

## Conference Paper

# Star Book Media Development to Improving Story Writing Skills and Caring Character for Grade IV Elementary School Students

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## Abstract

The purpose of this research and development is to produce a Star Book Media that can be used to improving story writing skills and caring characters for grade IV elementary school students who are declared eligible from media experts and material experts. This research and development refers to the Borg & Gall (1983) development. Data collection techniques used in this study is interviews, expert validation, questionnaire responses of teachers and students, writing tests and observation. Star Book media is declared eligible to improving story writing skills and caring characters for IV grade students based on the validating of media experts and material experts. Material experts provide a final score of 5 with a very good category. Media experts provide a final average score of 4.69 with a very good category.

**Keywords:** Caring Character; Star Book Media; Writing Stories; Elementary Students

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## 1. Introduction

Noble character is essential for human life. This can be characterized by the behavior of his daily life whether at home, at school, or in the lives of the surrounding community [1]. To achieve that character, one can be done in school through learning. Lickona said that, "Children are 25 percent of the future population. If we want to renew society, we must awaken a generation of children who have strong moral character. If we want to renew that society, we have two responsibilities. First, modeling good character in our own lives, and second, deliberately encouraging the development of character in our youth".

The emergence of several problems that currently occur cannot be separated from the phenomenon of the rapid development of science and technology. Muslich said that the recent moral crisis could be overcome by character / character education in every school environment, namely in the field of education and teaching carried out by teachers together with their students [3]. Character education [4–6] is a growing

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educational initiative that supports students' social, emotional, and ethical development. The best way to teach character is to give students the opportunity to apply concepts in real life situations [7].

One of the characters that began to look faded was eroded by the development of the era today is a caring character. This is not only caused by technological advances and times that have changed, it is precisely the factors from within to become more instrumental. Caring character is an attempt to think about their self, the needs of others or try to help others [8]. Further care is interpreted as an activity to help solve problems faced by others with the aim of the individual or the common good [9]. Yulianti & Hartatik [10] explained that caring characters are very important in order to foster a sense of brotherhood and kinship, and to distance themselves from arrogant, selfish and individual nature. These various understandings show that caring is the attitude of paying attention to something, both to himself and outside himself. This attitude is highly recommended for everyone, especially in community life.

Many opportunities can be used by teachers in developing character, one of which is found in the learning of Indonesian Language and Literature in each educational institution [11]. Indonesian Language and Literature lesson through thematic learning in schools should be able to achieve the goal of caring character education through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Through literature children can develop their personality [12, 13]. Primary school students will be more easily enhanced by their caring character and story writing skills if done through material in everyday life. Material in everyday life is either through listening, speaking, reading, or writing.

Tompkins and Hoskinsson said that the language skills in schools which include listening, speaking, reading and writing are closely related, so that each skill underlies the other's skills [14]. This understanding shows that writing skills are skills acquired after students can read, can speak, and can previously listen. Students can write if they are used to reading or seeing anything. Through reading or being seen, students can easily develop their ideas or ideas into a story that can be told or discussed and or written down. Thus, it is very logical if someone cannot write because they cannot read or have never even known writing.

The problem requires the teacher to use and show students about the process of writing stories through the media. According to the type, the media is distinguished by the media of view (visual), hear media (audio), and media of hearing (audio visual). For learning to reading and writing, there are more than 10 types of media [15, 16]. In this study Media Star Book was chosen to make effective story writing skills and caring characters. Star Book Media or often referred to as a star book is a collection of images

or texts and explanations arranged in series using a star-shaped binding technique. This book can be star-shaped, when the front and back covers are put together.

Star Book Media that will be developed can also be used for various purposes, including: identifying images, streamlining speaking skills, reading skills, story writing skills through students' imagination. Therefore, the theme of "*The beauty of togetherness*" in IV Elementary School theme is used as a basis for developing material in improving learning to write stories and improve caring characters in which there are material about stories, elements of stories consisting of: themes, message, plot, settings, and storytelling styles as well as serial stories containing values of caring characters.

