Reading Stories: Details and Themes



Name: _____

Class: _____

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Section 1: Find and Recount Story Details

Objective: Identify and order key details from a story using pictures and text.

Vocabulary: detail (a small fact in a story), **character** (a person or animal in a story), **order** (what happens first, next, and last).

Story Review: The Lion and the Mouse

A great lion was sleeping under a tree. A tiny mouse ran across the lion's paw and woke him up. The lion caught the mouse with his heavy paw. The mouse begged for mercy, so the lion let the mouse go free. Later, hunters trapped the lion in a strong rope net. The little mouse heard the lion roar. The mouse chewed through the thick ropes and set the lion free.



Card A: The lion rests under the tree.



Card B: The mouse chews the rope net.

1. Which sentence tells a true **detail** from the story? Tick one box.

- ☐ The lion baked fresh bread in the kitchen.
- ☐ The mouse chewed through the ropes to help the lion.

2. Put these story events in order from **1** (first), **2** (next), to **3** (last). Write the number on the line.

Order	Event
	The mouse chewed through the rope net.
	The lion caught the mouse and then let it go.

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	The lion was caught in a trap made of ropes.

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Section 2: Retell Events from Diverse Stories

Objective: Retell important actions and match details to events in diverse folktales.

Vocabulary: folktale (an old story passed down over time), **event** (something important that happens), **retell** (tell the story in your own words).

Story 1: Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom

In a story from Ghana, Anansi the spider put all the world's wisdom into a clay pot. He decided to tie the pot to his stomach and climb a tall tree to hide it. The pot bumped his knees and made climbing very hard. His son looked up and told him to tie the pot to his back instead. Anansi saw that his young child had wisdom too. Anansi tipped the pot and let the wisdom blow across the whole world.

1. Number these events from **1** to **3** to show the order of Anansi's actions.

Order	Story Event
	Anansi tipped the pot and shared the wisdom with everyone.
	Anansi gathered the wisdom of the world inside a clay pot.
	Anansi tied the pot to his stomach and tried to climb the tree.

Story 2: The Empty Pot

A wise emperor in China gave a flower seed to every child. He said whoever grew the finest flower in one year would become the next ruler. A boy named Ping planted his seed in rich soil. He watered it every day, but nothing sprouted. When the year ended, other children carried pots filled with colorful flowers. Ping brought only his empty pot. The emperor smiled and said the seeds had all been cooked, so none could ever grow. Ping was the only honest child.

2. Match each detail with the correct person or group. Write **Ping** or **Other Children** in each empty cell.

Person or Group	Story Action
	Carried pots with tall, bright blossoms.

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	Brought an empty pot because his seed did not grow.
	Watered the cooked seed each day with care.

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Section 3: Connect Events to Theme

Objective: Identify a central theme and choose story events that support it.

Vocabulary: theme (the big lesson or message of a story), **support** (details that show the idea is true), **evidence** (proof from the story).

Worked Example: A theme is not just what happens. It is the lesson the reader learns about life. For example, in "The Lion and the Mouse," the theme is: **Even small friends can do great things.**

Story: The Two Travelers and the Bear

Two companions walked together down a quiet forest road. They promised to stand by each other if trouble came. Suddenly, a huge black bear stepped onto the path. The first traveler rushed forward, grabbed a branch, and hid high up in a tree. The second traveler was left alone. Knowing bears do not touch still bodies, he fell flat on the ground and held his breath. The bear sniffed his ears, decided he was not alive, and lumbered away into the woods. The man in the tree climbed down and laughed. "What did that bear whisper in your ear?" he asked. The second traveler replied, "The bear told me never to travel with a companion who leaves his friend in danger."

1. What is the best **theme** or lesson of this story? Tick one box.

- ☐ A true friend stays to help when trouble arrives.
- ☐ Bears only walk in cold, dark forests.
- ☐ Climbing a tall tree is always the safest plan.

2. Which action from the story supports the theme that friends must care for one another?

Option A

The first traveler climbed the tree and left his friend alone on the ground.

Option B

Both travelers walked together down a dirt path through the green forest.

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Section 4: Theme in Everyday Stories and Poems

Objective: Recount events, characters, and settings that reveal a story's theme.

Vocabulary: setting (where and when a story happens), **community** (a group of people who share a space and care for each other).

Fictional practice text: The Last Bus

Basketball practice at the school gym ended late. Lena zipped up her jacket and walked toward the exit. Near the glass doors, she saw David, a new student, staring at the bus schedule on the wall. His shoulders were slumped. "Did you miss the four o'clock bus?" Lena asked. David nodded quietly. Lena walked back to the coach's office and got the schedule for the late activity bus. She sat on the bench by the gym door with David until the yellow bus pulled up. Both students stepped onto the bus together.

1. Fill in the chart below using details from the text.

Story Part	Detail from "The Last Bus"
Characters	
Setting	
Helpful Action	

2. The theme of "The Last Bus" is: **A small act of kindness can help someone feel supported.** Which event best supports this theme? Tick one box.

- ☐ Lena sat and waited with the new student so he would not be alone.
- ☐ Basketball practice finished late in the afternoon.
- ☐ The school gym had glass doors near the exit.

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Answers

Section 1: Find and Recount Story Details

1. ☑ The mouse chewed through the ropes to help the lion.

2.

Order	Event
3	The mouse chewed through the rope net.
1	The lion caught the mouse and then let it go.
2	The lion was caught in a trap made of ropes.

Section 2: Retell Events from Diverse Stories

1.

Order	Story Event
3	Anansi tipped the pot and shared the wisdom with everyone.
1	Anansi gathered the wisdom of the world inside a clay pot.
2	Anansi tied the pot to his stomach and tried to climb the tree.

2.

Person or Group	Story Action
Other Children	Carried pots with tall, bright blossoms.
Ping	Brought an empty pot because his seed did not grow.
Ping	Watered the cooked seed each day with care.

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Section 3: Connect Events to Theme

1. ☑ A true friend stays to help when trouble arrives.

2. Option A (The first traveler climbed the tree and left his friend alone on the ground).

Section 4: Theme in Everyday Stories and Poems

1.

Story Part	Detail from "The Last Bus"
Characters	Lena, David (and the coach)
Setting	School gym / gym entrance
Helpful Action	Lena checked the late-bus list and waited with David.

2. ☑ Lena sat and waited with the new student so he would not be alone.

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