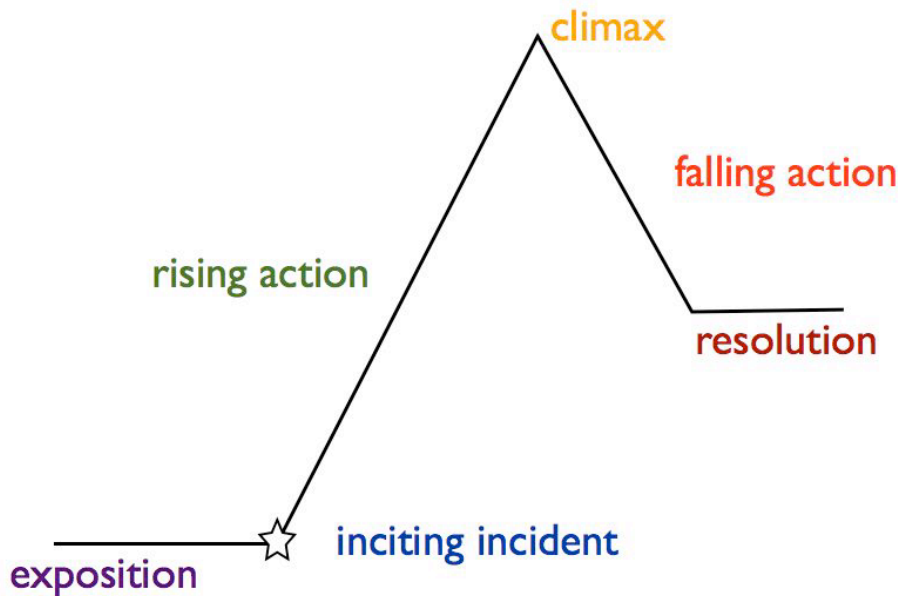# KEY STORY ELEMENTS

Characters

Setting

Plot

Conflict

Resolution

PLOT DEVELOPMENT

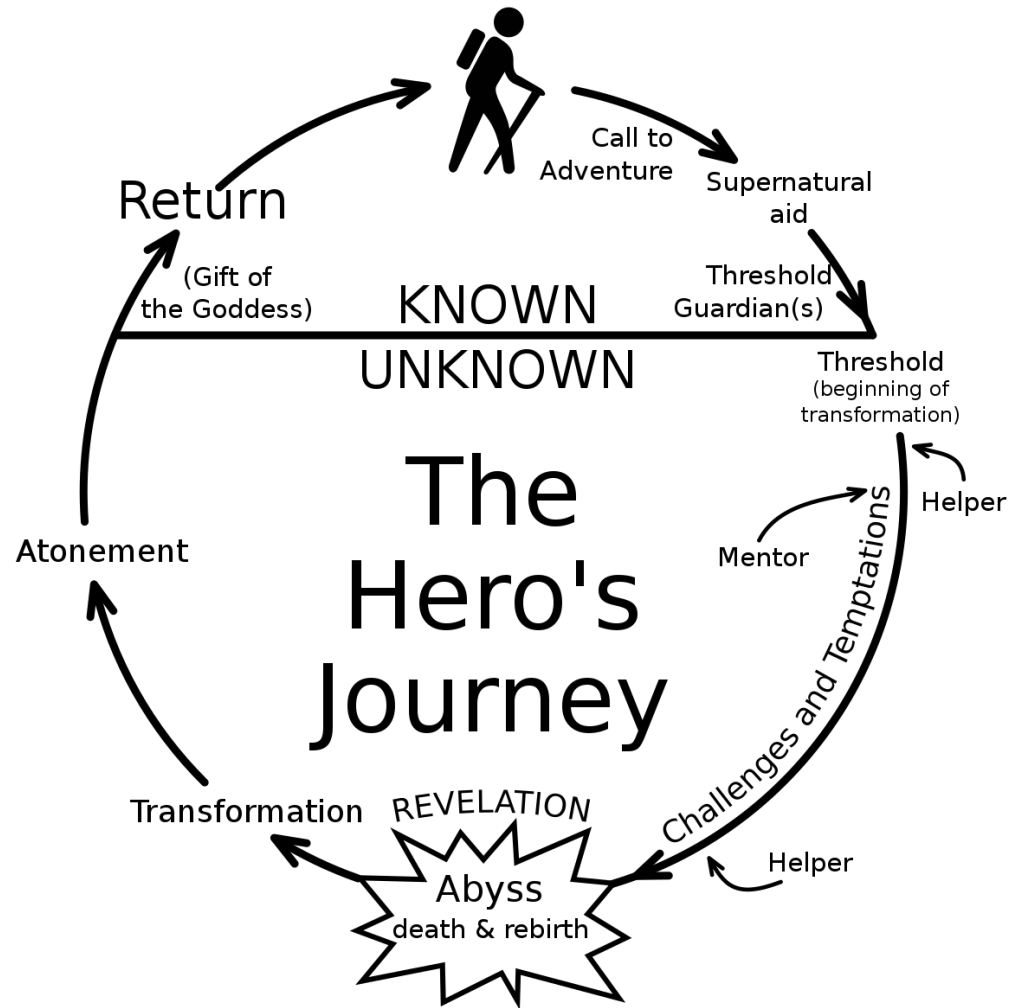The story rises and falls to create suspense and excitement
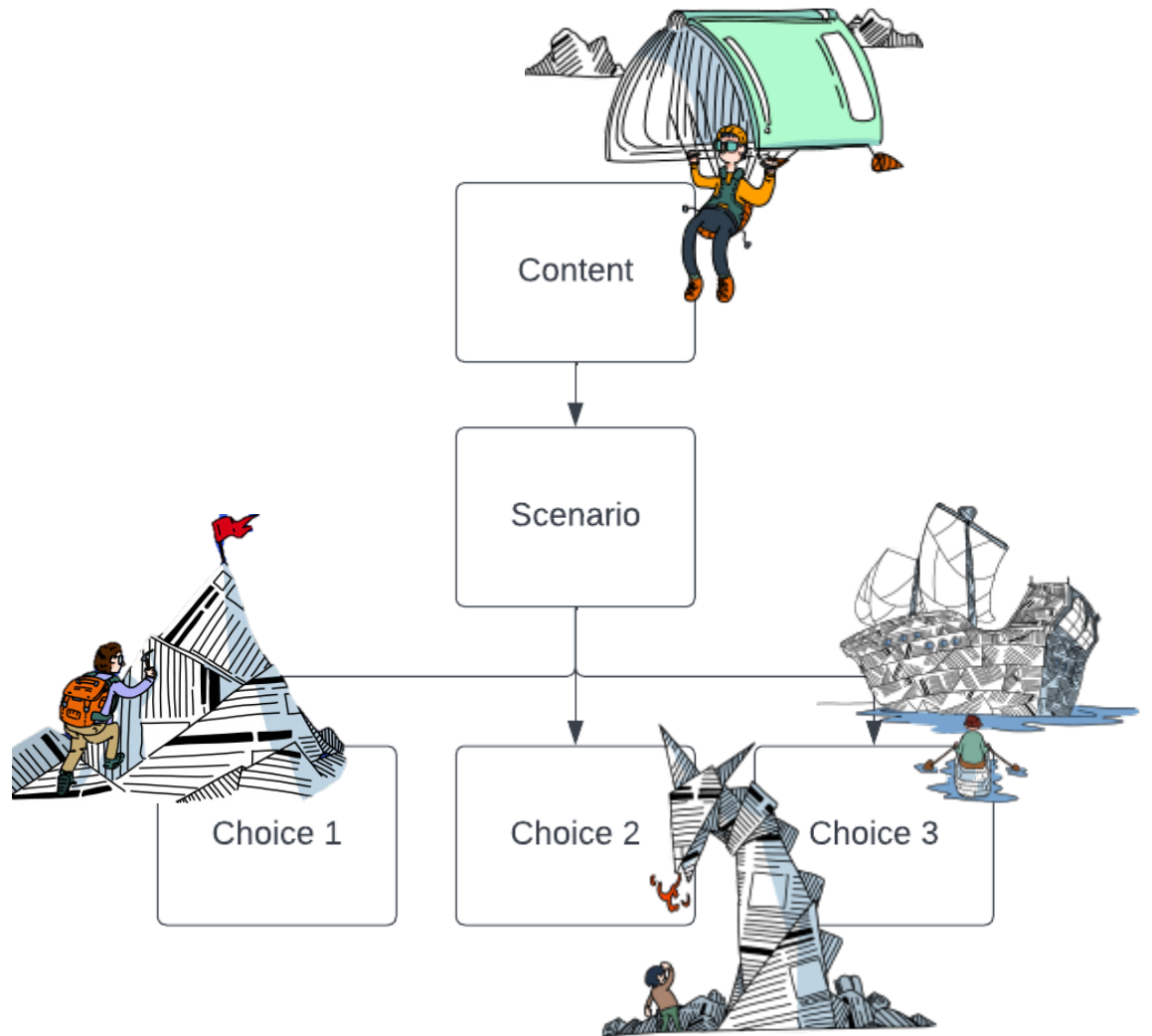
freytag's pyramid

climax

falling action

rising action

resolution

inciting incident

exposition

Hero's Journey

The protagonist's adventure of discovery and growth

The Hero's Journey

Call to Adventure

Supernatural aid

Threshold Guardian(s)

KNOWN

Return

(Gift of the Goddess)

UNKNOWN

Threshold (beginning of transformation)

Atonement

Mentor

Helper

Challenges and Temptations

Transformation

REVELATION

Abyss death & rebirth

Helper

Image credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero%27s_journey#/media/File:Heroesjourney.svg

What if we add story to this boring scenario?