The serial images in the Star Book presented to students must implement caring character. Abbas states that serial images are drawing media in the form of a sequential / chronological event that can help students find ideas and tell stories [17]. The serial image is usually in the form of a pictorial story. Picture stories are an art form that uses immovable images arranged in such a way as to form the fabric of a story [18]. In line with this opinion [19] explained that a series of drawings is a series of activities or stories presented sequentially. Matulka [20] describes some of the components that need to be considered in making a series of storybooks including the outside of the book, shape and size, other supporting parts, Illustration, and Typography. Through this Star Book media, the themes and subjects that are combined in grade IV elementary school can encourage students to learn to write stories through story writing activities based on Star Book media. Using Star Book media learning activities can support a fun learning atmosphere. In addition, students can also learn other subjects presented in storybooks using Star Book media.

The development of fourth grade elementary students in addition to happy playing and friendship, they are also experiencing rapid motor development, social development is also rapid. The development of the language also experienced similar things. Through these developments, the characters are also expected to be easily improved. Therefore, through various characteristics of student development it is necessary to teach writing stories and develop caring character for elementary school students. However, in the school where this research will be conducted the media to improve story writing skills in the form of Star Book does not yet exist.

The Media Star Book requires the teacher to be able to use it and explain it to students about how to write stories and develop caring character values based on the series images. Through the Star Book media, students can be creative. Thus, through the Star Book media students are expected to be able to develop their ideas and ideas into a story that contains the value of caring characters and the story contains elements

of theme, message, plot, setting, style, and good storytelling. Thus, the media is said to be an effective medium to improve story writing learning based on caring characters in class IV.

## 2. Material & Methodology

The model used in this study is research and development from Borg & Gall [21]. This research was conducted school in Yogyakarta that have implemented the 2013 curriculum, namely Kintelan Elementary School and Surokarsan Elementary School. The instruments in this study were presented in the form of tests and non-tests in the form of interviews, observations, questionnaires and validation of experts to measure the feasibility of Star Book media. To produce a development product that is feasible and effective, an instrument is needed to be developed from the quality indicators of the Star Book media in accordance with the selected sub-themes. From this instrument, the quality of the product appears. The following are aspects assessed by media experts and material experts.

TABLE 1: Assessment aspect of material experts and media experts.

No	Material Aspect	Media Aspect
1	Linguistic	The outside part
2	Presentation	Shape and Size
3	Suitability of the picture with the story	Supporting Section
4	Format and content of the material	Illustration
5	Use for teachers	Typography
6	Usage for students	-

Before conducting research data, interviews and observations were analyzed using descriptive techniques. Data obtained through research instruments are used to validating the quality of products developed. Validating data to material experts and media experts will be analyzed with descriptive statistics. The score obtained is then summed and averaged, then converted to categorize scale of 5.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Result

The results of this study are described based on the learning media development procedures from Brog and Gall [22]. This research only reached the 7th step of 10

research and development procedures from Brog and Gall. Preliminary research and information collection were carried out at Kintelan Elementary School and Surokarsan Elementary School Yogyakarta to analyze existing needs or problems with the interview method of the teacher. The results of interviews in the initial research show that some students still experience difficulties in developing the story. Based on the results of interviews with teachers, basically the teacher has a lot to know about the media in improving students' writing skills.

Story books are widely available in libraries, teachers rarely use storybook media in the classroom. Usually the teacher asks students to read in the library to be able to develop stories made by students. Besides that, activities that can improve students' skills in writing stories are by giving examples of stories. The teacher gives a reading to students, then students are asked to summarize the contents of the reading. Other activities are to make a synopsis and make a story based on the picture provided by the teacher.

Caring character development in schools has been done using pictures, posters and video shows. The teacher states that in learning there are difficulties in linking characters concerned with learning. Usually caring character development activities are carried out by using video shows prepared by the teacher, but this is rarely done because of the limited facilities owned by the school. The teacher uses sanctions for students who break the rules and give gifts to students who do good things.

Collecting information is obtained by conducting a literature study related to development research and other references as additional information related to the media to be developed. In addition, researchers also conducted observations of several storybook media that were in accordance with the development of students and the media of story books that attracted students' attention. Some information obtained from literature studies is used as a basis for consideration of products to be developed. This is expected to be the basis for product development that will be in accordance with needs.

The researcher analyzes the results of gathering information in the initial research. The analysis shows findings related to several problems. These problems include student difficulties in developing story writing skills, lack of storybook media that support the development of story writing skills and the limitations of teachers in linking caring characters in classroom learning. With this problem the researchers tried to develop a series of picture story series media using an interesting form of star shape.

