International School of Monterrey

Reading Comprehension

___th Grade
Trimester ___

Name _____ Date _____ List #: ____-____

Describe Plot

In this lesson, you will . . .

- learn about the sequence of events in a story
- understand how some stories follow a pattern
- identify how characters can affect what happens

Learn about Plot

Plot is what happens in a story.

The plot includes the conflict, sequence of events, and resolution in story.

The **sequence of events** tells the plot in the order things happen. One event leads to another, then other events follow.

Words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *finally* help order the sequence of events.

Understand the Sequence of Events

I. **DIRECTIONS: Read the story. Then answer the questions.**

Super Shark to the Rescue

Far below the waves of the Pacific Ocean, three young squid sliced through the water. Zoe, Chloe, and Joey were racing each other, showing off their speed, and trying to avoid the perils of the deep.

"I'm going to be first! As soon as I swim over that trench, I—," Zoe said. Suddenly, she stopped moving forward. Bam! Bam! Chloe and Joey crashed into Zoe. What was going on?

The three squid realized that they were tangled in a massive net. They shouted and screamed for help, but no one could hear them. They kept yelling until a big creature approached them—a tiger shark.

"Ahhhhh, a squad of squid," the shark said softly, enjoying her little joke. "I'm here to save the day!" Tibby announced.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Without skipping a beat and with one mighty chomp, Tibby set them free. She took a short bow, prompting confused stares among her new friends.

"So, now you're going to eat us alive?" Joey squeaked.

"Well, you look tasty. Positively scrumptious!" Tibby grinned.

"Oh no!" Zoe pleaded, covering her eyes with her tentacles.

"Nah, just kidding!" sighed the massive tiger shark. "My name's Tibby. And I'm not here for lunch. My electro-senses picked up your cries for help, so I rushed over as fast as I could! All I ever wanted to be was a hero."

"Whew!" Chloe spoke up. "We've never met a shark before. But you are a hero to us!"

II. DIRECTIONS: Place the sequence of events in the correct order. (4 pts.)

A. The three squid get trapped.
B. Tibby, a hero, does not eat the squid.
C. The three squid race each other.
D. Tibby frees the three squid.

____ 1. First:
____ 2. Next:
____ 3. Then:
____ 4. Finally

Plot has a Shape

Many stories follow a pattern of events. Here is one pattern a story may follow.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Conflict is a challenge in a story. A conflict can be a problem that a character must solve or a difficult task that must be completed.

The **resolution** is how the problem in the story is solved. The events in the climax help solve the story's conflict.

III. DIRECTIONS: Read each instruction and choose the correct answer. (2 pts.)

____ 5. Select the sentence that BEST describes the climax of the story.

A. The three squid get trapped.

B. Tibby, a hero, does not eat the squid.

C. The three squid race each other.

D. Tibby frees the three squid.

____ 6. Choose the sentence that BEST describes the resolution of the story.

A. The three squid get trapped.

B. Tibby, a hero, does not eat the squid.

C. The three squid race each other.

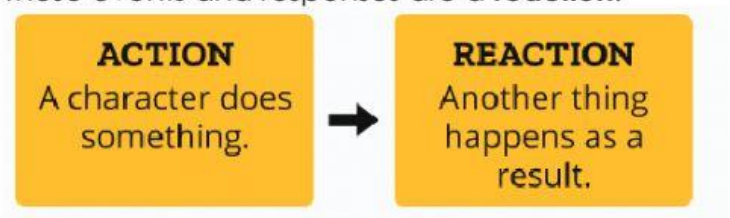
D. Tibby frees the three squid.

Characters Can Affect Plot

Characters can change what happens in a story with thoughts, words, and behaviors.

A character's behavior is an **action**. This action can cause other events to happen or other characters to respond.

Those events and responses are a **reaction**.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Understand Actions and Reactions

IV. DIRECTIONS: Read the story. Then answer the question.

Can Sofia Stay Silent?

Sofia was famous for being a chatterbox, always gabbing a mile a minute. Her friend Kara once asked Sofia, "What'd ya have for breakfast, Sofia?" Sofia revealed every detail about how she prepared her oatmeal, "Well, first I got the green, plastic bowl I got on a trip to California, then I stirred in 3/4 cup of almond milk—it must always be almond milk—and then I added a dash of cinnamon . . ."

Kara thought, "Does that girl ever run out of things to say?"

As kindly as possible she asked, "Sofia, it is truly awesome that you love to share everything about your life . . . but could you please try to, um, share less?"

Sofia thought long and hard about this question and came up with a clever idea. So, she challenged herself to not talk for a whole day. Sofia carried around a note that said, "Shhhh!" Then, 24 hours later, Sofia screamed, "I did it! I did it!" Kara smiled.

"Now, as I was saying . . ." Sofia continued.

Kara knew her friend had lots to say, and chuckled as she listened.