Content

Scenario

Choice 1

Choice 2

Choice 3

There's Magic in the KNOW HOW

APPLESTAR PRODUCTIONS | STICKY LEARNING

11

Let's Flip It

Scenario

Best Choice

Acceptable Choice

Poor Choice

Feedback

Feedback

Feedback

Content

New Problem

Leverage the content to solve the problem
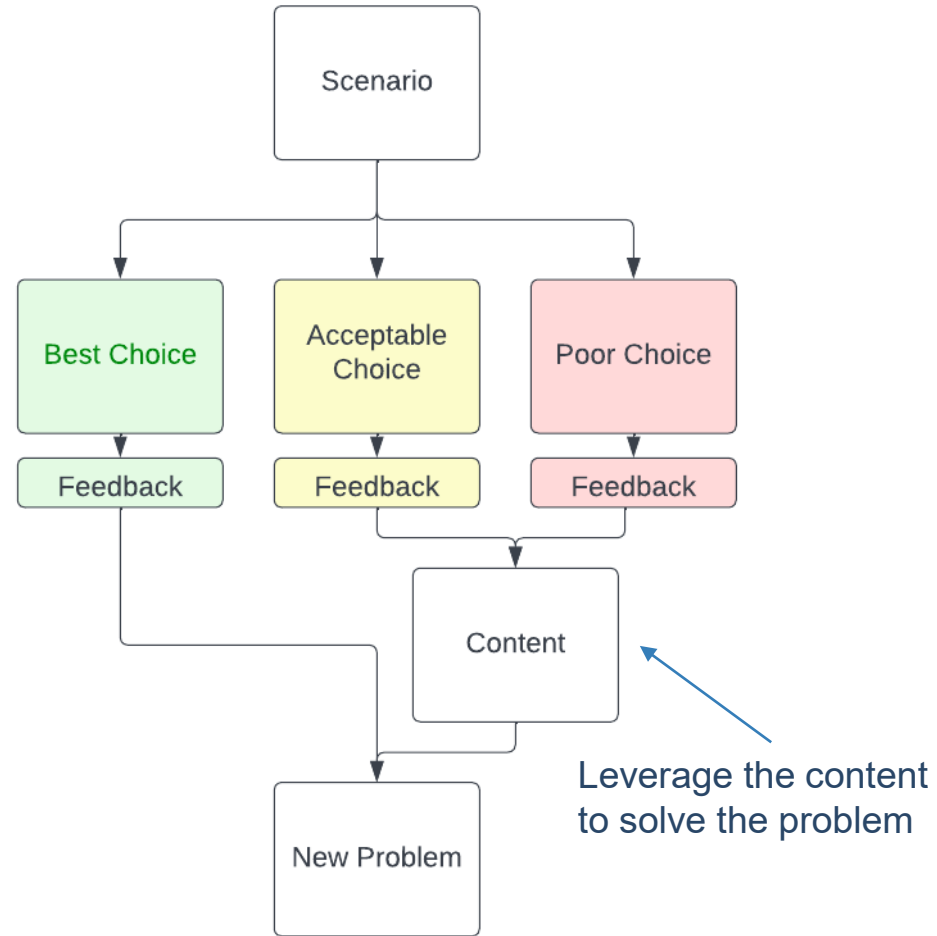
Horatio arrives at the office for his first day of work.
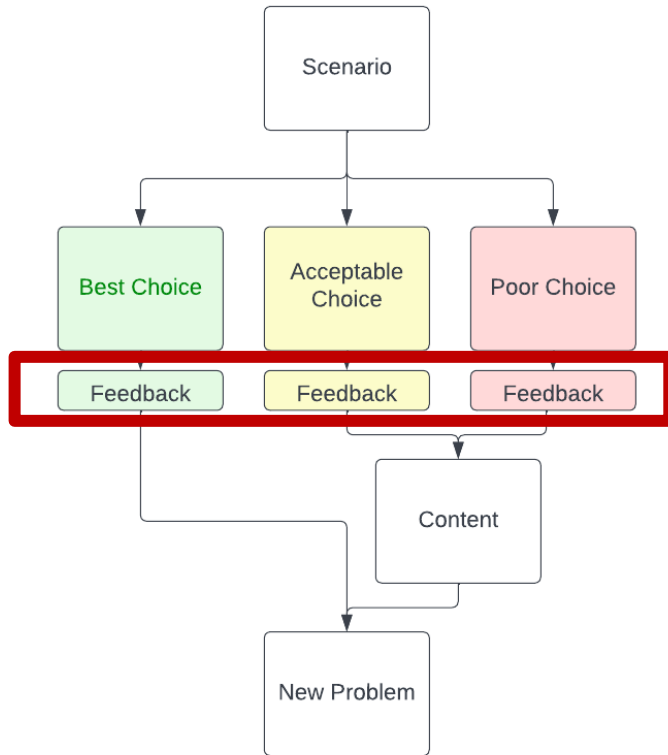
What should Horatio do?

