**Notes for the Teacher:**

“The Elevator” is a well-known story with a classic cliffhanger ending (the story stops right at the turning point / climax). Even if students have read it before, the follow-up writing activity allows them to practice using details of the setting and characters to write a logical ending in the first-person point-of-view. Plus, it’s a great way to review the elements of plot since they will soon be writing their own narrative story with a “plot development” focus.

The story can be found in several places online, ready to go! Options are:

<https://www.humbleisd.net/cms/lib2/TX01001414/Centricity/Domain/2669/The_Elevator.pdf>

<http://www.scaryforkids.com/elevator/>

<https://1.cdn.edl.io/UY8FQ1yC2jZmnVV4C4alS1Ej15PgljjpptPlsx1hePViPlsh.pdf>

Or, here is a really well-done read-aloud of the story with text and music and “tone” that you can show as another way for students to follow along. (Approx. 15 min.)

<https://vimeo.com/84006862>

*One idea is to have students simply listen/follow along with the Vimeo version, and then hand out a class set of the copies of the story. The copies have built-in questions related to plot development that students could discuss and / or respond to on their own papers. This strategy forces students to “go back into the text” for further analysis.*

**Next:**

Students complete a writing activity. Many teachers have their students re-write the ending of the story, but let’s take it a step further to stay in line with the narrative writing unit.

**The assignment:**

Students will write an ending to the story. Here is a list of requirements for students to follow:

* You must choose a character in the story - any character - and write the ending from that character’s point-of-view (so we’re switching from 3rd person to 1st person, making it like a narrative)
* The ending must be appropriate for a nine year-old (nothing gory or graphic or bloody). This means you’ll actually have to be more creative than going with the obvious ending!
* Since the story ends at the climax/turning point of the plot, you must include a falling action and a resolution that makes sense.
* You may not end with “Then I woke up” or “The aliens took her away” or “Luckily this story was all in my head and never happened” or anything similar to those things.
* Students will include 2 - 3 pieces of dialogue, correctly spaced and punctuated (they can use their bell ringers to help them if they need to)