The selection of Star Book media has the first reason related to the characteristics of students who are easily attracted or have more attention to colors and images especially in books that have interesting shapes. Whereas the second reason related

to the development of character caring for students can be developed by integrating the caring character values in the story which is used as an example in the Star Book media. The Star Book media developed is designed to be used in classroom learning in groups with teacher assistance to help students understand how to develop ideas into stories. Therefore the Star Book media is also equipped with information related to the elements in the story that are used as examples and a story framework that can be used as a reference for students in developing the story they will make. Following are the stages of Star Book Media development that have been carried out in this study.

### **3.1.1. Star book book concept**

The concept used in the development of Star Book media is a story of everyday experience. The experience told is an experience that is familiar with the students' lives at the research site. This book is made contextually by observing experiences that are close to students. The use of characters who care about the environment can be applied in everyday life. Therefore, with the development of this Star Book, students can develop their writing skills and also recognize the caring character values presented in the story.

### **3.1.2. Book Format and Size**

This book is made in large size so that it can be used in groups. This book measures 38 cm x 48 cm with 12 pages, not including the front and back covers. In addition, this media is bound using a star binding technique. The Media Star Book is equipped with presenting the elements in the story and outline story as an example to be developed independently by students. Message on this story is an application of caring characters, especially for the environment that can be applied by students in daily life.

### **3.1.3. Book title**

The title of the story is used as the title of the Star Book media. The story titled "*Trio Heroes of the Environment*" contains the friendship of three elementary school children and their experience in cleaning up a dirty environment. Concern values are shown through the behavior of three characters in the story in an effort to work together to clean up a dirty environment.

### 3.1.4. Figure

The main character in the Star Book media is a boy named Andi. Andi is a good, friendly and leader-minded child. Besides that, Andi also has caring characters as shown in the story when Andi and his friends clean the dirty river. The friendly portrayal of Andi is shown through the togetherness of Andi playing with his friends. The selection of Andi as the main character is intended so that students have awareness and concern for the surrounding environment. In addition, researchers expect elementary students as story readers to be able to become pioneers of clean and environmental care.

### 3.1.5. Material selection

The material presented in the Star Book media entitled "*Trio of Environmental Heroes*" is material that has been adapted to the level of development of students, especially fourth grade elementary school students. The material is made in accordance with the stages in developing the story properly and correctly. First, students are shown examples of stories. Students are then asked to analyze the elements in the story. The teacher then shows the story outline for students to make independently and developed into stories.

Stories Example is about the application of caring characters in everyday life are based on close experience with elementary school children. Theme chosen is an environmental theme. The selection of environmental themes makes it easy for children to apply caring characters in stories to students' daily lives. The use of brightly colored images supports story text and material to be easily understood by students. Language is made simple so that it can attract children's attention to diligently read and understand the contents of the story.

### 3.1.6. Selection of illustration type and color

Illustration use picture that are close to students and in accordance with the development of fourth grade elementary school students. The selection of figures refers to characters who have noble characters. This is done so that the illustration used attract students' attention and encourage children to become like characters in the story. The preparation of the illustrated storybook in this series refers to the media and material requirements for grade IV elementary school students. The developed Star Book media is truly in accordance with the curriculum and media requirements in the fourth grade

elementary school. The selection of colors used in this study uses bright colors that are adjusted to the color requirements in the story.

### **3.1.7. Make a star book media design**

The first stage in developing the Star Book media design is to create a book design template. Selection of images that are in accordance with the material and stories in the Star Book media. The design of the image initially uses illustration from the internet, then based on suggestions from media experts finally the images are created manually. Images that have been created manually are then processed digitally and given coloring through the Photoshop CS 6 application. After the image is finished, it is then rolled out with material that has been developed using Corel Draw X5.

### **3.1.8. Typographic selection**

Typography used in the development of Star Book media uses one type of font, the font is "*linnote*". This font is chosen by considering the type of letters that students can easily imitate in the form of handwriting.

### **3.1.9. Print technique**

The type of paper used by researchers to print the cover page and the contents is ivory 210 paper. In the finishing process the researcher binds with the star binding technique. After finishing the book binding process Star Book media can be formed like a star.