A. Enlist help from the receptionist.

B. Assume he made a mistake and come back next week..

C. Call the HR contact he interviewed with.

14

What should Horatio do?

Scenario

Best Choice   Acceptable Choice   Poor Choice

Feedback   Feedback   Feedback

Content

New Problem

A. Enlist help from the receptionist.

B. Assume he made a mistake and come back next week.

C. Call the HR contact he interviewed with.
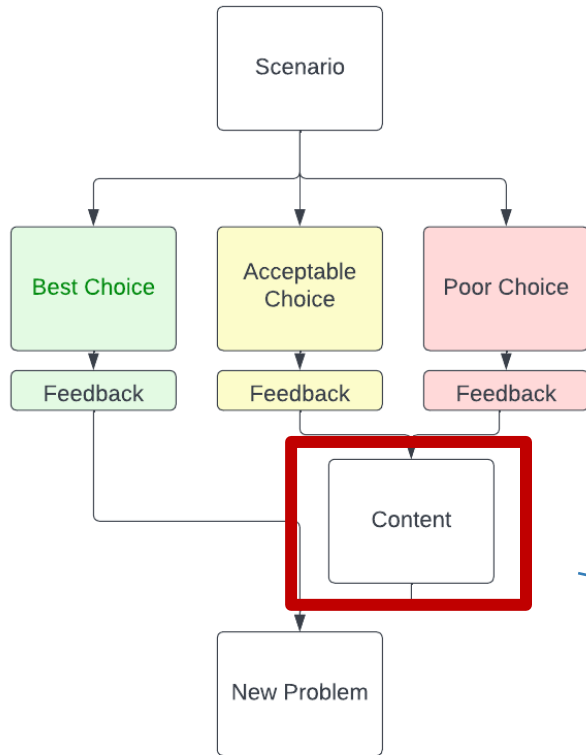
Great idea! She will have ideas who might be able to help you.

You could do this, but have you explored all the possibilities? Might Mr. Almeriz have something set up for you?

Good idea. They might not pick up the phone but it's a definite starting point.

What should Horatio do?

A. Enlist help from the receptionist.

B. Assume he made a mistake and come back next week.

C. Call the HR contact he interviewed with.

Great idea! She will have ideas who might be able to help you.

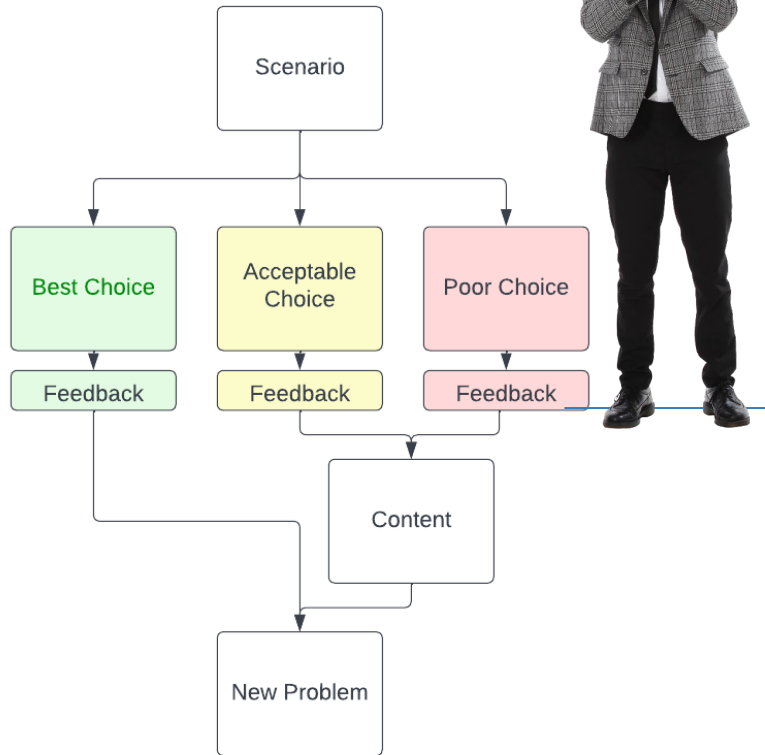You could do this, but have you explored all the possibilities? Might Mr. Almeriz have something set up for you?

Good idea. They might not pick up the phone but it's a definite starting point.

