

Grade 5 English Language Arts
Week of November 2 – November 6

Lesson 5: Explore Elements of a Short Story

A Recipe for the Elements of a Story

So to help you remember the elements of story, first imagine a chef baking a big cake.

The chef is a key player because the story won't get made without someone to mix all the ingredients together. Think of the chef as the main character of the story. Anyone helping in the kitchen or who will be eating the cake can be seen as the other characters in the story.



Think of the frosting on the cake as the setting. It is the outside exterior that everyone sees.

Think of the frosting message written on the cake as the theme. This is the message the chef wants delivered to the people eating the cake. It is the reason why the cake was made. It could range from "Happy Birthday!" to "Congratulations!"

Think of the layers of cake as the plot. The tiers of the cake going up and up are the rising action with the top layer of the cake being the climax of the story.

Think of the little figures on the top tier as representing the point of view. Whoever is situated there, it is their point of view the story is told from.

The cake won't bake up without heat! Think of the heat from the hot oven as the conflict. It's what causes the cake's ingredients to cook up a delicious treat for the reader.

Now get creative and do *Cooking Up the Elements of a Story* activity

2.4 Explore Elements of a Short Story



Cooking up the Elements of a Story!



Directions: Draw a picture of a cake or take one from the Internet (with adult approval). Then label each part as it were an element of a story based on the information in your lesson. Include a short description as well.

