

Focus on Plot

Read the following short story. Then fill out the plot diagram on page 81.

The New Kid

When Anya heard they were going to have a new student in their class, she was excited. She had been the new kid for the past two months. She was still too shy to make friends. Maybe she would get along with this new kid.

The next day, the new student arrived and the teacher introduced him. "Everyone," she said. "This is Manik. He's from India, and he doesn't speak much English yet, so please make him feel welcome."

From India! Anya thought, pleased. Her own family was from India. She had been born in the United States and only knew English, but her parents spoke Hindi. Maybe they would be able to talk to Manik and help him learn English.

At lunch, she approached Manik sitting by himself. He looked at her, and all at once she remembered that they didn't speak the same language. She hesitated, embarrassed, then said, "Hindi?"

His face lit up in a smile. "Yes," he said, nodding eagerly.

"My house after school?" Anya asked. Manik nodded. He could understand her, even if he couldn't answer her.

When Anya took Manik to her house, her parents were delighted to meet him. They invited him to stay for dinner, and the four of them talked in English and Hindi, helping Manik learn. They were so happy that Anya had finally made a friend.

Focus on Plot, continued

Fill out the plot diagram below.

The New Kid

Characters: _____

Setting: _____

Turning Point

Solution

Problem

The diagram features a central story arc with three main points: 'Problem' at the bottom left, 'Turning Point' at the top, and 'Solution' at the bottom right. A curved line with arrows connects these points. Below 'Problem' is a rectangular box for notes. Above 'Turning Point' is a large rectangular box for notes. Below 'Solution' is another rectangular box for notes. To the left of the arc are four horizontal lines for notes, and to the right are five horizontal lines for notes.