As a new employee, networking with other employees is a great way to get noticed and connected with others.
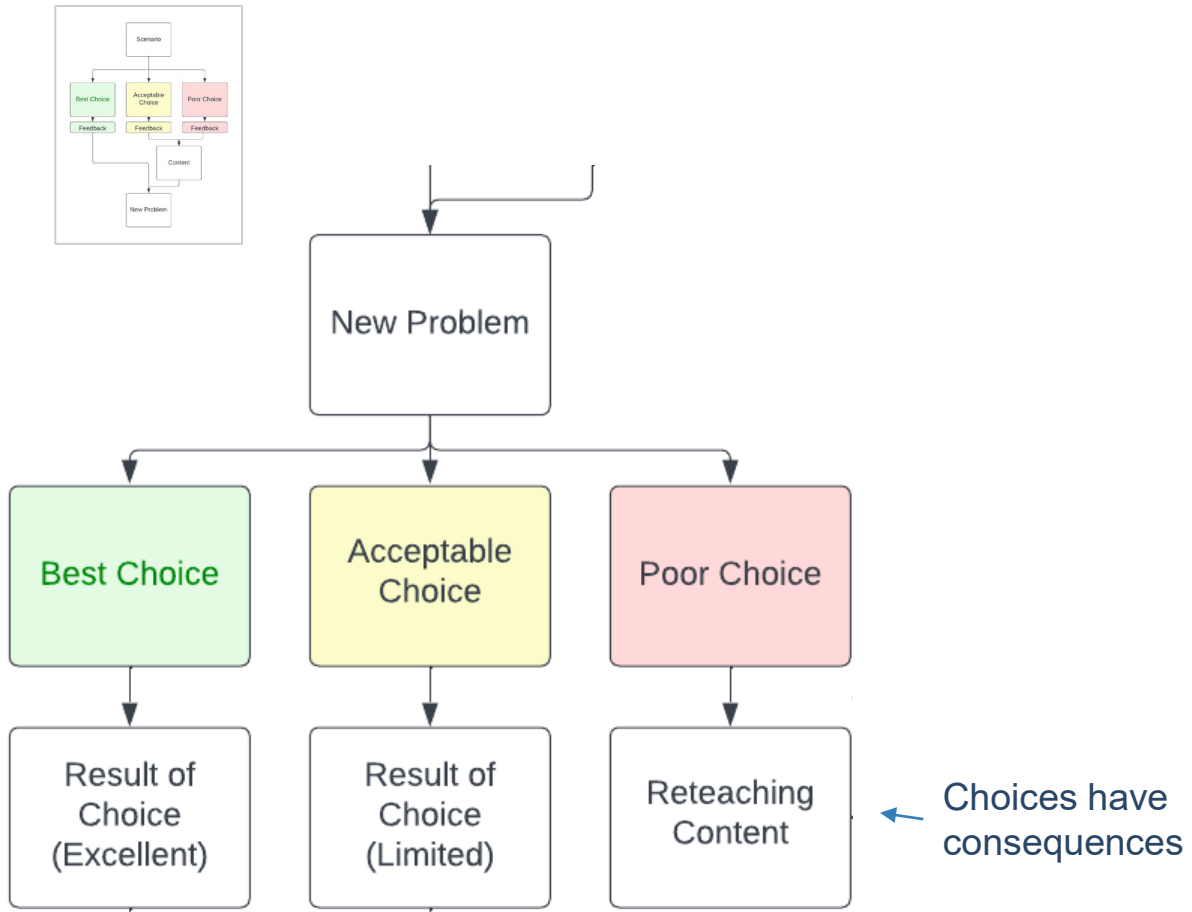
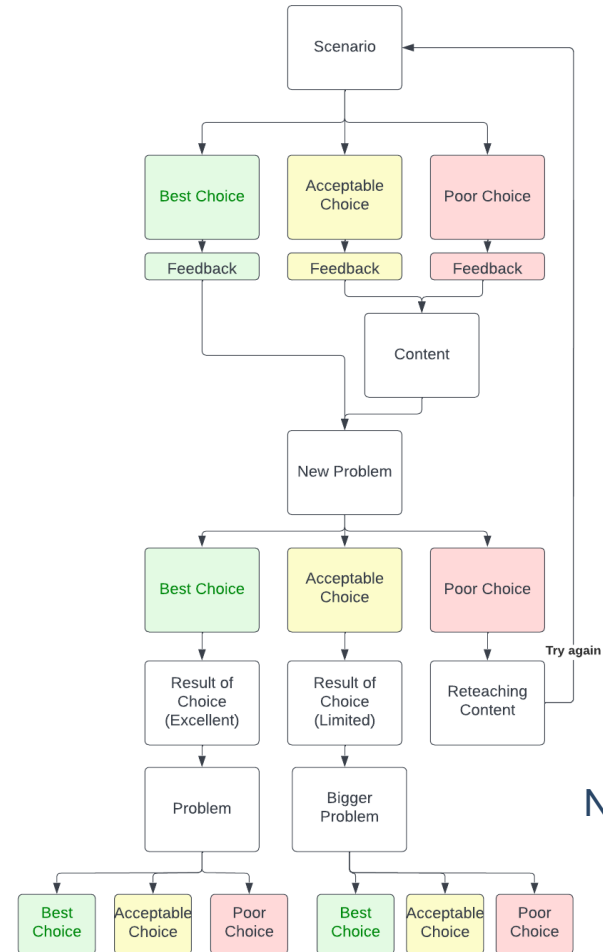10 minutes later, Peter dashes in, all flustered.

