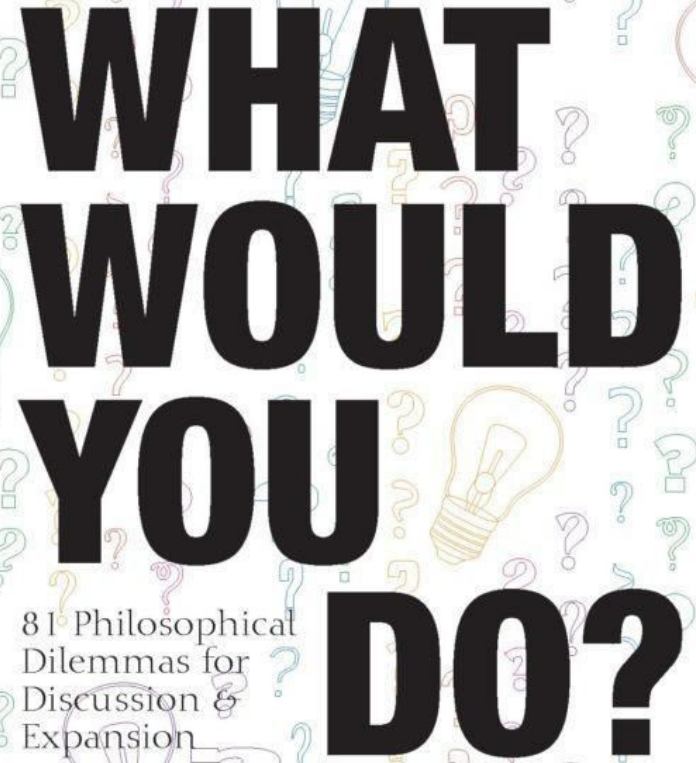




What Would You Do?

Hypothetical Situations for Dilemma and Debate in the Classroom
Creative Topics For Discussion and Expansion



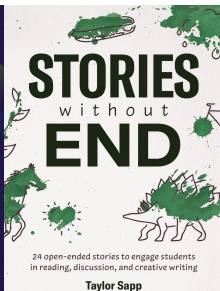
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

81 Philosophical
Dilemmas for
Discussion &
Expansion

TAYLOR SAPP

Contents

1. Background/Why I wrote this collection
2. Methodology
3. Background on Collection
4. Workshop: How to use the Situations
5. Feedback
6. References
7. Other Materials



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF?

Your best friend had a body odor problem?

Would you tell them directly, indirectly, have someone talk to them, or something else?

What if your smelly friend was also your secret crush? Does it matter if it's a boy or a girl?

Have you ever been in this situation before? Is good hygiene important to you?

What Would You Do? by Taylor Sapp is more than just a collection of 81 tricky hypothetical situations. Each dilemma includes suggested solutions, variations, and extension activities so they're easy to adapt to your students and your classroom. Use them as thoughtful and engaging warmers or as the start of a class discussion. Follow them up with one of the writing assignments or a project from the 16 games and activities in the appendix.

Unlike other quick conversation prompts, the dilemmas in *What Would You Do?* cover a wide variety of topics, for a range of ages and levels of English, such as:

- **EVERYDAY PROBLEMS:** *What if you had a friend who was always late?*
- **FUN SITUATIONS:** *What skill would you want instantly downloaded to your brain?*
- **ETHICAL ISSUES:** *Would you let someone steal to feed their family?*
- **FANTASY:** *What if a wizard anointed you the chosen one?*
- **TOPICAL SOCIAL ISSUES:** *Would you hire a qualified undocumented immigrant?*

ENGAGING, FLEXIBLE, FUN. WHAT WOULD YOU DO? IS YOUR STUDENTS' NEW FAVORITE ACTIVITY!

