International School of Monterrey

Junior High School **__th Grade**
Trimester ___ **Literature**

Name _____ **Date** _____ **List #____-____**

Plot Stages

Exposition

Exposition is where a writer introduces the elements of his or her story—characters, setting, and conflict.

Read each example. Could it work as exposition? Select *Yes* or *No*.

1.  Hector nervously looked at the doorway of his new school. Broadmoor Tech wasn't for everyone. Only the best students could get in. Would he succeed? ◯ Yes ◯ No

2.  Hector opened the envelope and pulled out a sheet of paper. "I did it!" he cried. His grades were all A's and B's. He could stay at Broadmoor Tech! ◯ Yes ◯ No

3.  Hector put away his grades and turned on his computer. Relieved, he could now focus on the summer project that he and his new friends had planned. ◯ Yes ◯ No

Rising Action

Remember, rising action is where "the plot thickens." It contains complications and events that stand in the way of solving the conflict.

Read each example. Would it be part of the rising action? Select *Yes* or *No*.

4.  "Look, it's going to be okay," Leo said. "You made an honest mistake, and you didn't steal anything. We'll just bring the wallet back and—oh!" He gasped. He'd left the wallet on the table—and now it was gone! ◯ Yes ◯ No

5.  "What a relief," said Dr. Patel. "I have been driving myself crazy trying to think where I left my wallet." He patted Leo and Marcus on the shoulders. "I am so grateful that such honest kids found it." ◯ Yes ◯ No

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Climax

As a character tries to solve his or her problem, the story's tension grows. The climax of a story is the point of greatest tension. At the climax, something happens to show how the problem will be solved.

Read each example. Could it be a climax? Select *Yes* or *No*.

6.  As the runners climbed the steep hill, Jim felt his shoes slipping on the path's leaves and gravel. ◯ Yes ◯ No

7.  Jim struggled, forcing his legs to keep moving. His lungs were on fire, but the end was in sight. ◯ Yes ◯ No

8.  Jim crossed the finish line, then stopped running and sat down by the side of the road. ◯ Yes ◯ No

Falling Action

Remember that in the falling action stage of a story, the conflict comes closer to being resolved, and the tension eases.

Read each example. Could it be part of the falling action? Select *Yes* or *No*.

9.  "I think we've got problems," Rufus called from the main cabin. "We're still 30 miles off shore, and the radar says a storm is coming!" ◯ Yes ◯ No

10.  After the last of their boat had slipped beneath the water, they huddled together in the soggy life raft and waited. Soon it would be daylight, and they would be rescued. ◯ Yes ◯ No

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Resolution

11. The resolution is the final part of a story. Here, the problem has been solved, and most of the reader's questions will have been answered. The story ends in a way that makes sense.

[ ] Which statement could be a resolution? Write the letter of your choice in the blank square.

A) Michelle had promised her father that she would find a summer job.

B) Michelle searched the want ads every day. She made dozens of phone calls.

C) Her father was proud of Michelle for finding a job that would help her pay for college.

D) Michelle struggled through interview after interview.

Identifying Plot Stages

Match each part of this story to its correct plot element.

12.	Amazingly, the deer came his way and stood still.	A)	Exposition
13.	Jeff had been trying to photograph a deer all day.	B)	Rising Action
14.	When he moved, the deer saw him. Would it run?	C)	Climax
15.	The photos would be perfect—and close-ups, too.	D)	Falling Action
16.	The first deer he saw ran quickly out of range.	E)	Resolution

Then next to the number write the letter that matches its correct plot element.

12.			13.			14.			15			16.	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Plot Stages

17. ☐ The conflict introduced in the exposition of this story involves—

A) the offer on Mrs. Carter's store and her inability to match it

B) Coretta's anger about the company's offer on the store

C) Coretta getting fired from her job as a writing tutor

D) the plan that Coretta has for coming up with money

"They can't do this!" Coretta shouted. Some big company from out of town could not just show up and take away her mother's store—could they?
"Don't get so angry," said Mrs. Carter. "I'm afraid they can do this, if I don't come up with the money to match their offer."
"Well, we're going to get that money. Even if I have to give you all my earnings!" Coretta was willing to part with all the money from her summer job. But when she got to work the next day, she got an even worse surprise. Her boss had decided that three writing tutors were two too many.
"Sorry, Coretta, but I can only afford to keep one of you. And you're only in high school—Lucia is in college!"
"Great," Coretta said. "Now Mom and I are both broke!"

Plot Stages

18. ☐ Which sentence in the story signals the end of the exposition and the beginning of the rising action?

A) 1

B) 2

C) 3

D) 4

1) "They can't do this!" Coretta shouted. Some big company from out of town could not just show up and take away her mother's store—could they?
"Don't get so angry," said Mrs. Carter. "I'm afraid they can do this, if I don't come up with the money to match their offer."
2) "Well, we're going to get that money. Even if I have to give you all my earnings!" Coretta was willing to part with all the money from her summer job. 3) But when Coretta got to work the next day, she got an even worse surprise. Her boss had decided that three writing tutors were two too many.
"Sorry, Coretta, but I can only afford to keep one of you. And you're only in high school—Lucia is in college!"
4) "Great," Coretta said. "Now Mom and I are both broke!"

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Plot Stages

19. ☐ In the resolution of a story, the character's problems are—

A) introduced.

B) complicated.

C) solved.

D) increased.

Plot Stages

20. ☐ Which detail could be part of a story's climax?

A) Three friends set out to camp in the woods.

B) They find a park ranger who leads them to safety.

C) Two of them must rescue the third when he falls into a river.

D) They lose their compass and become lost.

Plot Stages

21. ☐ What might the writer do to add rising action to this story?

A) Describe Lawrence and Krista.

B) Show Krista and Lawrence arriving happily at the concert.

C) Have the car break down on the road.

D) Describe their conversation after the show.

All around them, traffic had come to a standstill. Drivers were honking, but nobody budged.
"Can't you take another route or something?" Krista asked. "The concert starts in twenty minutes. We paid a lot for these tickets, and I don't want to miss the beginning!"
"I can't even move ten feet, Krista, much less get onto another road" said Lawrence. "Besides, this is the most direct route."

LIVEWORKSHEETS