Man, what a morning. First my kid misses the school bus, then my train was late, and I totally spaced that Hector asked me to do orientation for the new guy and I was supposed to be here early for that. I haven't given it a thought since he asked. Can you cover for me, Marcy?

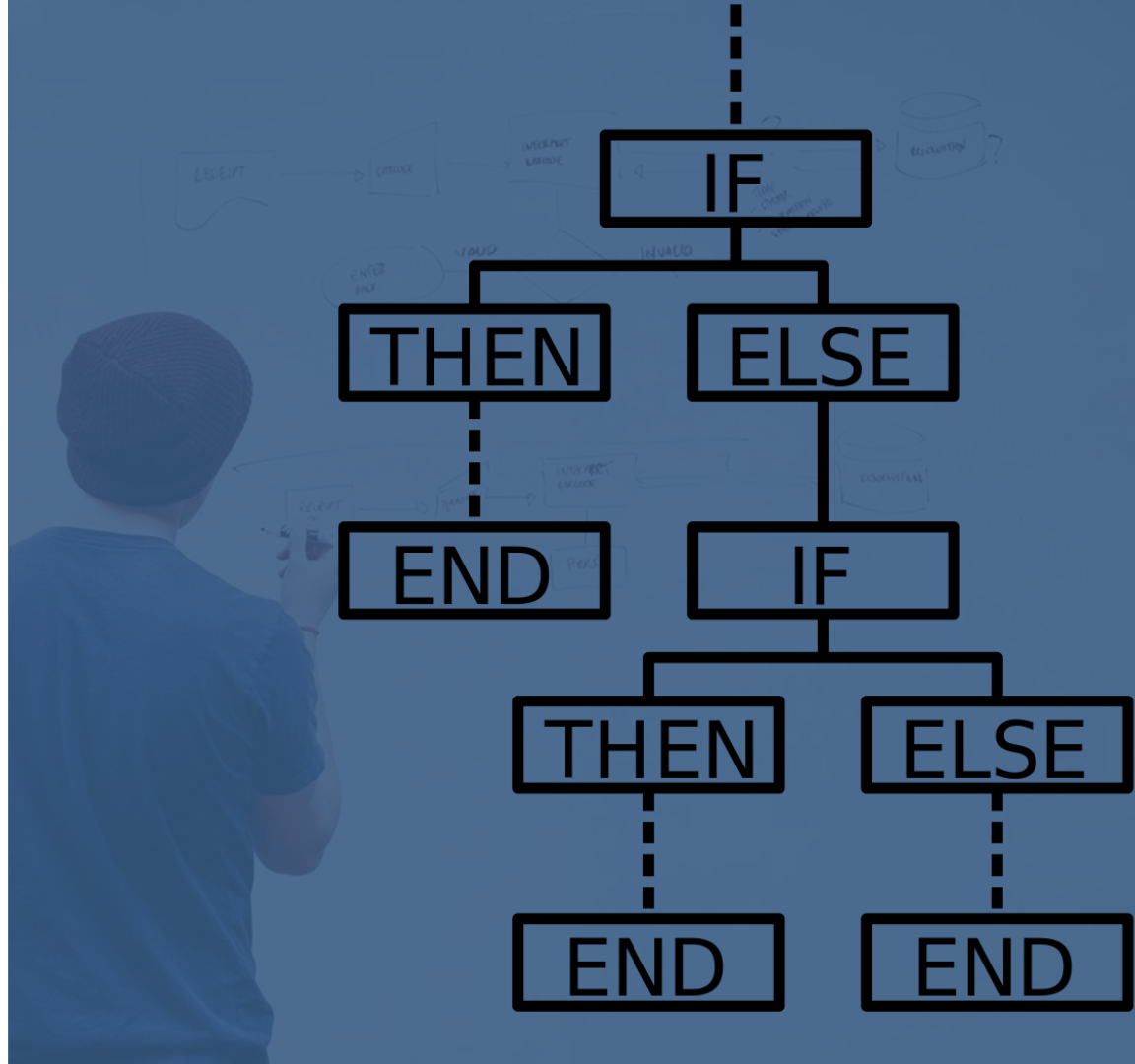You'll be fine. Turn around. Horatio's right behind you.
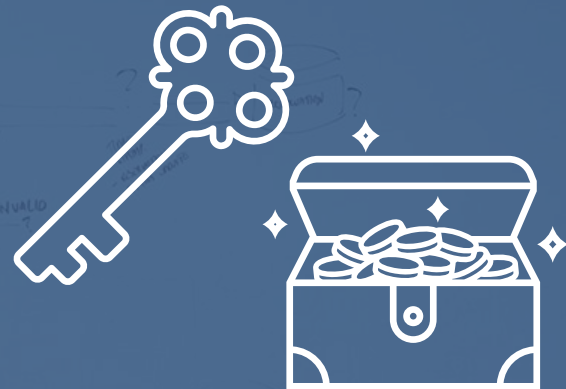
Add a new problem