"I loved how both the stories and the accompanying questions are designed to appeal to real life and imaginary experiences" Catherine Noble, MA TESOL



www.alphabetpublishingbooks.com



1. Background/Why I wrote this collection

- 15+ Years Educator of teenage/adult International students.
- Background in education and creative writing.
- A huge lover of debate and considering all the sides of an issue. A true Gemini in every sense of the word!
- Variety and Adaptability: Discussion topics with easy transitions into discussion and projects



**“It is better to
debate a question
without settling it
than to settle a question
without debating it.”**

**- Joseph Joubert
(1754-1824)
French Moralist & Essayist**

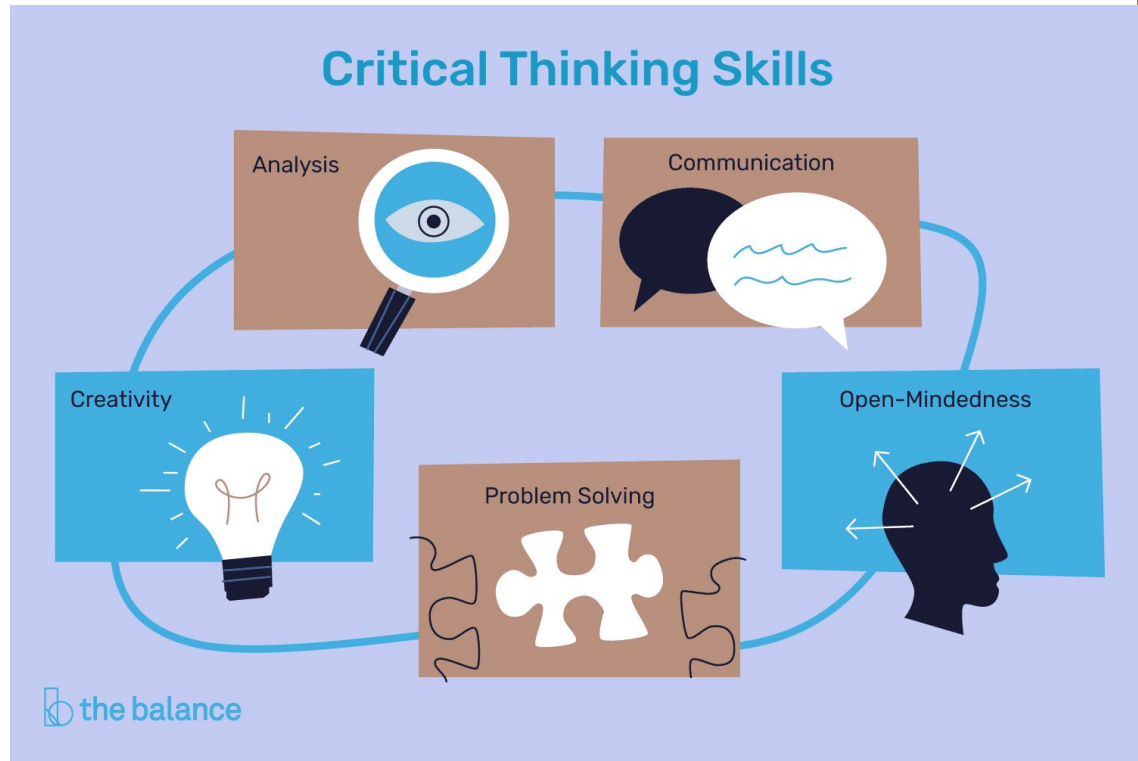
(Cited in [St. John's-Ravenscourt](#) | January 11, 2016)

2. Methodology: How Discussion Improves Critical Thinking

According to Samantha Agoos
(Ted-Ex)

1. **Formulate your question.**
2. **Gather your information..**
3. **Apply the information —**
4. **Consider the implications.**
5. **Explore other points of view.**

