

FUN FRIDAY: Six Degrees of Consequence

Source: [Tennessee Association for the Gifted – TAG](#), Facebook, September 11, 2026

This one was a hit with my students this week.

The premise is pretty simple. A squirrel gets into the school. Six steps on a consequence ladder later, someone is on national television.

The challenge? Students have to create a chain that nobody else in the room is likely to think of. But every step has to be realistic, connect logically, and eventually get them to the final event. (And yes, I had to specifically veto aliens and superpowers.)

Once they had their chains, I asked them to identify the weakest link. Which consequence was the hardest to believe? Could they revise the chain to make that connection stronger?

Then I made it harder.

I wrote the constraints on notecards and had students draw one at random. Maybe a typo had to cause a major consequence. Maybe a birthday cake had to create a turning point. Maybe the entire chain had to depend on a paperclip being in exactly the right place at exactly the right time. One group might suddenly have to figure out how a flamingo, a meteorologist, a \$5 bill, or a lost sock could become a significant part of the chain.

The important part was that they couldn't just stick the object into the story somewhere and move on. It had to matter. And the chain still had to make sense.

It was funny. It got ridiculous. And they loved it.

But underneath all of that, they were thinking about cause and effect, possibility, logical connections, flexibility, originality, and revision. We finished by looking at which consequences were intentional and which were unintended.

You could change the beginning and ending to connect this to almost anything you're teaching. Or you can use mine.

Personally, I'd keep the squirrel.

Happy Fun Friday! May your consequences be logical and your squirrels remain outside.

Here are my slides: <https://docs.google.com/.../14D.../edit...>