### **3.1.10. Validation test**

The product design that has been developed by the researcher is then validating on media and material experts to know the feasibility of Star Book media products that have been developed. The first validation of media expert test resulted in a total score of 68 with an average of 4.25. This shows that the score obtained in this media validation categorize into the "very good" category. Media expert gave several suggestions including the use of illustration should use original images (not from the internet). In addition to the use of images need to adjust the story text and the use of colors should use bright colors to attract students' attention.



In the second stage of media validation it is known that the total score is 75 with an average of 4.69. This shows that the score obtained in this media validation categorize into the "very good" category. In second validating media, Star Book media has experienced an increase in scores, but there are still some things that need to be considered so that the media is more in line with the media standards used in learning. Media expert provide some suggestions regarding the suitability of the font size in the story text should be made larger, so that it is not too small and easily read by students classically. Furthermore, researchers should pay attention to the ease of use of media so that it is easy to use both by teachers and students in learning. Guides as much as possible are made more coherent and clear.

Based on the validation by material experts, the total score was 64 with an average of 4. This showed that the score obtained in this media validation test was in the "good" category. The material experts gave a number of suggestions including the writing of a few words in the story should be adjusted to the EYD. In addition, the illustration should be adjusted according to the text story. The illustration must show the three characters clean up the environment to suit the theme and learning objectives to be achieved. The use of images is more varied and uses images that attract the attention of elementary school students.

The second stage of material expert validation obtained a total score of 80 with an average of 5. This shows that the values obtained in this media validation test categorize into the "very good" category. In this second test the media has experienced an increase in scores and without any revisions from the material experts. The following is a summary of the total score from the validation of media and material experts.

TABLE 2: Summary of total score of media and material experts.

Validation Stage	Media Expert Score	Category	Material Expert Score	Category
Stage 1	4,25	Very Good	4	Good
Stage 2	4,69	Very Good	5	Very Good

Products that have been declared feasible by the media and material experts are then tested on a limited scale (*Preliminary Field Testing*) and expanded scale (*Main Field Testing*). In addition to knowing the use of Star Book media on writing stories lesson, researchers also asked for coment and suggestions from teachers and students through questionnaires to respond Star Book media used.

The average score of writing story skill Kintelan elementary school students in the preliminary field testing was 78.33. Aspects of ideas and content show very good results. This shows that the use of Star Book media can overcome the problem of difficulty

writing students' ideas into stories. The aspects of writing are still showing poor value, therefore the teacher can improve students' skills in writing stories through teacher revision activities on students' writing. In the main field testing the average score of writing story skill Surokarsan elementary school student was good, which was 85.5. This is because the Star Book media has revision based on teacher suggestion on the preliminary field test, so students are easier to write stories.

### 3.2. Discussion

The research of development Star Book media began with the need of the teacher to providing interesting media in the form of illustrated storybooks in writing stories lesson. Besides this development research is also based on the aim of adding book references that can be used by students to learn to write stories while knowing the values of caring characters. The need for storybooks with interesting forms was obtained from interviews with fourth grade elementary school teachers at Kintelan Elementary School and Surokarsan Elementary School.

The teacher revealed that the storybook was effective enough to be used in class when learning. Media Star Book contains examples of stories, elemental analysis in stories and story outline. This media can help teachers writing story skills lesson to fourth grade elementary school students. In addition the use of illustrated storybooks can be used as medium for teachers to show the application of caring character based on activities that show by figure in the story.

Through story text that shows the application of caring character, students are given an overview of problem solving related to an event that surrounds them. The development of Star Book media needs to attract students' attention to focus on classroom learning, so the selection of illustrated storybooks that have a unique form (star shape) can stimulate students' creativity in writing stories. This is consistent with the opinion of Semi who explains that writing is a creative process of moving ideas into the symbol of writing [23]. So that the Star Book media is very appropriate to be used to bring students creativity in developing their ideas into story text.

Star Book media provides an overview of the application of caring characters to students. In addition students can develop story writing skills through the process of analyzing stories in the Star Book media which can be used as student references to develop it into another story. Stories that suit the environment around students can help students more care about their surroundings. This was supported by Kosasih's

statement which revealed that material in elementary schools (SD), especially in the high class is a story based on observations of the environment around students.

This research uses Borg and Gall product development research. This study was carried out until the 7th stage, namely the revision phase before the operational field tests. The results obtained are Star Book media which are declared appropriate by material experts and media experts. This study received a final average of 5 for material experts in the Very Good category. In addition to media experts, the development of Star Book media received an average score of 4.69 in the Very Good category. Advice and input from media and material experts in the form of writing improvements that do not match the EYD and the use of images that are not in accordance with the story.

