



Story elements

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read to the student and help the student to record their answers.

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Stories have a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

The beginning of a story tells you *who* the story is mostly about, and *where* the story mostly takes place.

The **characters** are *who* the story is mostly about.

The **setting** is *where* the story mostly takes place.

The middle of a story tells you the *things that happen* in the story.

The **events** are the *things that happen* in the story.

The **plot** is *all of the events* in the story. The plot usually includes some kind of *problem*.

The ending of a story tells *how the problem is solved*.

The **problem solution** is *how the problem is solved*.

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Think about these story elements as you listen to this story.

The Littlest Dragon

The littlest dragon on the mountain was called Sparkle, because his hide was pure white, and sparkly. Some of the dragons were blue, some were green, and some were red. But Sparkle was the only all-white dragon in their group.

One sunny day, Sparkle climbed up to the top of the mountain. He sat down on a big rock and looked out at the ocean. The mountain was on an island with long sandy beaches. Sparkle shook his head. He was worried. It was almost time for their group of dragons to fly south for the winter, and Sparkle had not yet learned to fly. His mom had tried to teach him. His dad had tried to teach him. His big sister had tried to teach him. But every time Sparkle jumped up and flapped his wings, he just tumbled down the hill.

Sparkle heard a sound, and turned to look. A gray seagull had flown down, and was perched on the rock beside the little dragon. It was a big seagull, but compared to Sparkle it was quite small. The seagull was about as big as one of Sparkle's feet.

"Why were you shaking your head?" the seagull asked.

"I have a bit of a problem," said Sparkle. "But who are you?"

"I am Sage," the seagull said. "I am called Sage because I am very wise. What is your problem? Maybe I can help you with it."

Sparkle lowered his large head. "I can't learn to fly," he said.

"Everyone has tried to teach me. But when I jump up in the air, I just tumble down the hill."

Sage moved his head slowly up and down, thinking. Then he looked at Sparkle. "Will you show me your take-off?" he asked.

Sparkle stood up. He jumped as hard as he could and started flapping his wings. He tumbled down the hill.

Again Sage moved his head slowly up and down. "I think I have the answer!" Sage cried. "You're trying to push yourself up with your legs. You have to pull yourself up with your wings! You have to start by raising your wings up high. Then move your wings down hard. You only have to jump a little bit."

Sparkle climbed back up the hill. He looked at Sage for a minute. He raised his wings up high. Then he pushed his wings down hard, and jumped just a little bit. He felt the air moving under his wings, and he flapped them some more. Then he stretched his wings out and soared. Sparkle was flying!

Sage flew up and joined his new friend, Sparkle. They flew up high. They flew down close to the ocean. They sailed around in circles.

After a while, Sage called, "Time for me to go home, Sparkle!"

"Goodbye, Sage!" Sparkle called back. "And thank you for this gift of flying! You are very wise!"

Now let's think about the **story elements**.

1. **Characters:** *Who* is this story mostly about?

Blue Dragon	Sparkle and Sage	Sparkle and his mom
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2. **Setting:** *Where* does this story mostly take place?

in the desert	on a beach	on a mountain
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3. **Problem:** What problem does one story character have?

Sparkle cannot fly, and it is time to fly south for the winter.	Sparkle is afraid to climb to the top of the mountain.	Sparkle does not have any friends.
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4. **Event 1:** Which event happens first in this story?

Sparkle shows Sage how he jumps when he tries to fly.	Sparkle climbs to the top of the mountain.	Sage comes and sits beside Sparkle.
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5. **Event 2:** Which event happens second in this story?

Sparkle shows Sage how he jumps when he tries to fly.	Sparkle climbs to the top of the mountain.	Sage comes and sits beside Sparkle.
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6. **Event 3:** Which event happens third in this story?

Sparkle shows Sage how he jumps when he tries to fly.	Sparkle climbs to the top of the mountain.	Sage comes and sits beside Sparkle.
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7. **Problem Solution:** How is one of the character's problem solved?

Sage shows Sparkle how to fly.	Sage tells Sparkle to pull himself up with his wings.	Sage tells Sparkle not to worry about learning how to fly.
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8. How does thinking about **story elements** help you to understand the story better?

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## Answer Key

1. Sparkle and Sage
2. on a mountain
3. Sparkle cannot fly, and it is time to fly south for the winter.
4. Sparkle climbs to the top of the mountain.
5. Sage comes and sits beside Sparkle.
6. Sparkle shows Sage how he jumps when he tries to fly.
7. Sage tells Sparkle to pull himself up with his wings.
8. Accept any reasonable answers. For example, paying attention to the setting, the main characters, the problem, and the main events in the story can help you picture what is happening. This helps you understand and remember what is most important in the story.