



# STORIES

without

# END

24 open-ended stories to engage students  
in reading, discussion, and creative writing

**Taylor Sapp**

# CHOOSE A PATH



## Before You Read

1. If you could only choose to be one of the following, which would you choose?
  - a. rich
  - b. famous
  - c. beautiful
  - d. immortal (to live forever)

## Vocabulary

Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word

1. <i>wealth</i> (n.) ____	a. a place used for gambling, including card games, slot machines, and other betting games
2. <i>casino</i> (n.) ____	b. extremely beautiful
3. <i>transformation</i> (n.) ____	c. entirely without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings
4. <i>exquisite</i> (adj.) ____	d. a change in form, appearance, nature, or character
5. <i>perfect</i> (adj.) ____	e. a great amount of money, valuable possessions, or property

## CHOOSE A PATH

164 WORDS

Four young people stood at a road that split in four directions. There was a sign pointing each way with a single word.

The first sign said, "*Wealth*." The first young person took this road and followed it to a great *casino*. Here, the first young person turned a single dollar into many millions!

The second sign said, "*Beauty*." The second young person took this road and followed it to a huge beauty salon. Inside, they went through a *transformation* and when they came out, all would say they were the most *exquisite* person in the world!

The third sign said, "Love." The third young person took this road and followed it to a small café with delicious pastries and coffee. Here, the third young person met the most wonderful partner they could ever have imagined and had two *perfect* kids and a happy family.

The fourth sign said, "?" The fourth young person took this road and followed it to ...

## THE END?

### After You Read

1. Which path would you choose?
2. Would you be willing to take the fourth sign? Why or why not?
3. What are some meanings you can think of for the fourth sign?
4. The characters in this story have no gender. Did you imagine them as male or female? Why?

### Projects

1. Continue the story! Write about a page. Here are some questions to consider as you write:
  - Where does the fourth sign lead?
  - What happened to the fourth person after they went there?
2. Interview 3 or more people and ask them the question from **Before You Read** above. Use the chart below. Or create your own. (See Supplement 5:1)

Afterward, compare their answers. How are they the same or different? What do you think about the results?

Interview Question:

If you could only choose to be one of the following, which would you choose?

- a. rich                      b. famous                      c. beautiful                      d. immortal

Name	Answer	Reason

# THE EYES HAVE IT



## Before You Read

1. How many words can you use to describe eyes?
2. In the picture, find the pupil and the iris.
3. When does the *pupil* get bigger? When does it get smaller?

## Vocabulary

Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word

1. <i>dilate</i> (v.) ____	a. to become wider or larger
2. <i>biology</i> (n.) ____	b. the study of living organisms
3. <i>gorgeous</i> (adj.) ____	c. light created by the sun or nature
4. <i>natural light</i> (n.) ____	d. the science of life and living things
5. <i>biology</i> (n.) ____	e. very beautiful

## THE EYES HAVE IT

296 WORDS

I was standing in line at the cafeteria, checking Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Line, and five other social media apps on my phone. I wanted to see if she'd liked my posts.

So I didn't know she was standing right next to me.

"Hi," she said, as I turned and realized it was her. I jumped.

"Hi," I said, as calmly as possible.

I put my phone away, took a deep breath, and looked her in the eye, trying to remember what I'd just learned in my *biology* of human behavior class yesterday. If you want to know if a man or woman likes you, look at the pupils! Big black *pupils* means they like you—or maybe it's just really dark!

She was looking at me. I would describe her beauty, but I couldn't do it justice, so just picture the most *gorgeous* woman you know and it wouldn't even come close!!

Her eyes are brown, so it wasn't easy to spot the pupils. I didn't want her to know what I was doing, so I tried to be quick. The pupils were *dilated*! They were large, very large! Awesome! I glanced around the room. There was lots of *natural light*. Sometimes a dark room could make pupils big. But the room was light and she was looking at me, pupils almost fully dilated.

She likes me! Now I had to be strong. My plan for a while had been to invite her to watch a movie some evening. *The Goonies* was the movie that I'd overheard her talk about in our *biology* class together. She always sat with one of her girlfriends in the front. I always sat in the back.

I tried to draw the courage to speak up and I . . .

**THE END?**

### After You Read

1. What does the main character claimed he learned about eyes from his class? Do you think this is true or not?
2. Do you think the main character of this story is right or is he making a mistake? How would you feel in this situation?