The title of the story contained in the Star Book media is "*Trio of Environmental Heroes*". The use of the title is adjusted to the content of the story which gives a picture of the character caring for students. The Star Book media tells of the three main characters, Andi, Budi, and Tono who collaborate to clean up the dirty river. Furthermore, the actions of the three characters in the story received an award from the Village Head in the form of the title "*Trio of Environmental Heroes*". It is expected that students can applying the caring characters from the three characters in the story in the daily life.

Furthermore, in the Star Book media the elements in the story are presented. The teacher can explain various elements in the story to be a reference for students in developing their story. At the end of the Star Book media page, the outline of the story is presented based on the title of the story "*Trio of Environmental Heroes*". The teacher can provide an explanation to students to modify the story framework into an outline story that students will develop. The trick is to replace the elements in the story such as characterization and character, settings, and the message of the story. Themes are elements that cannot be replaced, so students can implement caring characters in their stories. Through the activity of developing stories based on stories made by students, story writing skills will increase and make students easier to develop their skills to write stories.

Based on the analysis response of the fourth grade teachers Kintelan Elementary School, Star Book media received an average score of 3.1 with a very good category. The assessment is based on the rating scale 4. The results indicate that the Star Book media is very helpful for teachers in learning. This media not only presents illustrated stories, but is also accompanied by an explanation of the elements of the story and the story outline. The story outline will be very useful in teaching writing story skills to students. Students can more easily develop their ideas through the creation of an story outline.

The implementation of learning to write the story of fourth grade students of Kintelan Elementary School using Star Book media received a positive response from students. This was shown through the activities of students who were more active in expressing their ideas. Based on the teacher's assessment of story writing skills, students get an average score of 78.33. Besides that, based on the students' assessment on the Star Book media, the student response questionnaire scored 115 of the maximum score of 132. Based on the assessment, the Star Book media proved to be able to facilitate the learning process and attract the attention of students in Kintelan Elementary School.

In addition to the opinions of teachers and Kintelan Elementary School students, the fourth grade teacher response questionnaire of SD Surokarsan received a score of 3.5 with a very good category. Surokarsan elementary school teacher revealed that the illustration used were very interesting for students. The teacher also revealed that the themes taken in the story and the behavior of the story's characters really inspired students to do great things in applying caring characters. Through this media, it is expected to encourage grade IV students to develop story writing skills and also apply caring characters in daily life.

When assessing the writing skills of fourth grade students of SD Surokarsan, the average score of students was 85.5. This shows that students can develop story writing skills using Star Book media. Whereas based on the scores obtained from the student response is 206 of the maximum score of 220. Students are interested in using this media because the Star Book media is unique and provides interesting examples of stories. According to the students, the images in the Star Book media make it easier for students to imagine events experienced by "*Trio of Environmental Heroes*".

Learning using Star Book media makes it easy for students to develop story writing skills. Tompkins and Hoskisson say that the most important way that needs to be done in writing learning is to form the concept of stories for students [25]. Previously Surokarsan Elementary School teacher revealed that students have difficulty in finding ideas to develop story writing skills. After using Star Book media, students are easier in developing stories. This is because students are easier to develop the concept of the story based on the analysis carried out on examples of stories in the Star Book media.

Star Book media contains caring characters. This can be seen from the message that is used as a message to students to care about the surrounding environment. Lickona that schools can help students form attachments of attention to adults and each other [26]. This caring relationship will foster a desire to learn and a desire to be a good person. Caring characters can be developed through modeling (example). In addition to using examples, teachers can provide illustrations of how to develop caring

characters through stories. Raatma states several aspects of caring characters, one of which is keeping the environment clean [27]. In addition, teachers can develop their own based on aspects that arise related to caring characters.

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research that has been done, it can be concluded that the Star Book media is declared feasible to improve story writing skills and caring character of fourth grade elementary school students based on the validation of material experts and media experts. Material experts provide a final score of 5 with a very good category. Than Media experts provide a final score of 4.69 with very good categories. Based on this result, the Star Book media can be used in learning to write stories for fourth grade elementary school students and to implement caring character through story in Star Book media.

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