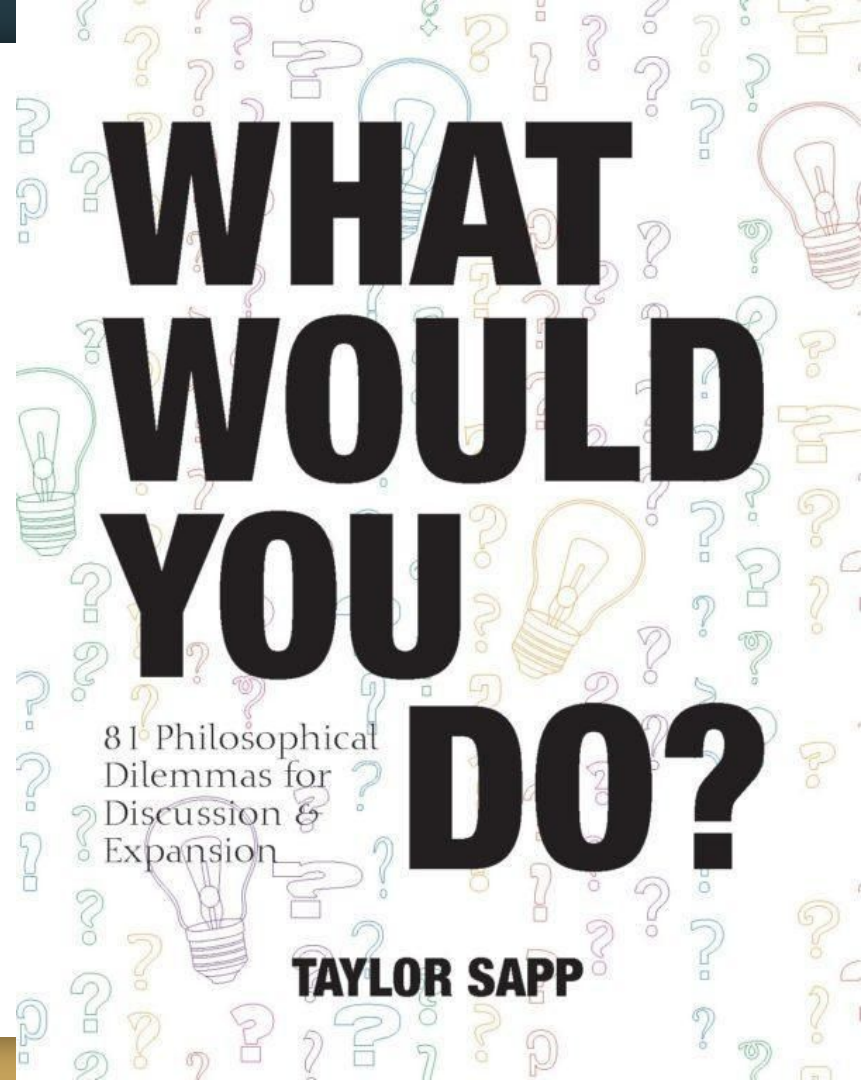
(Cited in LaBracio, 2016)



***In other words, discussing questions with multiple
points of view is an important key to critical thinking!***

What Would You Do?

- This book is a collection of 81 hypothetical situations for students to discuss. Each topic has been designed to be quick to get started with so that no outside resources are required (although the activities can be extended with research later). The goal is to prompt healthy discussion both inside and outside the classroom.
- Finding ways to get students talking (in particular ESL students from diverse countries, with different levels of conversational competence) requires a lot of different techniques. While I've found that conversation prompts can be effective, some students need more guidance than others. That's why this collection has been designed to help guide the students through the discussion process, while still being open-ended enough to allow considerable expansion, if desired!



Audience

- ESL and English speakers of all ages
- Beginners to Advanced (3 levels of complexity)
- Adaptable to other types of learners as well!
- “Something for Everyone” approach!
- Topics varied for interaction and discussion in many types of environments!
- Good as warmers or as full-class lessons!



Contents

Dedication

Introduction: How to use this collection

SITUATIONS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS

1. A Bad Meal	2
2. Pet Allergies	4
3. Bad Hygiene	6
4. Don't Bug Me!	10
5. Scary Pet!	14
6. Smile, Please!	16
7. Making Excuses	18
8. Hard Test	20
9. School Uniforms	22
10. After School, More School!	24
11. Teacher's Pet	26
12. Homeless Help	28
13. Hot Car	30
14. Lost Wallet	32
15. Go to Mars	34
16. Information Download	38
17. Smart Contacts	40
18. UFO Sighting	42
19. Universal Translator	44
20. Three Wishes	46
21. Ghost in Your Room!	50

22. Look Who's Speaking!	52
23. Magic Wand	54
24. Ninja Assassin	56
25. Superhero	58
26. Volcano Eruption	60
27. Zombie Bite	64

