

Name: _____ Date: _____

Reading Comprehension: Story Elements: Plot

Directions: Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.

Introduction to Beanboy Bean

Bean loves comics—both reading them and drawing them. His favorite comic book character is the superhero H2O. With enough water, H2O can double in size. Bean buys every new issue of the comic book on the day it comes out. In Lisa Harkrader's book, *Beanboy*, we meet Bean when he has just bought the newest issue of H2O. Sam, a boy Bean knows but doesn't like much, grabs Bean's new comic book and throws it into a puddle of water. All this makes Bean almost late to pick up his younger brother Beech at the bus stop. Bean runs all the way to the bus stop. He is worried about what might happen if he isn't there when Beech gets off the bus. Beech is 9 years old, and he goes to a different school from Bean. Bean is in the 8th grade and in High School. He takes care of his brother in their apartment each day until their mother gets home from work. Their mother also takes college classes at night.

Bean gets to the bus stop just in time, and walks home with Beech. Beech doesn't like going up the stairs to their apartment. He likes to sit down backwards on the stairs, and push himself up, one step at a time. Bean used to try to talk Beech into walking up the stairs, but now Bean just waits. It isn't easy to get Beech to change his mind about something.

When Bean and Beech finally get inside, Beech wants Bean to read the new comic book to him. Beech can't wait to find out what happens in the new story. Bean wants to let the comic book dry out first. He is afraid the wet pages will tear. But Beech keeps asking, so Bean reads the comic book to him, and some of the pages do get torn. Bean doesn't really mind though, because he can't believe what he finds on the last page of the new comic book.

The new comic book has a big announcement. There will be a contest to see who can come up with the best sidekick for H2O. The prize will be a full college scholarship. The new sidekick will be in every H2O comic book from that time on. Winning the contest becomes Bean's new goal in life.

Bean really wants to join the school Art Club. But it meets after school. Someone else would have to take care of Beech on those days, and that would cost money. Bean thinks his mom would pay for it, but then she would worry about the extra expense. He knows his mom worries about leaving him to watch Beech so often. And would a babysitter be patient enough to wait while Beech scooted up the stairs sitting down backwards? You can find out more about Bean and Beech, and a sidekick for H2O in *Beanboy*. You will probably enjoy the comic book drawings in the book as well.

Now let's think about the plot.

1. Events: What are the main things that happen in the story?

Some of the following are main events in this story. Some are small details, and some did not happen in this story.

Select the box with the 6 main events in this story.

___ a. The new H2O comic book announces a big contest.	___ b. Bean's mom says that he can't join the school Art Club.	___ c. Beech scoots up the stairs backwards on his bottom.
___ d. Bean runs all the way to Beech's bus stop.	___ e. Bean's new comic book gets torn.	___ f. Bean lets the new comic book dry out before he reads it to Beech
___ g. Bean worries about Beech staying with a babysitter.	___ h. Bean and Beech live in an apartment.	___ i. Sam throws Bean's new comic book in a puddle.
___ j. Sam says he is sorry for getting Bean's new comic book wet.	___ k. Bean thinks about joining the school Art Club.	___ l. Bean's mom decides to quit her job.

2. Put the main events in the correct order. Write the letter of the event from the boxes above in the correct order in the boxes below.

First Event	Second Event	Third Event	Fourth Event	Fifth Event	Sixth Event