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 <u>beginning</u>, a <u>middle</u>, and an <u>ending</u>.

The <u>beginning</u> 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 <u>middle</u> 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 <u>ending</u> 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 <u>story elements</u> as you listen to this story.

Little Mouse Makes a Big Mistake

Mouse and Lion are friends. They live in the African grasslands. Lion likes to sleep under a shade tree for most of the day. It is very hot in the grasslands. Every day, Mouse runs far and wide through the grasslands. He likes to know everything that is going on. In the evening, Mouse comes back and tells Lion all the news. After the sun goes down and the air gets cooler, Lion sometimes decides to go for a run. He lowers his huge head and invites Mouse to hop up. Mouse hops up, and then hangs on for dear life.

During the day, while Lion is sleeping, Mouse checks on all the animals. He likes to watch the zebras as they graze on the grass, swishing their tails. He likes to watch the hippos being lazy in the river. He likes to watch the giraffes eating the tender leaves from the tops of the trees. Most of all he likes to watch the elephants. The baby elephants play in the river near the hippos. They use their trunks to spray each other with water. The

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mother elephants watch the babies carefully, and call them to come out of the water if there is any danger.

Mouse keeps himself well hidden when he is watching the elephants, because everyone knows that elephants are afraid of mice. But one day mouse made a mistake. He was so interested watching the baby elephants play that he forgot to keep himself hidden. One of the mother elephants saw Mouse. She reared up on her back legs and lifted her trunk in a mighty trumpeting roar. The babies ran to their mothers, and the elephants began to run. Dust was thick in the air as they ran, and the ground shook.

"Oh no!" thought Mouse. "I have scared them all away! They may never come back!" And he ran to find his friend, Lion.

"Lion, Lion!" Mouse cried. "I have scared the elephants, and they are running away. What can I do?"

Lion lowered his huge head and told Mouse to hop up. Mouse hopped up and then held on for dear life. Mouse told Lion which way to go, and Lion ran fast. First, Lion saw the dust in the air. Then he saw the elephants running. He circled around them, far to their right. He passed them, and kept running ahead of them. He jumped up on a big rock and turned to face the elephants as they ran toward him. Then he roared.

It was a mighty roar. It was louder even that the mother elephant's roar. It shook the ground. Mouse hung on for dear life, and squeaked. He hid in Lion's fur. The elephants slowed down, and then they stopped. They stopped right in front of Lion.

"Elephants!" Lion shouted. "There is no danger! You have my word. Go back to your home."

Slowly, the elephants began to turn around. They headed back to their home.

Lion lay down on the rock and stretched himself out. It was hot, and he was tired. Mouse hopped down and sat beside him.

"For such a little mouse," Lion said, "you certainly caused a big problem."

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

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

Mouse and Lion	baby elephants	a mother elephant

2. **Setting**: *Where* does this story mostly take place?

an island	the African grasslands	a lake

3. **Problem**: What problem does one story character have?

Mouse scares a mother elephant.	Lion sleeps for most of the day.	The baby elephants play in the water.

4. **Event 1**: Which event happens first in this story?

Lion's roar stops the elephants.	Mouse runs to get Lion.	A mother elephant sees Mouse, and cries out.

5. **Event 2**: Which event happens second in this story?

Lion's roar stops the elephants.	Mouse runs to get Lion.	A mother elephant sees Mouse, and cries out.

6. **Event 3**: Which event happens third in this story?

Lion's roar stops the elephants.	Mouse runs to get Lion.	A mother elephant sees Mouse, and cries out.

7. **Problem Solution**: How is one of the character's problem solved?

Mouse goes for a ride on Lion's back.	Lion tells the elephants that there is no danger.	Mouse hides in Lion's fur.

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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. Mouse and Lion

2. the African grasslands

3. Mouse scares a mother elephant.

4. A mother elephant sees Mouse, and cries out.

5. Mouse runs to get Lion.

6. Lion's roar stops the elephants.

7. Lion tells the elephants that there is no danger.

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.