SITUATIONS FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS

28. Drug Users	68
29. Touchy Feely	70
30. Waiting for a Friend	72
31. Online Dating	74
32. Public Display of Affection	76
33. Teenage Love	78
34. Non-Binary Dating	80
35. Close Talker	84
36. Bad Service	86
37. Hug Me!	88
38. Left Laptop	90
39. Loud Neighbor	92
40. No Shoes, No Service!	96
41. Toilet Trouble	98
42. Wild Child	100
43. Spotless Mind Erasing	106
44. Teleportation	108
45. Gender Switch	110
46. Live Forever	112
47. Read My Mind	114
48. If I Were President	116
49. Lucky Lotto	118
50. Meet Your Hero	122
51. Wild Game Safari Hunting	124
52. Foreigner Discrimination	126

SITUATIONS FOR ADULTS

53. Bad Music	130
54. Child Discipline	134
55. Get Off the Phone!	136
56. Sleeping with Baby	138
57. Cheating Partner	140
58. Friends Fighting	142
59. Love Inequality	144
60. Mile High Club	148
61. Post-Marital Intimacy	152
62. Value Differences	154
63. Bathroom Friendly	156
64. Workplace Lies	158
65. Overpopulation	160
66. Robot Work Partner	164
67. Smart Self-Driving Car	166
68. Time Travel 1: Kill Hitler	170

Easy to Follow Layouts

Copyrighted Material

- 2 -

What Would You Do?

Friends &
Family

• *A Bad Meal*



The Situation:

You've been invited to have dinner at a good friend's house with their family. To your surprise, the meal they have made is so terrible that you are barely able to finish the first bite. The family is all looking at you and asking, "So, how is it?"

The Dilemma:

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN
YOU DON'T LIKE SOMEONE'S
COOKING?**

Copyrighted Material

Part I: Situations for Younger Learners

- 3 -

1. What Would You Do? (Explain your reasoning)

- Tell the family it's good and finish the meal?
- Tell the family it's good but make an excuse not to finish?
- Eat the meal but not say anything?
- _____

2. Variables: How would it change the situation if...

- instead of your friend's house, you are at...
 - your teacher's house?
 - your boss's house?
 - a stranger's house?
 - a restaurant (Does it matter if it's fancy or casual)?
 - your girlfriend or boyfriend's house?
 - you are allergic to something in the meal?
 - you find an insect in your food?
 - you saw the dog licking your food on the counter before you ate it?
 - you saw someone drop part of your food on the floor in the kitchen?
 - _____

3. Expansion Activities for Discussion and Writing:

- Have you ever been in this kind of situation before? If so, what did you do?
- What is the best meal you've ever eaten at a friend's house?
- What is the worst meal you've ever eaten at a friend's house? Did you eat it?
- What are some important table manners that your family followed growing up?
 - Were they similar or different at other people's houses?
- Discuss or write** a short response to the following food-related expressions:
 - There's no such thing as a free lunch.
 - The way to someone's heart is through the stomach.
 - It takes a good heart to be a good cook.