V. DIRECTIONS: Select the sentences that BEST describe action and reaction in the story. (2 pts.)

____ 7. Action:

A. Kara asks Sophia to share less information.
B. Kara laughs when Sophia finishes the challenge.
C. Sophia ate oatmeal with almond milk for breakfast.
D. Sophia challenges herself to be quiet for a day.

____ 8. *Reaction:*

A. Kara asks Sophia to share less information.
B. Kara laughs when Sophia finishes the challenge.
C. Sophia ate oatmeal with almond milk for breakfast.
D. Sophia challenges herself to be quiet for a day.

Remember . . .

- Plot is a sequence of events in a story.
- Some plots follow a pattern: introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and a resolution.
- Actions can lead to reactions, or other events and responses.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Apply

VI. DIRECTIONS: Read the story. Then answer the question. (1 pt.)

Beyond the Door of Doom

At midnight, R.J. quietly closes his book and straightens up. Then he tiptoes down the pitch-black hallway, desperate not to make the floor creak. A grand, if dusty, portrait of his great-grandmother hangs in the hallway and makes R.J. grin. His heart is pounding, and the hairs on his neck bristle.

"This is it. There's no turning back," he whispers, as he creeps forward, trying to convince himself that he isn't terrified. R.J. reaches into his pocket to make sure the key is still there—the key he risked everything to get.

As R.J. reaches the oak door, a flash of lightning crackles across the sky, illuminating a sign—Stay Out! He puts the key in the lock, and with a startling clank, turns the knob.

And that is when he feels the hand on his shoulder. . . .

____ 9. Choose the correct sequence of events.

A. R.J. walks down the hallway. Then he checks his pocket for the key. Finally, he opens the locked door.
B. R.J. opens the locked door. Then he walks down the hallway. Finally, he checks his pocket for the key.
C. R.J. checks his pocket for the key. Then he opens the locked door. Finally, he walks down the hallway.

VII. DIRECTIONS: Select the sentences that BEST describe an action and reaction in the story. (2 pts)

____ 10. Action:

A. A portrait hangs in the hallway.
B. A mysterious hand touches R.J.'s shoulder.
C. R.J. opens a locked door.
D. R.J. quietly closes his book.

____ *11. Reaction:*

A. A portrait hangs in the hallway.
B. A mysterious hand touches R.J.'s shoulder.
C. R.J. opens a locked door.
D. R.J. quietly closes his book.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

VIII. DIRECTIONS: Read the story. Then answer the question.

A.J. and the Unlucky/Lucky Day

It was a chilly October morning in rural Massachusetts. A.J. watched the colorful leaves gently drift off the trees. As he walked to school, A.J. wore his favorite green hoodie and smelled the fresh fall air. It was an ordinary day, until he walked out of his science class.

"Where is my hoodie?" A.J. gasped, as he searched his locker and all his classrooms. He checked the gym, looked under the cafeteria tables, and twice checked the lost-and-found bin. He even asked the principal, Ms. Newman, to mention his lost hoodie in the afternoon announcements. No one knew about it, like it vanished into thin air.

On his walk home, A.J. stopped at Charlie's Thrift Shop. A.J. searched racks and tables filled with sweaters, coats, and long-sleeved shirts. He was hoping there might even be another hoodie in the store. All the hoodies he found were either too small or too big.

Charlie, the owner, walked over to the toy section of the thrift shop. He picked up a red hoodie off a train set, folded it, and put it back on the pile of clothes . . . right next to A.J.!

A.J. picked up the hoodie and held it against his chest. Whoa, it was just the right size! He tried it on and posed in the mirror!

"How much is this hoodie, Charlie?" A.J. asked.

"Oh, that one is on special today for $4," Charlie said.

A.J. pulled a $5 bill out of his pocket and handed it to Charlie. When Charlie gave him the $1 change, A.J. decided to use it to buy a toy for his dog. What a lucky day!

IX. DIRECTIONS: Select the correct sequence of events. (7 pts.)

A. A.J. buys a hoodie and toy for his dog.
B. A.J. loses his hoodie and looks for it at school.
C. A.J. goes to school wearing his favorite hoodie.
D. A.J. visits a local thrift shop to find a hoodie.
E. A.J. finds a new hoodie on a pile of clothes.

____ 12. First:
____ 13. Next:
____ 14. Then:
____ 15. After that:
____ 16. Finally:

LIVEWORKSHEETS

____ 17. Choose the sentence that BEST describes the story's conflict, or problem A.J. wants to solve.

A. A.J.'s favorite hoodie is green.

B. A.J. sees a red hoodie in a thrift shop.

C. A.J. loses his hoodie at school.

D. A.J. buys a new hoodie for four dollars.

____ 18. Choose the sentence that BEST describes the story's resolution.

A. A.J.'s favorite hoodie is green.

B. A.J. sees a red hoodie in a thrift shop.

C. A.J. loses his hoodie at school.

D. A.J. buys a new hoodie for four dollars.

LIVEWORKSHEETS