

Story Structure Template

BAD-DAD

Hook	<p>First, I want to tell you a story about a really bad day in my life. You may relate — if not to the details, probably the feelings. I hope you never go through this. I thought telling the children that you and their mom were divorcing had to be the mother of all bad days, but it wasn't even close. It was just the beginning of the worst days to come.</p>
Setup	<p>For years, the tension in the house had been so thick you could slice it. My anger and resentment toward my wife had been building while the kids tiptoed around the edge to avoid the abyss that we called our marriage. It was like living in a war zone. And they were the orphaned victims. This, I thought, is the worst failure of my life. I can't make this marriage work and I don't have a clue how to help these kids feel better.</p>
Parachute	<p>Gathered in the kitchen, my wife and three kids sat around the table. With a shaky voice I whispered, "Your mother and I can't live together anymore because we don't love each other." My youngest son climbed into my lap as the two older children stood around with tears streaming down their face. He smiled, begging for approval, and said, "But you still love me, don't you, daddy?"</p>
Theme	<p>After the divorce, I was no longer in the house. I was a failure. My kids didn't need to be around a failed dad, I thought, so I only showed up only when required — school functions, ball games, and the occasional movie. Emotionally, I had checked out. Work became my identity. That's when the real trouble started.</p>
Transition	<p>Something is missing in your child's life. Chances are it's you.</p>
The Sell	<p>If that rings true for you, it's time for a new plan! Your old plan doesn't work any longer. The first was to ignore it hoping the pain would go away. That didn't work so well. The next plan seemed logical: If talking only drives the kids further away, then don't talk. Maybe if we just wait until they're grown, and try it again then. . . Another bad idea. Bad relationships fester with venom creating a cancer that robs us of our joy and our right minds.</p>
Tie	<p>After 15 years of struggle, honesty, hard work, undying love and commitment, and a rock solid devotion to the 10 secrets contained in Bad Dad: 10 Keys to Regaining Trust, my kids are shown in the right picture sitting on my back porch, loving life and their dad. We express our love and caring, freely, openly and sincerely. We've built bonds that will never be broken. We trust each other to do the right thing, not always the easy thing.</p>