

Grade 4 English Language Arts
Week of November 23 – November 27

Lesson 1: Elements of a Story

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to say YES to the following questions.

- Can I follow the steps of the writing process to write a short story?
- Can I use my knowledge of the elements of a story to create a good story?
- Can I know what I need to write an engaging and interesting short story?

ELEMENTS OF A STORY

You might be asking, what are elements of a story? The following is a list of elements to guide you through this unit. We will be studying each element in detail.

PLOT

WHAT happens in the story. The order of events in the story.

CHARACTERS

WHO the story is about, the people in the story that carry out the actions.

SETTING

WHEN and WHERE the story takes place.

THEME

The MAIN IDEA of the story. The message or lesson the author wants you to learn.

CONFLICT

A struggle in the plot, the PROBLEMS the character(s) deal with or problem they overcome. There are different types of conflict, including; INTERNAL CONFLICT and EXTERNAL conflict.

What is a Plot ?

A plot is what happens in a story. It can be looked at in smaller chunks to help us better understand the story. It can be broken down into 3 sections:

Beginning, Middle, and End.

B E G I N N I N G

The beginning of a plot will introduce **character**, the **setting**, and the **conflict**.

M I D D L E

The middle of a plot will show the rise of action. The story starts to get interesting!

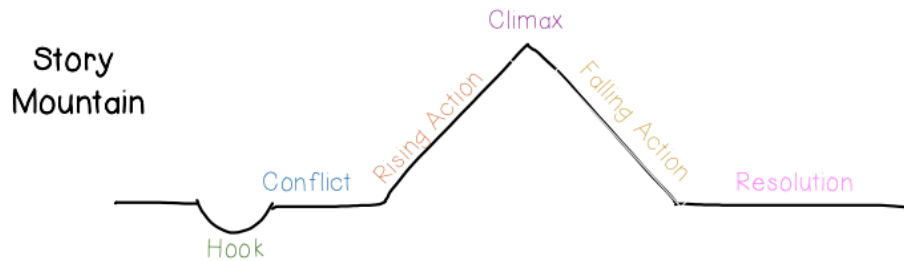
E N D

The end of a plot will solve the problem and teach a lesson. This will show us the **theme** of the story, and what the **author's purpose** for writing it.

Plot Structure

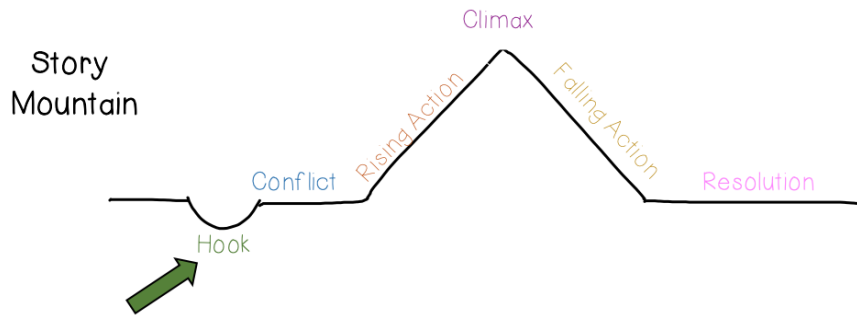
Plot Structure

A plot structure is *how the story is written*. Within the chunks of beginning, middle, and end, there are more detailed parts to the plot. All stories tend to follow this plot structure, or “story mountain”.



Hook	The hook is the introduction. This is where the author will introduce the characters and setting of the story.
Conflict/ Problem	The problem or conflict is what the story will be mostly be about. The author usually introduces the problem early in the story.
Rising Action	The rising action are the events that help the reader understand the conflict going on in the story.
Climax	The climax is the most exciting part of the story. It is usually the main event.
Falling Action	The falling action is the part that happen after the climax. It is leading to the solution of the problem.
Resolution	The resolution happens at the end. This is where the main problem gets solved.

Hook



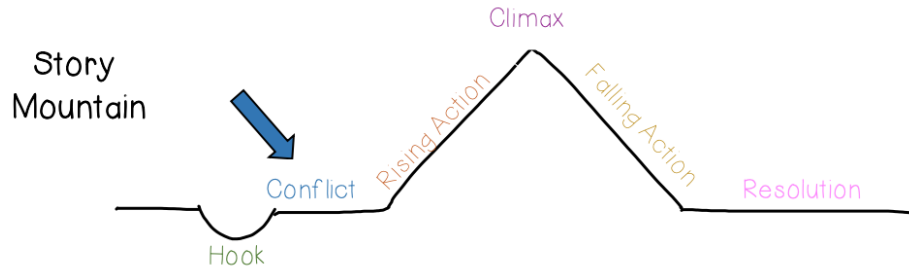
Hooks

A hook is the start of your story. The first few words or sentence should *hook* the reader and keep them interested in reading the entire story.

Here are some fun ways to start your writing to keep your reader hooked!

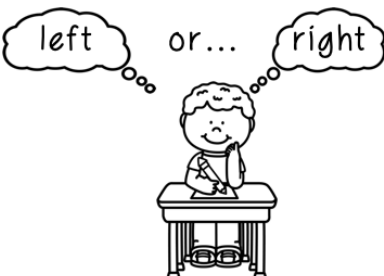
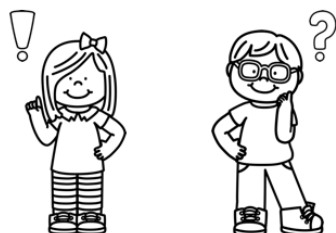

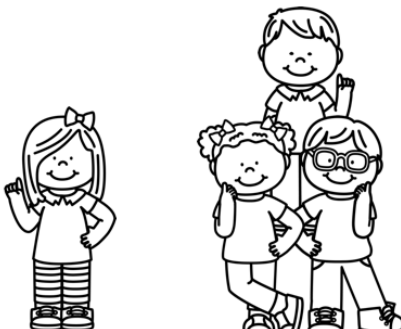
Question	"What is the scariest thing that has happened to you? You will never believe what I saw!"
Dialogue	Dialogue is what the characters are saying to each other. You can hook your reader by starting with a conversation between characters.
Emotions	Describe the feelings of a character. "I had never felt so excited before as I opened my eyes!"
Sound Words	Sound words are words that sound like a noise. Crack! Boom! Bang!
Setting	The setting is where the story takes place. Describe the setting when starting your story. "The air around me was so cold on my skin as I laid in the snow."

Conflict



Types of Conflict

All great fiction stories have some type of conflict. There are four main types of conflict an author might choose to add into the plot structure of their story. Sometimes stories might have more than one type of conflict.

<p>Character vs. Self</p> <p>The main character faces a decision battle.</p> <p>left or... right</p> 	<p>Character vs. Character</p> <p>The main character has conflict with another character.</p> 
<p>Character vs. Environment</p> <p>There is a force of nature that creates a problem.</p> <p>How do I get around this storm?!</p> 	<p>Character vs. Society</p> <p>The main character faces conflict with a group.</p> 

Complete the following.

Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. There is a beginning, middle, and end of each plot. What are the 3 elements introduced in the beginning of a plot?

2. The theme and author's purpose are showed at what point in the plot?

Circle one: Beginning / Middle / End

3. Label the blank Story Mountain below.

Word Bank:		
Climax Falling Action	Resolution Conflict	Rising Action Hook

Story Mountain