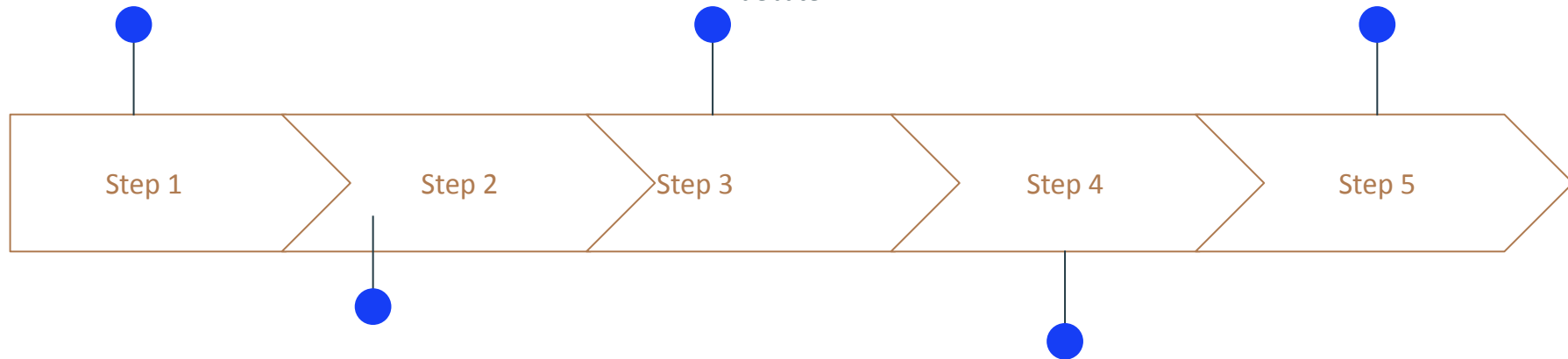
- **1. The Situation**

- **3. Variables**

- **5. Supplements**

- Promotes additional critical thinking and debate

- 12 Categories



- **2. What Would You Do?**

- Multiple choices
- Blanks for Ss to make new choices

- **4. Expansion Activities**

- Writing
- Interviews
- Other communicative tasks

1. **The Situation:** A brief description of the hypothetical situation. Some are simpler and more general, while some refer to more specific, even actual historical, events, especially at the higher complexity level.
2. **The Dilemma:** A one-sentence summary of the issues presented in the situation and the choice students must make.
3. **What Would You Do?** A list of potential answers to the dilemma. These are provided to give students some ideas. However, a blank answer is provided at the end of the list to account for the fact that it would be impossible to list all of the potential choices! This is also a good way to foster expansion of the topic.

4. Variables: A list of factors that might change the students' answers to the dilemma. I found it particularly important to add this section, as many of the dilemmas are open to deeper discussion when changing certain aspects of the situation such as the setting and context, or the age, or gender of the actors. There are also some fantastical variables to appeal to students' creativity and imagination, such as the difference between being bitten by a zombie or a vampire!

5. Expansion Activities for Discussion and Writing: This section is primarily designed for taking the situations beyond the warmer stage, and make for great homework assignments. Questions here could be answered in writing as essays or journals, given as interviews, or conducted as debates. While certainly usable in the classroom, the goal of this section was, as the title states, to give options to educators looking to spend more time with any of the situations.

Workshop!

- 2 -

What Would You Do?

Friends &
Family

• *A Bad Meal*

The Situation

- Read situation as a class, or groups, or as HW.
- Pictures to relate to each topic.

The Dilemma

- Stated simply in one sentence.
- Can be used as a prompt by itself (also see supplement cards)



The Situation:

You've been invited to have dinner at a good friend's house with their family. To your surprise, the meal they have made is so terrible that you are barely able to finish the first bite. The family is all looking at you and asking, "So, how is it?"

The Dilemma:

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN
YOU DON'T LIKE SOMEONE'S
COOKING?**

1. What Would You Do?



1. What Would You Do? (Explain your reasoning)

- a. Tell the family it's good and finish the meal?
- b. Tell the family it's good but make an excuse not to finish?
- c. Eat the meal but not say anything?
- d. _____

- Multiple choice answers to situation.
 - Discuss question with partner/group.
- Blanks for Ss to create their own answers!

2. Variables

- Additional choices to encourage additional discussion and critical thinking.
- Examine the situations from multiple perspectives!

2. Variables: How would it change the situation if...

- a. instead of your friend's house, you are at...
 - i. your teacher's house?
 - ii. your boss's house?
 - iii. a stranger's house?
 - iv. a restaurant (Does it matter if it's fancy or casual)?
 - v. your girlfriend or boyfriend's house?
 - vi. you are allergic to something in the meal?
 - vii. you find an insect in your food?
 - viii. you saw the dog licking your food on the counter before you ate it?
 - ix. you saw someone drop part of your food on the floor in the kitchen?
 - x. _____



More choices -
more thinking!

3. Expansion Activities for Discussion and Writing

- Additional discussion questions related to the topic.
- Writing prompts and other activity options.

Open-Ended opportunities!

3. Expansion Activities for Discussion and Writing:

- Have you ever been in this kind of situation before? If so, what did you do?
- What is the best meal you've ever eaten at a friend's house?
- What is the worst meal you've ever eaten at a friend's house? Did you eat it?
- What are some important table manners that your family followed growing up?
 - Were they similar or different at other people's houses?
- Discuss or write** a short response to the following food-related expressions:
 - There's no such thing as a free lunch.
 - The way to someone's heart is through the stomach.
 - It takes a good heart to be a good cook.