New Problem

Best Choice → Result of Choice (Excellent)

Acceptable Choice → Result of Choice (Limited)

Poor Choice → Reteaching Content

Choices have consequences

Add More

New Problems!

Key Premise

Plot Devices

Nearly impossible task

Find the treasure

Race against time

Bad guy

Mentor/Helper Assistance
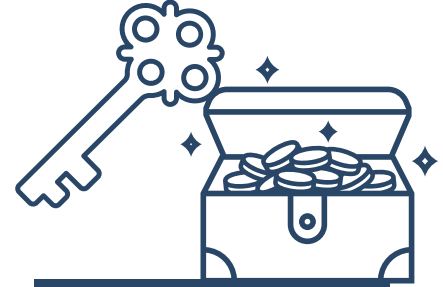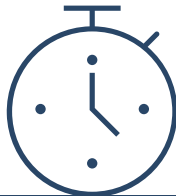
Know Your Ending

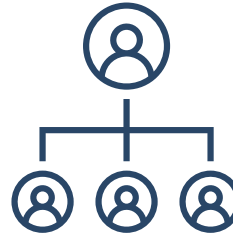Achieved task

Found the treasure

Project is late

Promotion

Unhappy customer

Works late

Connect events to get to the ending.
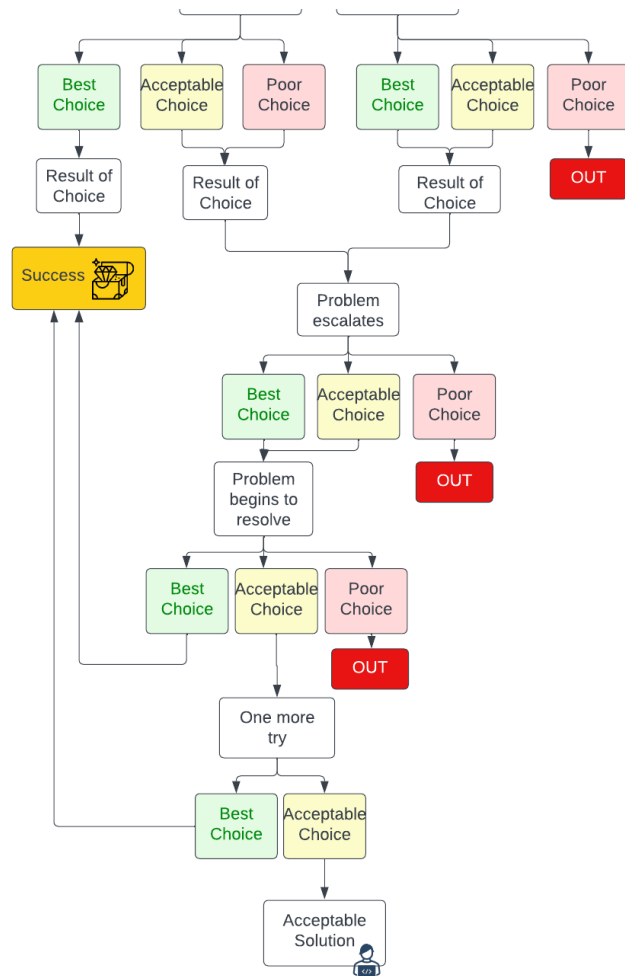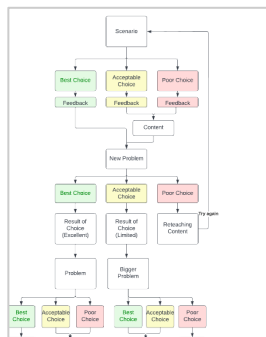
Start the Story	
Story setup Choice Option 1: Option 2:	

Option 1		Option 2	
Continue story in option 1 Choice Option 1a: Option 1b:		Continue story in option 2 Choice Option 2a: Option 2b:	