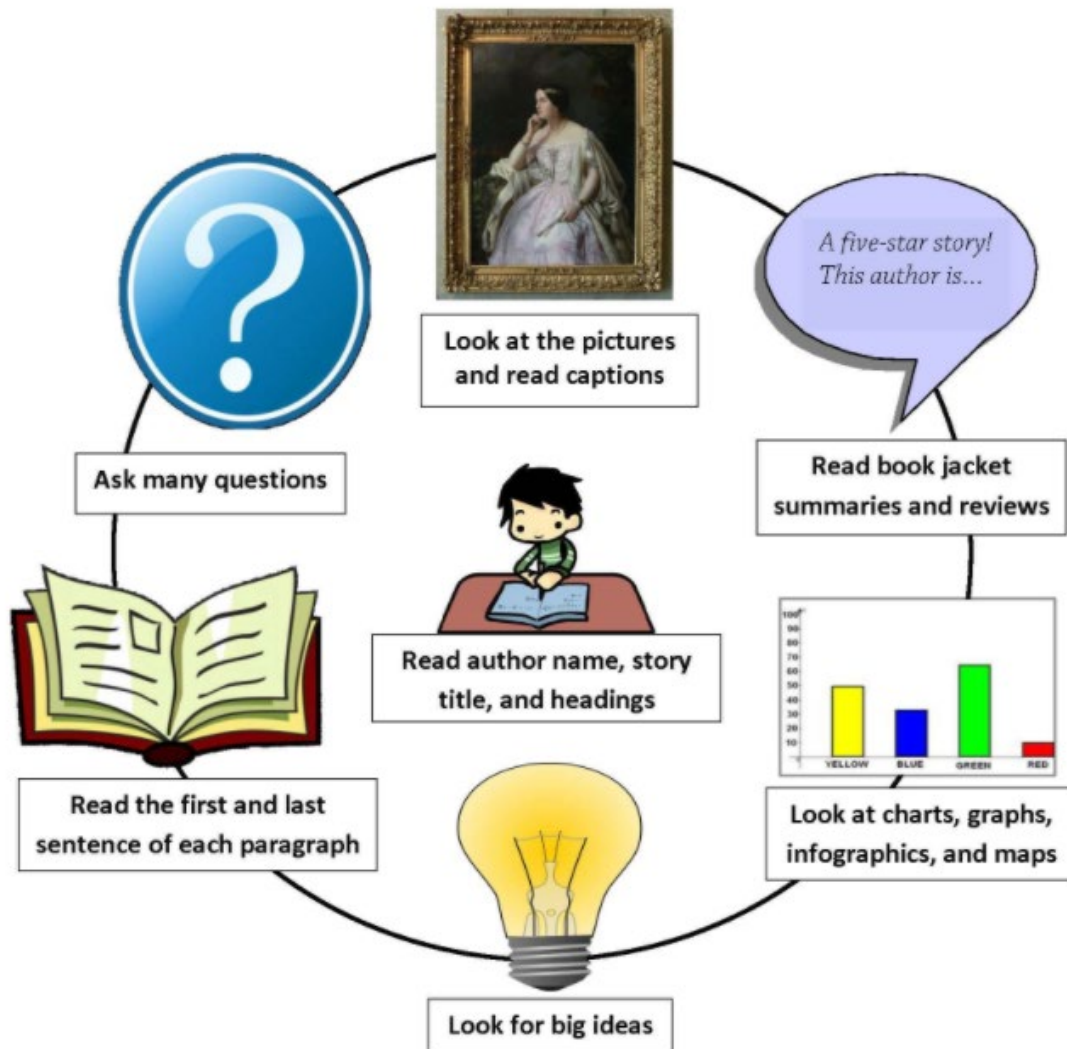
Story Breakdown Practice

A **fable** is a very short story that teaches a life lesson. Talking animals are often the main characters. Examples are the *The Ant and the Grasshopper* or *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

You will be reading the fable *The Hare and the Tortoise* on the next page.

Use your pre-reading strategies first.

Read Around the Text



The Hare and the Tortoise



ack to a time long ago, there lived a hare who liked to boast of his speed to any of the animals in the forest who would listen to him.

"I have never yet been beaten!" Hare said. "When I put forth my full speed, no one can beat me. I challenge anyone here to race with me."

Tortoise said quietly, *"I accept your challenge."*

"That is a good joke," said the hare. "I could dance round you all the way to the finish line."

"Keep your boasting till you've beaten me," answered the tortoise. "Shall we race?"

So a course was fixed and a starting point was made. All the animals came out to watch.

Hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped. To show his contempt for Tortoise, he decided to lie down to have a nap. He fell asleep without a worry.

Tortoise plodded on and plodded on. He did not go very fast, but he never stopped. When Hare awoke from his nap, he was shocked. He saw Tortoise just near the winning-post. He started running right away. Despite all his strength and speed, Hare could not run fast enough to catch up.

Tortoise crossed the finish line and the other animals cheered for him. Then said Tortoise, *"Plodding wins the race."*

[adapted from Tales with Morals](#)

You can check your understanding of the story elements of *The Hare and the Tortoise* on the Story Breakdown Sheet on the next page.



Story Breakdown

Title: The Hare and the Tortoise

CHARACTERS – Who

SETTING – When & Where

PLOT – What Happened & Why

Exposition _____

Rising Action _____

Climax _____

Falling Action _____

Resolution _____

CONFLICT _____

THEME – Author's Message _____

Name: _____

Date: _____



Story Breakdown Sheet

Title: *The Hare and the Tortoise*

CHARACTERS – Who

The hare

The turtle

The other animals

SETTING – When & Where

In a forest

On a race course

A long time ago

PLOT – What Happened & Why

Exposition: The hare bragged he could beat anyone in a race.

Rising Action: Tortoise accepts Hare's challenge to race. Hare decides to take a nap during the race because he is so sure he will win.

Climax: Hare wakes up and realizes Tortoise is close to the finish line!

Falling Action: Hare tries to catch up, but he is too late. Tortoise wins.

Resolution: The animals cheer for Tortoise and Hare is sad.

CONFLICT: Hare vs. villagers (he brags and annoys people), Hare vs. Tortoise (they race), Hare vs. self (he was too cocky and lost the race)

THEME: Working consistently will lead to success. Bragging, but not putting in the work, will not lead to success.

Now it's Your Turn!

Now it is your turn to find three other fables to read and analyze using the *Story Breakdown* sheets provided in this PDF. If you don't want to do fables, you can choose fairy tales or other short stories that you have access to. You can find the tales online (with adult approval) or you can go to your local library and take out fables either in an individual book or in a collection.

Here are some websites with stories you can check out:

[Aesop's Fables](#)

[Chinese Fables](#)

[Fairy Tales of the World](#)



Story #1 Breakdown Sheet

Title: _____

CHARACTERS – Who

SETTING – When & Where

PLOT – What Happened & Why

Exposition _____

Rising Action _____

Climax _____

Falling Action _____

Resolution _____

CONFLICT _____

THEME – Author’s Message _____



Story #2 Breakdown Sheet

Title: _____

CHARACTERS – Who

SETTING – When & Where

PLOT – What Happened & Why

Exposition _____
Rising Action _____

Climax _____
Falling Action _____

Resolution _____

CONFLICT _____

THEME – Author’s Message _____



Story #3 Breakdown Sheet

Title: _____

CHARACTERS – Who

SETTING – When & Where

PLOT – What Happened & Why

Exposition _____
Rising Action _____

Climax _____
Falling Action _____

Resolution _____

CONFLICT _____

THEME – Author’s Message _____