Objective
Students break a story down into parts, write on their own, then collaborate to weave a complete narrative.

Time
20 – 30 minutes for discussion; 20 – 30 minutes for writing

Materials
• Writing materials

Process
Discuss
William Hahn’s painting *Market Scene, Sansome Street, San Francisco*, is full of activity. What is going on in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that? If this artwork is illustrating the middle of a story, what might have happened just before? How did this story begin? What is going to happen next?

Plan
Choose to write about the beginning or end of this story. What happened? What are the characters doing? Where were the characters coming from, or where will they go next? What did the street look like one hour before? What will it look like later that day? Consider the characters, setting, and plot, and include as many details as you can.

Write
Write your story, using sensory details and interesting word choices. Help the reader understand why this is an important moment to you. Refer back to the painting often, looking for evidence to support the story you are writing.

Share
Pair a “beginning” story student with an “ending” story student. Have them share their stories, including the painting as the narrative for the middle of the tale. Do the three plots go together? Maybe they are wildly different. Depending on time and interest, switch around the pairs to create different narratives.