Option 1a	Option 1b	Option 2a	Option 2b
Continue story in option 1a Choice Option 1a-1: Option 1a-2:	Continue story in option 1b Choice Option 1b-1: Option 1b-2:	Continue story in option 2a Choice Option 2a-1: Option 2a-2:	Continue story in option 2b Choice Option 2b-1: Option 2b-2:

Option 1a-1	Option 1a-2	Option 1b-1	Option 1b-2	Option 2a-1	Options 2a-2	Options 2b-1	Option 2b-2

LINK https://tinyurl.com/blank-CYOA
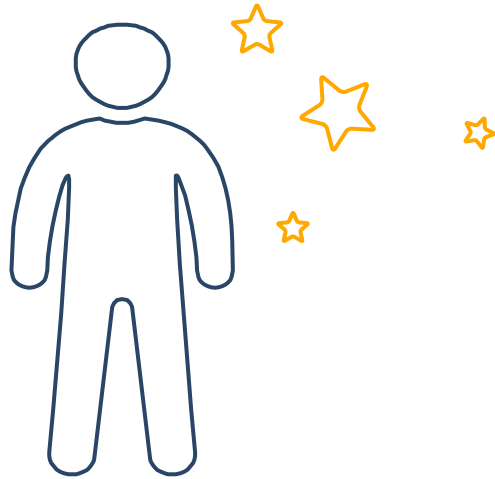
Character

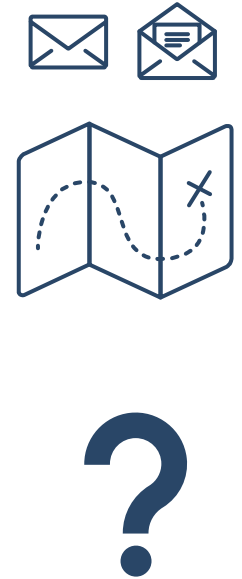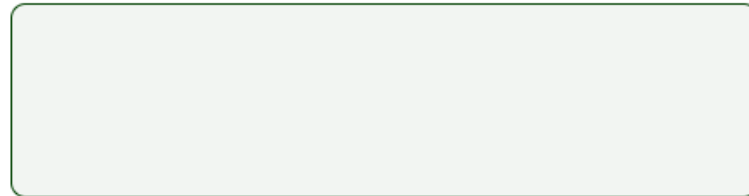Identify characteristics
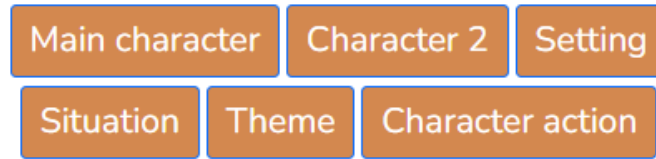
Character   Setting   Problem

Random Plot Generator

The aim of this writing prompt is to help you develop a story-line. When you click the buttons, they will generate two characters, a setting, a situation and a theme. Your job is to put the elements together and come up with an idea for a story.

You can change an element by clicking the button again.

Main character   Character 2   Setting

Situation   Theme   Character action

https://writingexercises.co.uk/plotgenerator.php

Let's Try It

Breakout rooms
3-4 people
20 minutes

Worksheet:
https://tinyurl.com/CYOA-Storyboard
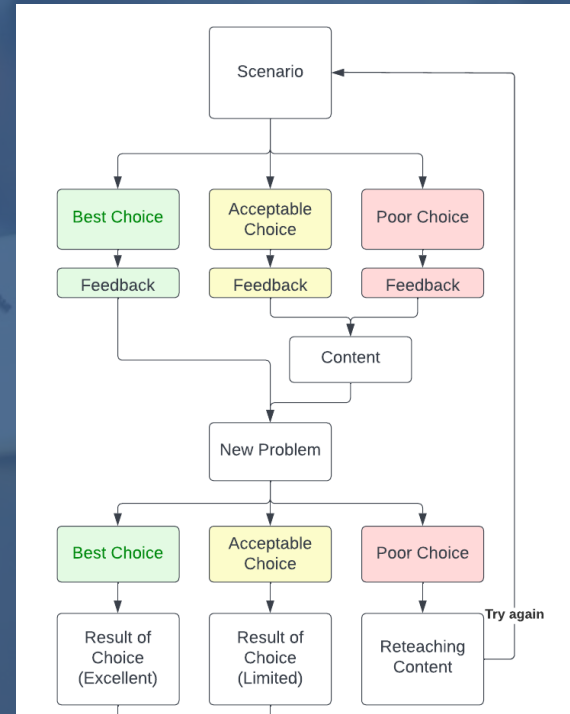
Safety Training
Decide on a character and a setting.
Create two levels of the adventure.

—

What did you discover?

Jean Marrapodi, PhD, CPTD

jmarrapodi@applestar.org

www.appleastar.org