Friends & Family · *A Bad Meal*



Supplements Overview

SUPPLEMENTS: Additional Activities for Expansion

The following supplements can be used to take any of the situations in exciting new directions! If pushed for time, the Dilemma Cards (Supplement 9) can be used for an extra quick warmer!

Supplement 1: Essay Writing

Supplement 2: Debates

Supplement 3: Interview

Supplement 4: Experiment

Supplement 5: Create a Story

Supplements 6: Drama

Supplements 7: Make a Movie

Supplements 8: Create Your Own Dilemma

Supplements 9: Dilemma Cards

Supplements 10: Dilemma Games

Additional Information at:

<https://www.alphabetspublishingbooks.com/boook/wwwyd/>

9. Supplements 8: Create Your Own Dilemma

Create your own interesting dilemma! Follow the steps below! Add a picture/drawing if you can!

Title:
Add picture/drawing here!

- The Situation (Describe in a short paragraph)**
- The Dilemma (In one sentence, describe the dilemma)**
- What Would You Do? (Write 3 or more options)**
- Variables: How would it change the situation if...(Write 3 or more Variables)**
- Expansion Activities for Discussion and Writing (Write 2 or more Extra Questions related to your dilemma)**

10. Supplement 9-1: Simple Dilemma Cards

Use the cards below for discussion, writing, or other activities.

SIMPLE DILEMMA CONVERSATION CARDS		
1. Would you keep a new pet if your sibling was allergic to it?	10. Would you be a teacher's pet to get better grades?	19. Would you still study languages if you could wear a device that could translate any language instantly?
2. Would you eat a dinner at a friend's house if you hated the cooking?	11. Would you be willing to take three hours of cram school after school to prepare for college?	20. What would you wish for if you had three wishes?
3. Would you tell your friend who has a hygiene problem?	12. Would you give a homeless person your change?	21. Would you leave if there was a ghost in your bedroom?
4. Would you kill a spider in your house or try to put it outside?	13. Would you try to help if you saw a dog alone in a hot car?	22. What would you do if your pet could talk?
5. Would you be willing to live with someone with a scary pet (like a spider or snake?)	14. Would you return a lost wallet you found on the street filled with money?	23. Would you be willing to fight a dragon if you had a magic wand?
6. Would you tell a friend who's always serious to smile more?	15. Would you be willing to live on Mars?	24. Would you run away or fight if a ninja was hired to kill you?
7. Would you tell the truth if you're late to class for no good reason?	16. What one type of information would you like to learn instantly right now?	25. Would you become a superhero if you had superpowers? (flying, super strength, vision, etc..) use?

Reviews and Feedback



“I loved how both the stories and the accompanying questions are designed to appeal to real life and imaginary experiences” —Catherine Noble, MA TESOL

“I know the most difficult but important thing is to keep thinking and say it, so if people use this book to study, they can get the power of imagination and expressing their thoughts.” – Honoka S., ESL student

“It’s really interesting the topics we discuss about them, since we’re in global time and class is multicultural so we can see reactions each other and different thinking could extend our opinion and make us more flexible to address [different] topics” Amal A., ESL student

“I think this kind of discussion is super useful. It stimulates my curiosity. Discussing whether euthanasia was the best choice was very interesting.” Yudai H., ESL student

“[Discussing these topics helped me think about how] no one chose to be from a poor country, everyone should be equal.” Meznah A., ESL student

More Information

What Would You Do? Is Available at:

- Alphabet Publishing
- Amazon.com
- Barnes & Noble
- Teachers Pay Teachers
- Other online retailers

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Alphabet Publishing: Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/alphabet.publishing/>

Taylor Sapp

Twitter: **@TaylorSapp6**

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STORIES without END

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

Taylor Sapp

Additional Materials

- Stories Without End - Open-Ended Creative Stories
 - **ELTON - Finalist 2nd Edition coming soon with additional stories and content.**
 - Teacher's Guide, 2 Sample Stories (including **Choose A Path**) and additional supplements available at:
<http://www.alphabetpublishingbooks.com/book/stories-without-end/>
- ***What Would You Do? And Stories Without End Prompts***
 - <https://englishprompts.com/>
- Stories Without End - SF/Fantasy
 - Finished and Unfinished Dramas
- Dramas Without End - Unfinished Dramas
- Other new projects TBA!